

HUGE BRITISH PREPARATIONS WERE UNSEEN BY THE HUNS

Haig Poured In Enormous Forces of Men and Guns For His Drive, With Foe In Dark.

Welsh Regiment Administers Crushing Defeat to Kaiser's Pet Battalion.

British Front in France and Belgium, Cable.—(By the Associated Press)—Welsh troops yesterday added a new star to their crown, for it fell to one of their regiments to administer a crushing defeat, in General Haig's great offensive, on the Third Battalion of Infantry Guards, which was Emperor William's crack body of troops. The terrain in this new battle zone presented tremendous difficulty for the attacking armies. Between Dixmude and the point where the Ypres-Comines canal crosses the lines on the lower part of the Ypres salient, two great forces had been imbedded for three years, and this portion of the line has come to be looked upon as impregnable for either side.

The present battlefield, between Dixmude and Lizerne, was "no man's land," within whose borders lay marasms and morasses, which in winter months are impassable. This formidable natural barrier was rendered still stronger by the inundation of large areas by the release of waters from the canals. The Germans and Allies alike, seeking bits of dry land for a footing, awing so far apart in some places that the distance between the lines was nearly three miles.

Below this section, opposing lines followed either bank of the Ypres canal, and then went on the Ypres salient, face to face, but with the Germans holding the dominating high land about the salient. The Dixmude-Lizerne section of the front is a wilderness of partly inundated and deserted farms, dotted with pools of blackish water, and cut into strange shapes by drainage ditches. There are but few remaining civilian habitations in this "no man's land," crumbling cottages and an occasional roofless church rose above the flats.

Neither side feared a surprise attack or a trench raid. Since Duke Albert's Wurttemberg troops were swallowed up in the flood let loose by opening up the sluice gates in October, 1914, the enemy had not tried to cross the marshes, nor had they tried to get over the Ypres since the Belgians, in the spring of 1915, after sanguinary fighting, flung them back across the bridgehead, at Lizerne.

THE YPRES SALIENT.
The Ypres salient itself furnished as nasty a problem as could be presented to an attacking party. The country here is saucer-shaped, and the Germans had hid the lip of this saucer in the lower lying land with this dish had thus been dominated by the enemy, who could pour a stream of shell and machine gun fire into the

troops and supply columns advancing across the salient. The situation was rendered still more difficult by the presence within the saucer of a large number of waterways, that must be crossed by means of bridges which might at any moment be destroyed by gunfire. This difficulty, however, was overcome by a brilliant feat of the British engineers, who threw seventeen bridges across the waterways for the advancing troops if the face of terrific gunfire. Similar and equally remarkable work was done by the French engineers, who were forced to bridge the Yser for the attack.

The Germans little feared, apparently, that the battle would turn in the direction of their right wing. It was early in June that rumors of the impending attack began to find their way to German ears, and were voiced in Berlin. Gradually the rumors assumed certainty, and the Germans began feverishly to strengthen their lines, pouring large numbers of fresh forces into Flanders and bringing up all available guns. The surrounding country was evacuated by civilians and stripped for the conflict.

The Germans knew they faced an offensive. They were unable with all their cunning to gather more than a fragmentary idea of the story of these preparations, which is in itself a marvelous one. Day after day the building of new armies continued under cover of a unbroken concealment in plans.

HUNS SAW NOTHING.
Enormous numbers of great guns made their way to selected positions, and were mounted on concrete foundations laid long before. Millions of shells, which are so-day turning the German front into an inferno of death and destruction were brought up and stored, while the enemy watched with unseeing eye. Long lines of dread tanks took the road, and the living monsters crawled clumsily but persistently northward, to take their place in the Allied battle formation.

Clearing stations were established at vantage points, and everything possible was done to care for the stream of wounded which was sure to result. All this and much more went on for weeks before the offensive was launched. The Germans were like a man who waits with tense muscles in the dark for the attack of an unseen foe knowing the onslaught must come, ignorant of the moment or nature of it.

Thoroughness of preparation is one of the striking characteristics of the British methods, and it is safe to say that there is no one man but had rehearsed the part he was to play in the opening stage of the great conflict.

FRENCH PREMIER GIVES LIE TO CHARGE OF GERMAN CHANCELLOR

France Has No Plot to Seize Territory On Left Bank of the Rhine.

