



HUNS CHECKED NEAR ROYE BY BRITISH, FRENCH AND U.S.

BRITISH WILL LAUNCH COUNTER THRUST SOON

Forty Reserve Divisions Rushed to Front to Fill Gaps Mowed in Teuton Lines by Haig's Terrific Artillery and Machine Gun Fire

British Army Headquarters in France, March 26.—There is reason to believe important events will be recorded within the next few hours, which may lead to a betterment of the position of the armies which are stemming the German onslaught.

BRITISH RETIREMENT VOLUNTARY.

London, March 26.—Exacting the heaviest toll for every foot of ground, the British line continues to withdraw slowly before the pressure of the German masses, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters wires.

Over a large part of the battle zone the retirement is being made voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front. Prisoners say the advance of the Germans is behind their schedule.

BRITISH RESISTANCE WONDERFUL.

The tenacity of the British resistance, the prisoners say, exceeded anything the Germans deemed possible. They complain of great privations on account of lack of supplies and extreme weariness also is telling heavily.

The weather remains dry, thus favoring the enemy.

British airmen last night made veritable pandemonium of every center of concentration of traffic behind the German front. Tens of thousands of rounds were fired point blank into enemy formations, while airmen fulfilled effectively their role as eyes of the artillery.

SMASH GERMAN ATTACK.

A heavy German attack yesterday about Ervillers was completely smashed by the British artillery fire.

The withdrawal was not due to pressure against this sector of the line.

Reports from all along the front indicate that the German loss of life yesterday was heavy. The enemy advanced against allied gunners who were fixing with open sights.

Last night British airmen took heavy toll from the German infantry in Bapaume.

No official figures are at hand, but from compilations made personally the correspondent is convinced that at least 130 German airplanes have been brought down in the last five days.

BRITISH GUNNERS SCORE.

Yesterday was the supreme day for the British gunners. Attacking from north of Ervillers to the point of British contact with the French, the Germans were held up nearly everywhere by the ceaseless intensity of the British artillery fire.

Masses of enemy troops which, coming forward in waves, again and again attempted to reach their objectives, met with the same fate as the Old Guard at Waterloo. In only one sector, near Sapignies, did they succeed in bending the British front back. It was to conform the front with this indentation that the British fell back during the night, straightening their line.

BRITISH FALL BACK SLIGHTLY.

During the night there was comparatively little change in the line. No heavy attack this morning had been reported up to 10 o'clock. The British were still holding the enemy strongly about half way between Combes and Albert.

Further north some gains were achieved by the assaulting troops.

The British during the night fell back somewhat from the line through Ervillers and Sapignies in order to straighten the front, which bulged inward just to the south.

FRENCH EVACUATE NOYON.

Paris, March 26.—The battle continues with the greatest violence and the Germans are making still greater efforts along the whole front between Noyon and Chaunles, the war office announces.

Noyon was evacuated by the French during the night. The left bank of the Oise is being held firmly by the French.

ENEMY LOSES HEAVILY.

"The battle continues with violence. During last evening and in the night the enemy multiplied his attacks on the whole front between Noyon and Chaunles.

"The French artillery, well established in the region of Noyon and supported effectively by our infantry, is retarding the German thrust. Frequent counter-attacks have been made and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy.

"Noyon was evacuated during the night in perfect order. The French are holding the left bank of the Oise firmly.

GERMANS TAKE BRITISH TANKS.

Copenhagen, March 26.—German correspondents report that six British tanks have been captured.

Still farther south the Germans were pounding the front hard in an endeavor to push on and get a firm grip on Nesle and swing the British right flank back, while the determined defenders were battling doggedly to force the enemy back and reclaim the positions previously held by them along the river.

FRENCH RUSH FRESH TROOPS UP; GERMANS CAPTURE 963 GUNS

Kaiser's Official Statement Says More Than 100 British Tanks Captured; 93 Airplanes Destroyed.

(By Associated Press.)

Berlin (Via London), March 26.—The number of guns captured by the Germans in the battle now in progress has increased to 963, army headquarters announced today. More than 100 tanks were lying in captured positions, it is added.

