



BRITISH TAKE TWO TOWNS; GERMAN LOSSES 400,000

HAIG'S FRONT LINE STANDING FIRM IN BEST POSITION YET

Even Where Position Is Weakest, Says Reuter Correspondent, It Is Orderly Arrayed Both in Men and Guns and Nowhere Is Showing Signs of Enforced Retirement.

(By Associated Press.)

London, March 27.—The British front is standing firm along the line which appears to be the strongest it has occupied since the battle began, says Reuter's correspondent with the British headquarters in France.

Even at points where the line is not strong, the correspondent adds, it is being held in very orderly array, alike of men and guns, and nowhere is showing any signs of enforced retirement.

ATTACKS MAKE NO PROGRESS.

The enemy, says the correspondent, attacked at various points today, but from all reports these efforts made no progress.

British airmen report the whole of the enemy front areas to be black with troops.

BRITISH COUNTER ATTACK.

London, March 27.—The British forces are not only offering strong resistance to heavy attacks both north and south of the river Somme, but have carried out numerous counter attacks during the day, resulting in the regaining of ground and the driving back of the Germans at various points.

The report from Field Marshal Haig tonight declares that in these operations heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy.

Germans Reinforced.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 27.—Fresh enemy forces were flung into the southern phase of the offensive late yesterday. These reinforcements, including the famous Prussian guards, were sent forward in a dense wave against the allied defenders. The latest reports merely chronicle a most sanguinary struggle without indicating any change in the situation.

At the latest reports the Germans had made no further attack against Bray, North of Albert; however, they attacked in considerable strength toward Aveully wood. The assault broke against the British line and recoiled. North of this point the situation is unchanged.

Repulse Enemy at Albert.

Heavy fighting occurred late yesterday, just north of Albert, about Meaulte. At the same time the British drove off an attack north of Albert, at Auchonvillers.

The enemy's gains further north have been large, but in covering the defending line this far has defeated his intention of breaking through here and dividing the British forces. It is probably this elasticity has resulted in the development of the vicious drive which the enemy is now making to the south.

British Make Gallant Stand.

The resistance which has been offered by the allied troops to the German advance constitutes one of the finest pages in the annals of the war. The gallant sacrifices which those hardy warriors made in covering the withdrawal and delaying the German sweep forward, undoubtedly will have an important effect on the final outcome of this greatest of all battles.

The appalling slaughter of the attacking masses has continued since the first day. All the prisoners have much the same story to tell of the great losses suffered. Undoubtedly, the Germans expected some such result and it is probable all their cards have not yet been played.

The Weather

Table with weather data for Nebraska and Omaha, including temperature, precipitation, and wind.

Table with comparative local record for 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915, and 1914, including temperature and precipitation.

BRITISH RETAKE 2 TOWNS; FRENCH RETREAT AT ROYE; GERMANS SAY LINE BROKEN

Morlancourt and Chipilly Now Held by Haig; Enemy Troops Hold Albert; Pushed Back on Ancre.

English Now Backing Up on Both Sides of Somme and Counter Attack Fail, Says Berlin.

(By Associated Press.)

London, March 27.—The British delivered a counter-attack today between the angle of the Ancre and the Somme and recaptured Morlancourt and Chipilly, the war office announced this evening.

The French have been heavily engaged west of Roze and were forced to give ground, the announcement states. Reinforcements for them are arriving.

An enemy attack in the neighborhood of Bucquoy has so far made no impression upon the British lines.

A number of other heavy attacks, both north and south of the Somme, were repulsed with heavy loss to the Germans. The enemy's troops are in Albert.

The Germans crossed the Ancre yesterday afternoon, but were counter-attacked and driven back across the river.

The British have again advanced their line south of the Somme to Proyart.

(By Associated Press.)

Berlin (Via London), March 27.—The British began to retreat early this morning on a wide front on both sides of the Somme, army headquarters announced today. The stubborn resistance of the hostile rear guard was overcome in the heavy pursuit.

British and French divisions which were defeated on March 25 endeavored again yesterday in the pathless crater fields of the Somme battlefield, the statement adds, to arrest the German advance.

The German attack, it is declared, broke through the enemy's lines.

To the north and south of Albert the Germans won crossings of the Ancre. Albert was captured last evening.

To the south of the Somme, after violent fighting, German forces drove the enemy back by way of Chauvines and Lihons. Roze was taken by storm and Uoyon was cleared of hostile forces after bloody street fighting, the report states.

TEUTONS CROSS ANCRE RIVER; ARE HURLED BACK BY HAIG

Terrific Counter Attack by English Restores Towns of Morlancourt and Chipilly, Says Official Report

(By Associated Press.)