Paris Cable.—Premier Ribot replied in the Chamber yesterday to the declaration made Saturday by Dr. Michaelis, the German Chancellor, that there was a secret treaty between France and Russia having in view plans of conquest. Premier Ribot said:

"I wish to reply to the singular speech which Dr. Michaelis thought fit to invite the Berlin journalists to hear. The German Chancellor publicly commanded the French Government to declare whether, in a secret sitting June 1, the French Government had not made known to the Chamber of Deputies the terms of a secret treaty, made before the Russian revolution, whereby the Emperor bound himself to support French pretensions to German territory on the left bank of the Rhine.

"The Chancellor's version contains gross inaccuracies and absolute lies, notably regarding the role he attributes to the President of the Republic in giving an order to sign a treaty unknown to Premier Ribot. The Chamber knows how things passed. M. Doumergue (ex-Premier and Foreign Minister), after a conversation with the Emperor, demanded and obtained M. Briand's authorization to take note of the Emperor's promise to support our claim to Alsace-Lorraine, and to leave us free to seek guarantees against French aggression, not by annexing territories on the left bank of the Rhine, but by making an autonomous state of these territories, which would protect us, and also Belgium, against invasion.

"We have never thought to do what Bismarck did in 1871. We are therefore entitled to deny the allegation of the Chancellor, who evidently knows of the letters exchanged February, 1917, at Petrograd, and admitted, as his most illustrious predecessor, that the Emperor despatched a messenger to the Russian Government willing to publish these letters, we have no objection.

"The Chancellor refrained from speaking about any declaration March 21, wherein I repudiated in France's name any policy of conquest

and annexation by force. He has wilfully forgotten my language May 22, in the Chamber, saying we were ready to enter into conversation with Russia as to the object of the war, and if the German people, whose right to live and develop peacefully we do not contest, understood that we wished peace founded on the right of people, the conclusion of peace would thereby be singularly facilitated.

"Finally, the Chancellor passed over in silence the resolution unanimously voted after the June secret session. Here Premier Ribot read from his speech in the Chamber warning against those who wished to spread the conviction that France was seeking conquest, and read the terms of the resolution adopted by the chamber at that time, declaring that peace conditions must include the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France, the liberation of territories occupied by Germany, and just reparation for damage done in the invaded regions. The resolutions also favored the creation of a league of nations for the maintenance of peace.

"Who now dare to say to the world that we wish annexation?" continued Premier Ribot. "Such manoeuvres are too crude to deceive anyone, especially by democratic masses of the Russian people, who, it is vainly being tried to separate from their Allies by deceiving them as to the true sentiments of French democracy. What is the Chancellor seeking? He is trying to hide the embarrassment which he feels in defining Germany's objects of the war and conditions whereon she would make peace. He is trying especially to turn aside attention from the terrible responsibility weighing on the conscience of the Kaiser and his counsellors.

"It is on the morrow of the publication of decisions made July 5 at a council held at Potsdam, at which all consequences of the ultimatum to be sent to Serbia were discussed, and from which war was bound to spring, that the Chancellor is trying this diversion. There is something shameful when one has such responsibilities, in demanding our intentions.

"Assuredly it is not to Germany that we address ourselves, but to all who are witnesses or actors in the struggle which we have been maintaining for the past three years, and who

know that there is in the depth of the French people's soul a deep attachment to the principles of justice, respect for people's rights, and, I may add at the risk of not being understood by our enemies, to generosity."

The declaration was frequently applauded. It was not followed by any debate.

SOWING MINES IN SEA.

How These Ship Destroyers Are Laid and Anchored.

Mine laying and mine sweeping are two important subordinate functions in a modern navy, and both of these occupations are fraught with danger to those engaged in them.

A mine is really a metal globe containing anything from 200 pounds to 250 pounds of trinitrotoluene, or T. N. T., an extremely powerful high explosive, calculated to make things very unpleasant for any ship that runs against one of the little horns on top of the mine.

Before the mine is put into the sea the globe squats, as one might say, between four metal uprights upon a round, flat weight, to which it is attached by a short length of wire rope, the greater part of which is coiled round a drum inside the weight.

When the mine is put into the water the whole contrivance sinks at once to the bottom. As soon as it touches ground the bump releases a little catch, which sets all sorts of wheels revolving, with the result that the four upright fall outwards. They trip the sea bed, and the contrivance is anchored. Then the globe begins to rise, while the rope unwinds until it has reached a fixed length.

Thereafter we betide the unfortunate ship that runs upon it.—London Chronicle.

FRENCH TROOPS WON IN MISTS

Seized and Held Every Hun Post Assigned Them, Though Fog Blinded Their Observers.

