

BRITISH GUN FIRE BURNS BARRIERS

Germans at Messines Ridge Are Bewildered by Bombardment from Many Angles.

(From a Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

(Via London), June 9.—Comparative quiet reigned today along the front of the latest British attack, which wrested the Messines ridge from the Germans Thursday.

Tonight the British have thoroughly consolidated their gains and are able to defend them against any counter attack the temporarily bewildered Germans may start.

Prisoners kept coming in in increasing hundreds. Dazed by nearly a week of most terrifying gunfire, and half famished as a result of the "starvation" barrages the British had kept on their lines of communication and supply, these men upon reaching the cool, grassy spots within the British barbed wire stockades erected for their anticipated arrival, stripped themselves to the waist, tore off their heavy trench boots and flung themselves to the ground, where they soon were lost in the heavy sleep of complete exhaustion.

For them the war is over, and their relief at being out of it was only too apparent. The men who had seen the greater part of their military service on the Russian front were the most demoralized of all.

"We had heard much of the conditions on the western front," said one of the captured German officers to The Associated Press, "but we always thought there was much exaggeration about them. We had no realization what war was."

Division Wiped Out.

"When we came from Russia a few weeks ago we were told we were going against the British, but that we need not worry, as the English were not in a position to accomplish anything serious against us in view of their offensive at Arras. The artillery fire we experienced when we first came to the Messines ridge was more terrible than anything we had seen or heard on the eastern front."

"Then a week ago the English started their intensive bombardment. It was terrible to endure. Few of us ever thought we would get out of it alive. There was a distinct sense of relief when the mine was exploded yesterday morning. We knew then that an attack was under way and that we soon should be dead or in a position to surrender. Most of us can frankly say that we preferred the latter."

"This experience of ours should end the war. We have no possible chance to win. Two days ago my division was made up of three splendid German regiments. We saw these men shrivel up in a hurricane of fire, with which we could not possibly compete. Now my division exists no more."

This officer had no complaints to make against the German higher command and no apparent desire to win favor from his British captors. He was so shaken by the ordeal he had undergone that he seemed to find at least momentary relief in expressing in excellent English the thoughts which were uppermost in his mind.

Great Artillery Triumph.

The experience of his division apparently is evidence that Germany is not finding a solution here of its military difficulties in the transferring of its eastern units to the western front. The battle of the Messines ridge will ever stand out as a wonderful triumph for the British artillery. The deepest significance in the striking victory lies in the fact that the Germans seemed to know the attack was coming and had endeavored in every possible way to defend themselves against it.

But as fast as they brought up new batteries, the British guns were upon them. British airplanes always were over the German lines, watching every move, demonstrating very plainly with whom rests supremacy in the air on this front.

All the prisoners say they had been warned within the last few days that the English might attempt an offensive and that the main attack might come in the Messines sector, with the hope of nipping off the Wytischeete sector—all of which, it may be stated, has been accomplished. British raids just prior to the attack showed that the German sentries always sought cover from the British bombardments as they had every good reason to do.

Prisoners say they were ordered to hold the front line at all costs, although their commanders verbally admitted that this line would be taken by the first assaulting waves. It was hoped, however, immediately to eject the British with the much talked of German storming troops and "Stoss-truppen," which had been especially formed to "knock" the British out of any trench element they might enter.

Barriers Burned Away.

German troops who but recently came into the line said they had seen many guns moving toward the front. This worried them considerably, for ordinary German guns transferred are made at night and in such a concealed manner that even the German infantry seldom sees them. The German prisoners admit that they were completely bewildered by the British tactics. So many practice barrages and feint bombardments had been directed against them that they had no idea when to expect an actual attack. Their first line and communication trenches alike had been terribly knocked about.

The British had to level many bits of wood and then they sprayed these woods with drums of boiling, blazing oil, which burned them away and made attacking across what would be considered impregnable natural defenses quite an easy matter. The communication trenches were so damaged that it was impossible for the Germans to make their way along them in daylight except on all fours. Ration parties attempting at night to come up over the open were badly cut up by the constant British fire.

The stratagem barrage had been so effective that the only Germans who had had food for two days prior to the attack were those who were provided with what are called iron rations—concentrated foods in tins.

Soldiers Knocked Down.

The dugouts were crashed in by armor-piercing projectiles and other high explosive missiles found in the catalogue of the modern artillery school of fire.

The effect of these mines was simply tremendous, even upon the British troops, who were near them. The Irishmen were just opposite one of the biggest mines sprung. They had just got to their feet in anticipation of the final word to move forward as the earth opened 200 yards in front of them. The force of the explosion was such and the earth shook so violently that every man was flung down. The men were up again in an instant, however, and pressed forward, happier than ever.

The manner in which Catholic and Protestant Irishmen fought together over the Messines ridge will ever be a bright page in the English history of the great war. It was a stroke of genius on the part of the army commander who thus brought them together. They had stiff hand to hand fighting at several points, and no troops in the world are better in this style of warfare. Today many smiling men from Ulster and from the south of Ireland were to be seen in their new trenches wearing German caps and helmets with broad grins across their faces.