Biaches, Barleux and Etalon have been captured by the German forces.

The Germans are standing on the heights to the north of Noyon. They captured Bussy, Bihucourt, Biefeillers, Grevillers, Irls and Miraumont and crossed the river Ancre.

Since the beginning of the battle, says the statement, 93 enemy airplanes and six captive balloons have been brought down.

British troops just brought forward attacked the German lines violently from the direction of Albert. They were driven back, the reports state, after a bitter struggle.

Line Now Runs: Bray, Albert, Beaumont, Hamel, Puissieux, Ayett, Boiry, Henin, Wancourt, to Scarpe.

(By Associated Press.)

London, March 26.—The war office tonight announced that the Germans took Roye at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

The enemy has been checked west of Roye and Noyon, the announcement adds.

In the Roye area, British, French and American troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder, the official announcement states. French reinforcements are rapidly coming up.

"The enemy made no further attacks during the night of March 25-26 on our front north of the Somme," the announcement says. "During the afternoon there have been local engagements on this part of the battle front, in which the enemy has been repulsed, but he has attempted no serious attacks.

"The line north of the Somme now runs: Bray, Albert, Beaumont Hamel, Puissieux, Ayett, Boiry, Henin, Wancourt, just west of Monchy to the Scarpe, and thence along our original front."

LAWMAKERS MEET AT CALL OF GOVERNOR

Extra Session of Nebraska Legislature Convened at Lincoln; Listens to Message of Chief Executive.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, March 26.—(Special).—Governor Neville addressed the special session of the Nebraska legislature this afternoon, advocating the enactment of a law providing for gathering the soldier vote.

He suggested that the Mockett law permitting instruction in foreign languages in common schools be repealed and was loudly applauded as he uttered the words.

The joint session of house and senate convened at 2 o'clock and at 2:45 o'clock Lieutenant Governor Howard announced the members ready to listen to the chief executive.

The governor was escorted to the hall by a committee composed of Senator Henry, Representative Taylor of Custer and Representative Osterman of Merrick.

MESSAGE APPLAUDED.

The message was received with marked attention, the first applause coming when the executive urged the repeal of the Mockett law permitting the teaching of foreign languages in the public schools.

The joint session adjourned after hearing the message.

Both houses of the legislature were called to order at noon today, the senate by Lieutenant Governor Howard and the house by Speaker Jackson.

Perfect Organization.

Committees were appointed to notify the governor that they were ready for business and each branch appointed a committee to notify the other body that it was ready to transact business.

Short addresses were made by the presiding officers of each body and adjournment was taken until 2 o'clock.

When the roll of the senate was called 30 members were present, and in the house 78 members answered to the call.

Sandall of York, Douthett of Buffalo and Howell of Douglas were the absent senators.

Howard Chief Clerk.

The house caucus, composed of both republicans and democrats, met this forenoon and agreed upon the following officers to fill vacancies existing by reason of former employees having left the state: Chief clerk, Arthur E. Howard, Lincoln; first assistant, Horace M. Davis, Ord; chaplain, Frank Mills.

There was considerable of a fight on the election of chief clerk and assistant, Norton of Polk, nominating Howard, Auten of Borne, Decker, and (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

Governor Neville's message to the special session of the legislature is printed in full on Page 4.

GERMAN MYSTERY GUN IS GREATEST SURPRISE OF WAR

Accuracy Impossible at Such Long Range; of Use Only for Enormous Target, Like Paris.

London, March 26.—In the "mystery gun," the name generally given to the weapon with which the Germans are bombarding Paris from a distance estimated at 75 miles, it is frankly conceded by experts, the enemy has sprung one of the greatest surprises of the war.

General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan, formerly president of the army ordnance committee, says of the German gun:

"The projectiles must have been fired from longer and heavier guns and with a more powerful propellant than we have any knowledge of."

From Paris has come the suggestion that the extraordinary range of the gun is due to the projectile being provided with a second charge, which explodes when the first stage of the flight is completed, giving it a fresh impetus.