With the French Armies in Flanders, Special Cable Says—An infantry battle in mists has followed upon the most sustained and most intense bombardment yet delivered during the war, stretching from the coast to the North Sea to beyond Ypres. French foot soldiers "went over" this morning along a front of about two yards, and succeeded in taking and holding German positions from a point near the famous Ploeghem house, which acquired bloody renown at the end of 1914, almost to Boesinghe, to a depth ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 yards.

The thick mists overlying the absolutely flat country prevented observers from watching the progress of the fighting. Even the armies were compelled to desert from this futile task. When the alarm ascended, at an early hour to follow the advance they found thick blocks of fog hanging at an altitude of 100 yards and could not even see their comrades in the air.

News brought back from advanced infantry units, however, told of a victory, despite obstinate resistance. All the objectives set for attainment of the French troops were rapidly gained. How many prisoners were taken cannot be ascertained at the present moment. The troops found the ground wherever they advanced terribly churned by shells. The deep craters had immediately filled with water, owing to the land being below the sea level, and in many instances the craters were joined together, forming a string of miniature canals, which were difficult of negotiation.

Nevertheless, the Frenchmen effected these objectives, and also extensive fields of barbed wire, amid a few obstructions and showers of machine-gun bullets. The Germans had occupied for three years the eastern bank of the Yser Canal, the western bank of which was in the hands of the Allied troops. At the northern flank of the French line the country was inundated as far as Dixmude, making operations virtually impossible in the vicinity.

On the enemy's side of the canal, and hidden in the woods a short distance behind it, machine guns bristled in nests of dozens, but the artillery preparations by the Allies had accounted for many of them before the French attempted their advance. Steenstrate and Heissas, on the canal, were soon left behind by the French, who steadily pressed forward, only halting for a breathing spell when the first German line came into their possession.

Meanwhile hundreds of batteries roared incessantly, bringing replies from the powerful German artillery. In the second stage of the battle the French progress took them long before noon into and beyond the second line German trenches, and the on line German troops, and the day's troops halted only when the day's task set for them had been completed. Then they set about to organize the captured ground.

Thrifty Geese.

The solar geese are so fond of collecting materials for their nests that they do not desert from the habit even when they are about to abandon their nests for the winter migration. Off the coast of Scotland one day patches of straw bedding were seen floating, and, although the birds were on the eve of departure, they gathered up every wisp, as though they had their nests to build, and in the same place they were seen collecting seaweed every day.

In spite of the war tax on home money is apt to get tight.

MUST DEFEAT THE U-BOATS, SAYS JELlicoe

More Patrol Ships and More Merchant Boats the Urgent Needs.

HUNS' LAST HOPE

Enemy Will Despair When Subs' Failure is Realized.

London Cable.—Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, First Sea Lord and chief of the naval staff, in an interview with the Associated Press to-day, discussed the submarine menace and the naval situation at the end of the third year of the war.

"You ask me to say something of the submarine menace," he began. "It is serious because all the Allied armies and civil population are in varying degrees, dependent on sea transport. But viewed broadly, the pressure by the Germans to this form of piracy is encouraging. They did not adopt it until they had lost hope in the victory of their armies. They did not risk drawing the United States into the war and concentrating on themselves the hostings of all other neutral States until they were convinced that they could not float a keel on the world's seas and by legitimate means interfere with the growth of the military strength of the Allies.

"For three years naval power has been in process of being isolated by the German blockade in desperation, decided to embark upon ruthless submarine warfare in the confident belief that it would prove a fatal stroke. In February, according to their own confession, it was the best and only means of speedy and victorious ending of the war."

"March, April, May, June and July have passed and their early hopes are still unrealized.

"The Germans have not mastered us, but, on the other hand we have not mastered the submarine. We have not yet discovered the effective means of military power has reduced the losses of merchant shipping.

"There is no reason to doubt that the Germans have at sea lately a far larger number of submarines than in February and March, but, nevertheless, with the invasion of the Atlantic, which has rendered us have prevented them from reaping the harvest which they anticipated.

"How long the German population will live on hopes deferred I cannot profess to say, but they must realize that the prophetic words which were uttered at the end of 1914, almost to Boesinghe, to a depth ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 yards.

After a pause, Admiral Jellicoe went on gravely:

"Combat of the submarine demands the utmost effort on the part of all the countries which have joined together to defeat Germany. She has staked her all on the submarine, and if we defeat it her last hope will have gone.