GERMAN LOSS TREMENDOUS.

The British counter attack between the angle of the Ancre and Somme has resulted in the capture of the two towns, Morlancourt and Chipilly.

Haig's official statement admits the Germans crossed the Ancre, but declares they were driven back across the river, The Germans hold Albert.

The British front is standing firm along the new line, which is the strongest it has occupied, Reuter's correspondent in France declares.

Germany has lost 400,000 men in the grand offensive around Cambrai, according to the British official statement.

The estimated strength of the German division is 12,000-men. Official estimates place the losses of the attacking forces at 50 per cent of the number of men engaged.

According to these figures, 38 full divisions have been wiped out. This is borne out by the fact that Germany has brought up 40 divisions from the reserve forces.

Paris, March 27.—Last night the German advance was held up everywhere, according to the official statement of the war office today. The enemy, weakened by heavy losses, it adds, has been obliged to slow up his efforts.

ENEMY ATTACKS WEAKEN.

The statement says: "Last evening during the night the Germans, weakened by their heavy losses, were compelled to retard their efforts. The valiance of the French troops defending the ground, foot by foot, is beyond all praise."

"The French are holding a line running through L'Echelle St. Aurin and Beuvraignes, north of Lassingy, in front of the southern part of Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise. During the night the French repulsed strong reconnoitering parties which attempted to approach their positions northwest of Noyon."

"On the remainder of the front there was an intermittent bombardment."

GERMANS FAIL OF AIMS.

London, March 27.—The zone of open warfare is continuing to enlarge as the entente forces fall back fighting under the enormous weight of the German numbers in his dispatch today.

It is now clearly established, he adds, that the present offensive is the great main effort of the Germans and that it has not been as successful as they anticipated, the enemy being a long way behind his time table and having failed to break through and begin rolling up tactics.

TRENCH WARFARE PAST.

The Germans are now pushing against the British line with the full pressure of their masses. They have thrown in their reserves more rapidly than they intended, it is declared, and are, therefore, wearing themselves down, although they are naturally tiring the defense in the process.

The general feeling, the correspondent reports, is that the days of trench warfare are definitely passed.

CONTINUE FURIOUS ATTACKS.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 27.—The Germans last night continued their furious onslaught southwestward from Ham against the allies' defense in the region of Roze and Noyon, having slowed down in their patent attempt to cut through the British line further north, where such desperate resistance was offered.

Hard fighting occurred last night about the town of Albert. Large enemy forces pushed forward toward the place, but at last accounts the British were holding them doggedly at this possible gateway to Amiens.

U. S. STEEL SHOWS DECREASE OF 65 PER CENT IN YEAR

New York, March 27.—Coincident with an announcement of an increase of 15 per cent in the wages of its employees making a total advance of 65 per cent since 1915, the United States Steel corporation today made public its annual report for 1917. This showed a tremendous increase in the volume of business, but a decrease in earnings.

RECLAIM LOST TERRITORY.

The Germans have now reclaimed virtually all the territory they held at the beginning of the battle of the Somme in 1916. At some places they have not retaken all the ground, but at other points they have overstepped it somewhat.

GERMANS GLOAT GAINS. Amsterdam, March 27.—The German newspapers are already counting the German gains. "It is self-evident," says the Cologne Volks Zeitung, "that after what is now happening we can no longer conclude peace on the terms which we were ready to accept a week ago. The enemy must be brought to a submissive spirit and forced to grant everything we need in the future, especially in colonies and raw materials."

GERMAN ATTACK REPULSED.

London, March 27.—A heavy attack was made early in the night against the new British line south of the Somme. It was repulsed after severe fighting, the war office announces. In consequence of attacks yesterday.

RUSS TROOPS RETAKE ODESSA AFTER BLOODY BATTLE WITH GERMANS

Bolshevik Forces, Fighting Austrians in Ukraina, Take Various Towns from Teuton Invaders; Rada Refuses to Endorse Peace Treaty; Prepares Resistance by Armed Troops.

London, March 27.—Odessa has been recaptured by the soviet and Ukrainian troops after a bloody battle, in which naval forces took part, according to a Moscow dispatch from the semi-official Russian news agency.

REDS REPULSE AUSTRIANS.

Moscow, Sunday, March 24.—Bolshevik troops, an official announcement says, have been successful in fighting the Austrians in the southern Ukraine. The cities of Nikolayev, Kherson and Zmananka have been recaptured by the Russians.

TAKE OTHER TOWNS.