This theory is scouted by General O'Callaghan, as is also the variant of it, that the projectile is fitted with a propeller, enabling it to continue its journey when it is no longer driven by the projecting force from the gun.

"It would seem," says General O'Callaghan, "that a new departure in ballistics can alone explain the enormous range, which is three times that of anything hitherto accomplished."

One expert estimates that the weight of the projectile is about 380 pounds and that it leaves the gun with a muzzle velocity of about 4,000 feet per second, the gun having an elevation of about 65 degrees, which very quickly "takes the projectile into a stratum of rarified air in which resistance is greatly minimized." The strain upon the gun, he says, must be enormous and probably it would be unable to survive more than a hundred rounds at the most, the cost of each being nearly £1,000.

All the experts agree that at such a tremendous range even approximate accuracy is out of the question and therefore the gun is only of use when a target is presented on a vast scale, like Paris. The object aimed at is rather more moral than material.

HAIG'S LINE STIFFENS WHEN FRENCH RESERVES RELIEVE WEARY BRITISH

Germans Gain Little in Advance Over War Devastated Country; Allied Withdrawals Made Voluntarily; English Fire Eats Into Enemy Divisions With Frightful Results.

French Front in France, Monday, March 25.—Entire confidence reigns that the Germans' last trump in the world battle will be over-trumped when the proper moment comes.

The allied military authorities were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check the irruption into the allied positions. As always, the attackers possessed the advantage of knowing exactly where they would launch their onslaught, while the defenders were compelled to await development of the battle before meeting the onrush with counter measures.

GREAT ATTACK SLACKENS.

There is every sign in today's situation that the terrific attack, in which apparently somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000,000 Germans of all arms are engaged, is being slackened.

The resistance of the allies seems firmer and the arrival on the scene of French reserves, sent up to the southern flank, brought welcome support to the British, who sustained the first powerful rush.

The German divisions, which began what evidently was intended to be an irresistible forward movement, were so cut up that they were replaced by fresh formations. It is these divisions which have been checked at the positions on which it was foreseen by the allied general that a stand would be made.

GERMANS GAIN LITTLE.

The ground over which the fighting has taken place possesses small tactical value, but it permitted the allies to retire in perfect order. It has been devastated by the Germans before they retreated last year, and the inhabitants had not had time or means to build it up again. While retiring across what was almost desert land, the British inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, who threw away thousands of lives in an effort to overcome the resistance he encountered.

When the retiring British reached the Somme and the canal, they turned about and gave battle, meeting repeated and long-sustained endeavors of both infantry and cavalry.

The initial rush of the enemy seems to have been stopped. Military opinion generally is that this first phase of the great battle, in which even more

FRENCH ADVISE U. S. ALLIES WILL HOLD GERMANS

Official Dispatch Quotes Government Organ Declaring Teutons Have Not Gained Objective in Spring Drive.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 26.—France's confidence that the great German offensive is wasting its strength against the allied line, is voiced in an official dispatch received here today from Paris. The message quotes at length from today's Petit Journal to show that the Germans, though suffering tremendous losses in massed advances, have failed to attain their objectives, and that the present situation is satisfactory to the allies.

The dispatch says:

"The French press continues to view with calm confidence the developments of the gigantic battle which has been going on for five days. This confidence is based upon all the experience of this war. Each time that the Germans have attempted a movement against the troops in the west the effort after a certain amount of success always of a temporary character has ended in being broken against the barrier of the allied armies.

The great example before all minds is that of the Marne where Germany had every advantage on its side, thanks to its preparation to the superiority of its man power and its heavy artillery and its hidden attack across violated Belgium, but it was defeated.

"Today it is fighting against the powerful Franco-British armies accustomed to war and well supplied; its effort will again be stopped. Such is the firm and calm conviction of French opinion the expression of which is seen this morning in the press."

British Start Recruiting To Fill Gaps on Battle Line

London, March 26.—To fill the gaps caused by the German advance in France the authorities have decided to place the recruiting machinery in motion again throughout the country. The miners have placed the organization of their unions at the disposal of the recruiting officers.