"The two urgent needs of the moment are more patrol ships and an increased output of merchant shipping, so that the losses suffered at sea may be made good. The war has become one of economic endurance. With the powerful aid which the United States is rendering, in making the naval blockade become worse week by week. She will hold out so long as there is the faintest hope of the success of the submarine warfare. Once its failure is demonstrated, the German people, whatever may be the case with the German Government, will recognize that every effort be concentrated on destroying what the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, calls the 'backlist of the seas.' We must and shall defeat it, but in order to do this the inventive and constructive energy of all the nations fighting Germany must be devoted to the work and to the rapid building of patrol ships and merchantmen. If that is done, I have no doubt of the issue."

FRENCH GIRL'S AWFUL STORY

Diary of Slavery and Worse Under Captivity.

But One Way Out—And That Dishonor.

Paris.—A party of forty French girls returned by the Germans out of a total of 6,000 taken into "virtual slavery from Lille and nearby territory, were permitted to make their way to Paris, because the Germans at Lille were afraid of the effect of their stories on the civilian population there.

Here are extracts from the diary of Yvonne Treville, one of the girls, daughter of a physician of Lille, shown some consideration by the Germans because of his usefulness as a doctor to the people of his parish. "Feb. 23—Before I could answer the loud knock on my bedroom door it was burst open. A German soldier tramped past my mother, shouting: 'Get up and dress. You leave Lille in twenty minutes to plant potatoes in the Ardennes.' He did not leave the room and—well, I dressed over

my night clothes. Mother tried to shield me by pretending to help with my clothes, but she was weeping so bitterly she fell on the floor. Outside the other Germans lined up in the square stared at me, saying: 'Ach! You have caught a pretty one, Fritz,' they laughed.

ELEVEN YEARS IN TWO DAYS.

"Feb. 26—It all happened only two days ago, not two years. But I am not 19 now. I am 30. The girls in the cattle truck with me were all classes. While we traveled through the night German soldiers moved about among us in the truck. I took the part of one girl, not educated as I had been, and dazed. But always I saw my mother's face, as it was when the truck left. It seemed to be becoming shapeless with grief. I may never see it again. But I shall always see it.

"March 10—We have been in an empty house in an Ardennes village more than a week. Am I alive or dead—after that? When, taken to the headquarters, another empty house, the day after we came, the officers ordered me to strip. I was stunned. I was turned to stone, and could not move.

"Not in pity, but to save time he explained something about medical examination. And when I was naked the German doctor asked questions and made tests I did not understand. Then, I objected so much that the girls later in lines were treated more kindly. I had not seen the sign on the house where I am kept with five other girls, until this morning. In German it said 'six women.' That is why these soldiers had come to look at us, and hint at insults. That is why we must now never leave each other alone, but stand together, with our backs to the wall, when these men come.

"What do you mean?" I asked Eugenie, a German's daughter from our parish in Lille. My father was a doctor and ever watched over me. When she told me what she had heard I understood, too. The Germans had announced we were evil women.

ANOTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

"April 2—Eugenie has gone. There was another medical examination two weeks ago. More insulting, more obscene than I had dreamed of. During it things were suggested.

I kept from fainting only by remembering if I did faint I might lose more than life. We were catalogued as 'good for anything.' We were so ashamed we went home by different streets.

"Eugenie had been gone from our house for a week. No wonder! It is simple. It is easy. Poor girl! She had less training. If she has a son it will be sent to Germany to become at least a soldier.

SOLDIERS LODGED IN HOUSE.

"May 29—One of the soldiers had been beating one of the girls in the fields every day. He had tried me first, and told me how I could escape. The vision of my mother's face helped me to lie to him.

"When I told him the lie he left me alone. To-day in mid-afternoon he other girl he had been beating for weeks fell exhausted. He beat over her and talked a minute.

"And to-night I heard we are to go home to Lille to-morrow, 40 of us out of 6,000. My prayers! My prayers! My mother, so brave! But—I do not know if I shall get there safe, or sane—or even alive!"

HUN VERSION OF NEW DRIVE

Says British Batteries Are Losing Power.

Moraht, Day Before, Made Bad Forecast.

Copenhagen Cable.—The German semi-official report on the British offensive, printed to-day under the headline "Before Great Infantry Attacks," stated that front positions were converted into shell-hole fields, and that battery stations were ringed with barbed wire. The German artillery, despite the terrific bombardment by shells of all calibre, up to 15-inch, and the lavish use of gas, had not let up a minute, and was successfully combating the British fire, the statement says. The British batteries were obliged to pause from exhaustion on the 29th until midday, when they attempted to escape punishment by smoke screens.

The Berlin Lokal Anzeiger's military critic says that the offensive was delayed and weakened by the submarine campaign. England consequently is no longer superior in artillery and aviators, and battalions at the front are on a reduced footing, because of the need of workmen in home munition factories.