A dispatch received in London from Petrograd Tuesday said it was reported the bolshevik had recaptured Kherson and Nikolayev. Kherson and Nikolayev are northeast of Odessa and are important commerce cities. Nikolayev is forty miles northwest of Kherson and has a naval yard and large grain storerooms.

BOYCOTT PEACE TREATY.

The bolshevik Ukrainian Rada, which fled from Kiev to Kharkov before the Germans, is now at Ekaterinoslav, where it has adopted resolutions refusing to endorse the peace treaty between Germany and the Ukraine, unless the central powers withdraw all troops from the Ukraine. The Rada decided to oppose the central powers by means of armed forces, strikes and boycotts.

French Premier Says Confidence Justified

Paris, March 27.—In conversation with deputies before the chamber assembled this morning, Premier Clemenceau declared that never was confidence more justified than now.

The Franco-British high command is taking advantage of the respite to prepare for battles which the allies will deliver at their own time and on the most favorable ground.

Deputies who took part in earlier campaigns express the opinion that if the Germans can be held for 48 hours more their offensive will prove to have been checked.

Praises Bee's Three Special War Extras

The Omaha Bee deserves great credit for its energy and push in putting out three special editions Sunday. The people wanted the latest news and The Bee felt disposed to give it to them, and did.—Plattsburgh Journal.

WHEAT SHORTAGE CAUSES FOOD CUT IN FRENCH ARMY

Washington, March 27.—Information that the bread ration of the French soldiers, who are facing the onslaught of Germany's armies, has been cut because of the shortage of wheat has led the food administration to plan drastic measures to curb hoarding in this country.

Wherever there is evidence to support a suspicion that the withholding of food on which may depend the outcome of the war is due to disloyalty or profiteering, it was said tonight, prompt action will be taken.

Wheat for the allies becomes more imperative as the season progresses, because of the danger of loss in shipping corn or potatoes, after April 1, when the period of germination sets in. Up to March 15 the United States was 800,000 tons behind in its program of cereal exports. Much of the program was to have been corn, but the breakdown in railroad transportation delayed shipment so that wheat, which earlier in the year had been given priority, had to be sent abroad to avert famine.

As only wheat and barley can be shipped after April 1, the public is being asked to cut its consumption of wheat to 50 per cent of normal.

The March 1 report of the Department of Agriculture showed 111,000,000 bushels of wheat on farms and 69,000,000 bushels in elevators.

Germans Look for Big Allied Counter Blow

Washington, March 27.—Official French dispatches received here today say the newspapers in Germany are preparing the people for a Franco-British offensive, forecasting the entry of a powerful army of reserves.

COUNTER THRUST BY FRENCH ARMY TO FALL AT ONCE

Washington Confident Turning Point of Great Battle Near at Hand; Await Word From Pershing.

Washington, March 27.—Belief that the turning point of the battle in France is near at hand pervaded Washington today, and American military observers, who are closely following developments in the terrific struggle, centered their attention on the front held by the French in anticipation of a powerful counter-thrust.

War department officials today also awaited confirmation from General Pershing of British official statements that American troops were fighting side by side with the French and British. Nothing to show American participation reached the War department last night and General Pershing's reports offered only details of the fighting in the region of Nesle and Noyon, previously reported in dispatches to the Associated Press.

Until official word from General Pershing is received none will make a guess on the part the Americans are playing.

Quick Action Taken Upon Bills by the Committees

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, March 27.—(Special Telegram.)—The judiciary committee of the house reported out for passage three bills this afternoon, H. R. No. 1, 2 and 3, companion bills to the soldier voting bill, and H. R. No. 6, legalizing the home guards.

Lloyd George Sends Appeal to America For Troops Quickly

New York, March 27.—A message from David Lloyd George, prime minister of Great Britain, calling upon the United States to send American reinforcements across the Atlantic in the "shortest possible space of time," was read tonight by Lord Reading, British high commissioner to the United States at a dinner given here in his honor.

KAISER AND LUDENDORFF MIX IN VIOLENT QUARREL

Paris, March 27.—Emperor William and General von Ludendorff had a violent quarrel before the beginning of the great attack on the western front, according to a prominent Swiss, who has just returned to Zurich after some weeks in Germany, and has been interviewed by the correspondent of the Temps. This man is quoted as saying:

"There was much discreet talk in Berlin before the present offensive concerning extremely violent scenes between Germany's leaders at general headquarters. General von Ludendorff spoke so violent and authoritatively that the emperor, becoming very pale, arose from his chair and, pounding the table, demanded:

"General, are you or I emperor of Germany?" General von Ludendorff replied that he was only a soldier, and more than anyone else desired peace. He said he was convinced that his plans for an offensive were capable of bringing it about."