"Tanks" had their ups and downs in the battle, doing effective work and also affording much amusement for the "Tommys."

Says Modern Warfare Depends on Railways

Chicago, Ill., June 9.—The thousand men of the Third reserve engineers, one of the nine regiments of railway men of all grades who will build, rebuild and operate the lines of France, Russia and Belgium, were given advice tonight by Samuel O. Dunn of the Railway Age.

"Stop railroads and the war will stop almost instantly," the editor said. "There have been almost two revolutions in the waging of war. The first was due to the invention of gun powder and the second to the development of the railroads. Her railroads alone have enabled Germany to shuttle back hundreds of thousands of troops from one front to another as needs arose."

"The vast armies of Europe today could not be created or maintained except for the ability of the railroads to transport not only troops, but enormous quantities of munitions and supplies. Before the development of railroads armies were obliged to maintain a base of supplies which greatly restricted their movement, particularly in any enemy's country. It is of the most vital importance to the allies that their transportation facilities not only of their countries, but of the United States, be most efficient and reliable. Everything that is done to help the railways of the United States helps to win this war."

Kaiser Still Talks of "Wearing Out the Enemy"

Amsterdam, June 9 (Via London).—On the occasion of a demonstration of new defensive methods on the western front, says a dispatch from Berlin today, Emperor William delivered a speech to the Brandenburg troops in which he said: "The enemy is seeking a decision. We await it calmly, placing our trust in God, who heretofore has graciously protected and aided us. Our enemy will be compelled to sacrifice men until he is exhausted and lays down his arms."

Would Bar American Machines From Germany

Copenhagen (Via London), June 9.—The German Association of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machines has addressed a demand to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg for stringent measures against the International Harvester and Singer Sewing Machine companies. They demand that the German branches of these two American corporations be placed under state supervision, deprived of work materials and that exempted workmen employed by the companies be assigned to German factories.

Argentine Turks Destroy Meat Consigned to Allies

Buenos Aires, June 9.—According to advices from Colon, in the province of Entre Rios an enormous stock of frozen meats in the warehouses of a British company has been destroyed. The stock was intended for the entente allies and its value was estimated at 2,000,000 piasters. The persons engaged in the plot are said to be Turks.

Sophomores Are Prize Winners With Two Essays on Temperance



Gertrude Reynolds



Frank Krampert

Miss Gertrude Reynolds and Frank Krampert of the University of Omaha were awarded first and second prize, respectively, for writing the best temperance essay. Miss Reynolds wrote on "The Liquor Traffic" and Krampert on "The Physiological and Mental Effects of Alcohol."

Kronstadt Will Share in Provisional Government

Petrograd (Via London), June 9.—The provisional government has approved the action of M. Tseretli, minister of posts and telegraphs, and M. Skobelev, minister of labor, in arranging the surrender of Kronstadt, which recently declared its independence, in agreement with Anatole Lamoff, president of the Kronstadt council of soldiers' and workmen's delegates.

The government has decided to invite the Kronstadt council to designate a candidate for civil representative of the government at Kronstadt and proceed with election of a Kronstadt municipal council.

The minister of justice has been directed to appoint immediately a mixed committee including representatives of soldiers' and workmen's delegates at Kronstadt, to inquire into the cases of persons arrested in that city. Those held for trial by the committee will be sent to Petrograd and the others will be liberated.

Holland's Queen Escapes Injury in Train Wreck

London, June 9.—Queen Wilhelmina of Holland had a narrow escape from injury in a train wreck yesterday. Reuter's correspondent at The Hague reports. Four cars of the train in which the queen was returning to The Hague were derailed at Houten, near Utrecht. The queen, who was unhurt, proceeded to the capital by an ordinary train.

A Central News dispatch says that immediately after the accident the queen attended a number of injured passengers, giving them first aid, not resting until she had ascertained that they were well cared for.

Would Bar American Crew of Cruiser Cormoran Held as Prisoners of War

San Francisco, Cal., June 9.—Three hundred and twenty-two officers and men of the crew of the German cruiser Cormoran, which was sunk outside the harbor of Guam to prevent its seizure by the United States when war was declared, arrived as prisoners of war at a California port today, according to advices given out here. The prisoners were in charge of fifty marines.

Nominate Alves for Head of Rio Janeiro Meeting

Rio Janeiro, June 9.—Dr. Rodrigues Alves has been nominated for president at a political convention held here. Delim Moreira was named for vice president.

Dr. Wenceslao Braz, the present head of the republic, completes his four-year term on November 15 of next year. Under the Brazilian constitution, he cannot be a candidate for a succeeding term. Dr. Alves was president of Brazil from 1902 to 1906.

PROHIB AMENDMENTS FOR REVENUE BILL

Senator Gore of Oklahoma Introduces Several Additions to Statute; Aimed at Liquor Traffic.

Washington, June 9.—A number of prohibition amendments to the war revenue bill were introduced in the senate today by Senator Gore.

One proposes to increase the present retail internal revenue license to \$5,000 a year, making it prohibitory.