Major Moraht, in the Tages Zeitung, intimated the evening before the attack that Gen. Haig, despite weeks of cannonading, has been unable to effect adequate infantry preparation and was afraid to attack.

Courses and Dishes.

Three courses seem to have been the customary menu in medieval times for a state banquet, less ceremonial feasts comprising only two and no private dinner more than one. But each course must comprise from eight to a dozen different dishes. Thus at the wedding banquet of Henry V, there were only three courses, yet over thirty different dishes are mentioned in the records, irrespective of fruits and wines.—London Chronicle.

Remove dust from nonwoven with ashes and kerosene. Wash with hot strong washing soda and water and dry on stove.

RUSS LAUNCH A NEW DRIVE IN GALICIA

Partial Offensive Toward Trembowla Has Made Some Gains.

SOME HEAVY LOSSES

When Teutons Forced Them to Retire Across the River Zbrocz.

London Cable.—The beginning of a partial offensive by the Russians in Galicia, in the direction of Trembowla, is announced to-day by the War Office. A hostile position was carried in this movement.

South-west of Kimpolung, towards the southern end of the fighting line, the Russians were forced back somewhat in the region of Negrey. They were also compelled to retire to some extent to the east of Gernment, between the Dniester and the Pruth region. The statement says the Russians suffered great losses when they were forced to retire across the Zbrocz yesterday.

Austro-German troops have made new advances in the eastern war theatre, according to the German official report. The Russian positions on the Horodena-Czernowitz railway, says the army headquarters, statement to-day were broken through by shock troops. North of the Dniester the Russians were forced into the Chotin River bend.

A telegram from Jassy says the Russo-Romanian advances between the Casin and Putna valleys resulted in the enemy losing, between July 24 and 28, ninety-eight guns and about 4,500 prisoners. The enemy front of sixty kilometers (36 miles) was broken to a depth of between 17 and 20 kilometers.

THE PETROGRAD REPORT

The text of the Russian statement follows:

"Western front: To the south-west of Brody, in the Dubleziarok region, after strong artillery preparation, the enemy attacked a portion of them. After a fierce engagement our newly arrived reserves drove out the enemy and the situation was restored. In this engagement the 19th regiment particularly distinguished itself.

"In Galicia, in the direction of Trembowla, our troops began a partial offensive, attacking the enemy in the region of Grimalov and carrying the position by assault.

"Repeated attempts of the enemy to cross the River Zbrocz, north of Husiatyn and south of Zbrzi were frustrated. Yesterday superior forces of the enemy attacked our positions between the Zbrocz and the Dniester, in the region of Zalucz Germanovka, and the confluence of Bispuce, and forced our troops after a battle, which was stubbornly contested in places, to retire across the Zbrocz. Our troops suffered great loss, especially among the officers.

"Between the Dniester and the Pruth the enemy yesterday continued to make persistent attacks, chiefly along the southern banks of the Dniester and the road to Czernowitz. After repelling a series of attacks our troops were forced to retire somewhat to the east of Gernment.

"In the Carpathian region, near Siptul, insignificant enemy attacks were beaten off. In the region of Bratza we retired a little.

"Roumanian front: Southwest of Kimpolung, in the region of Negrey, the enemy attacked our troops and thrust them back a little to the east.

THE GERMAN OFFICIAL

The Berlin War Office report of Wednesday said:

"Front of Prince Leopold and army group of von Boehm-Ermolli: Our troops pushing forward towards the southeast, north of the Dniester, forced the enemy, who had prepared himself for a battle behind Billbrook, back into the river bend of Chotin. Between the Dniester and the Pruth our shock group broke through the Russian positions on the Horodena-Czernowitz railway line, while its southern wing repulsed a strong relief attack near Iwankoutz.

"Front of Archduke Joseph: In the northeastern spur and in the central portion of the wooded Carpathians German and Austro-Hungarian divisions captured in an offensive action stubbornly-defended valley approaches several enemy attacks.

BRITISH DRIVE FOES IN AFRICA

London Cable.—British troops have driven the Germans from their positions on the Lugungu River, in German East Africa, and also are pushing forward in the Kilwa region, says an official statement issued to-day by the British War Office.

The text reads:

"East Africa: After sharp fighting the enemy has been driven with loss from his positions on the Lugungu River and at Ntuliira.

"In the Kilwa area a heavy rainfall checked our advance for some days after the successful action at Narongombe, but our forward movements have now been resumed."

Muggins—With all this wartime agitation about national economy it seems as though I am always in debt. Muggins—Don't talk about it. I haven't even paid for the Christmas present my wife gave me.