Another amendment would authorize the president to commender distilled spirits now in bond for the manufacture of munitions and for military and hospital purposes.

Another would tax distilled spirits in bond less than five years \$5 a gallon, with an extra tax of \$1 a gallon for each additional year. Another would put the tax upon grain, cereals and other foodstuffs used in manufacturing distilled spirits at \$60 a hundred pounds.

Taxes on beer and other malt liquors also would be increased under another amendment by \$1.50 a barrel upon products containing less than 2 1/2 per cent alcohol and \$3 a barrel in excess, a rate regarded prohibitory.

Hitchcock Asks for Data on School of Irrigation

Washington, D. C., June 9.—(Special Telegram.)—With the object of obtaining data upon which to base an effort to secure backing of the federal government for a school of irrigation at Scottsbluff, Senator Hitchcock has written State Senator Bushee of Kimball, and Representative Frank Stearns of Scottsbluff for information and suggestions to aid in drafting a special bill which he will introduce in congress.

Senator Hitchcock found after conferring with officers of the Interior and Agricultural departments that as the matter stands now there is no way the federal government can supplement appropriations made at the last session of the Nebraska legislature for the proposed school except by special act of congress.

Strong Opposition to River and Harbor Bill

Washington, June 9.—The annual river and harbor appropriation bill carrying \$27,000,000, was taken up in the house today with indications that its way to enactment would be much harder than usual, because of the war emergency. Besides the group of representatives and senators, who always oppose such measures as pork barrel legislation, there are many who believe most of the new improvement items proposed can as well be postponed until peace.

Chairman Small of the river and harbor committee in bringing in the bill declared the new projects were of pressing national importance.

Ottawa Takes Interstate "Dry" Oratorical Contest

Wichita, Kan., June 9.—Kenneth Cassidy, representing Ottawa university, won the interstate collegiate prohibition oratorical contest here tonight. Charles H. Klippel of Morningside college, Sioux City, Ia., took second place and Beeler Blevins of Park college, Parkville, Mo., captured third.

Registration in Nebraska 118,123

Lincoln, June 9.—Governor Keith Neville today telegraphed Provost Marshal General Crowder at Washington the complete registration in Nebraska as follows: Total registration, 118,123; total white registration, 110,466; total colored registration, 1,457; indicated possible exemption, 64,596; state's estimated eligibles, 129,000; aliens of countries with which the United States is at peace, 5,044; alien enemies, 1,156.

Rebel Chinese General Arrives at Tien Tsin

Peking, June 9.—General Chang Hsun has reached Tien Tsin with 5,000 troops. He received almost royal honors and was guarded closely. General Chang Hsun will confer with the military governors in Peking on Sunday. Three thousand of his troops already have reached the Chinese capital.

Bathurst Says England In No Danger of Starving

London, June 9.—Captain Charles Bathurst, parliamentary secretary to the food control department, speaking at Guilford tonight, said the immediate danger of national starvation had been removed, thanks to the prompt and generous assistance of the United States.

More Suits Are Filed To Recover Oil Lands

Los Angeles, Cal., June 9.—The total of oil land withdrawal suits pending in the United States district court here was increased to thirty-four today when the government filed suit against the American Oil Fields company (Ltd.) and the Standard Oil company to recover the northeast quarter of section 32, township 32, range 24, in Kern county.

The complaint alleged that no oil had been discovered on the land before the date of executive order issued September 27, 1909, withdrawing it from entry to establish a fuel oil reserve for the navy.

Seventeen of the suits are included in what are described as the "Honolulu" cases, set for hearing in Fresno July 12. These involve seventeen quarter sections in the Midway field, valued by the government at \$20,000,000.

International Fisheries Dispute May Be Settled

Ottawa, June 9.—J. D. Hazen, minister of fisheries, announced in parliament tonight that negotiations were pending with Washington which promised a speedy settlement of all outstanding differences over fisheries between the United States and Canada. Equal rights in the use of ports and fishing grounds will be the basis of settlement, it is understood.

Unveil Statue of Gen. Lee On Gettysburg Battlefield

Gettysburg, Pa., June 9.—A memorial surmounted by a statue of General Robert E. Lee was unveiled on Gettysburg battlefield today.

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"A Word to the Wise is Enough" Ben Franklin. AND when you're buying tires, cord or fabric, follow A Poor Richard's advice and say only the word "Firestone." This word is not only the name of a tire foremost in quality, it is the name of a man who is personally responsible for that quality, which means safety, comfort and mileage for you. More and more you realize the value in a name, and more and more you understand Firestone leadership when you ride on Firestone super-size Cord Tires. They combine luxurious, care-free riding with utmost efficiency and with that pre-eminent Firestone advantage, "Most Miles per Dollar." Since the Firestone-stock distribution plan went into effect you have 11,000 employees of the organization working as one to uphold quality and keep down cost. Firestone Tire and Rubber Company 2566 Farnam Street, Omaha, Neb. Home Office and Factory, Akron, Ohio. Branches and Dealers Everywhere. Firestone