

NEAREST HUN SEVEN MILES FROM VERDUN

Germans Nowhere Closer
Than That to Great
Stronghold.

ALL HEIGHTS GONE

Enemy Losses Terrific, and
Those of France Very
Light.

(By Gerard Campbell.)

Headquarters of the French Army, Cable.—The moral and strategic value of the French advance on the front at Verdun becomes more evident as one is able to review what has been done. In very many cases among the thousands of prisoners not only men, but officers, are undisguisedly glad to have been taken. The accuracy and volume of our bombardment and barrage fire have purged them of their war lust. In one division the whole of three regiments were either dead or prisoners. Three entire batteries were annihilated by the explosion of a store of their own gas shells caused by a French shell which fell plumb in the middle. The most vital fact in reckoning the enemy's losses is that they were not confined to troops of the front lines. In anticipation of an attack and with the view to prompt counter-attack, the German commanders brought up unusually numerous reserves. The French directed a considerable part of their preliminary fire on points where these forces had assembled. One battalion in process of being relieved lost two-thirds of its effectives. Further back behind the lines the casualties were so heavy that no counter-attack on the scale which had been expected has yet been attempted. Another point to be noted is that two-thirds of the prisoners were taken on the left bank of the Meuse. The positions that were so valuable to the Germans that they posted an unusually large number of men in the front trenches in the hope of being able to hold them contrary to the regular custom, which is to leave as few troops as possible on the ground necessarily exposed to the main force of the bombardment, preparatory to the big attack, but if the strategic value of the Heights of Mort Homme, Cumiers, Cote de Poie and Regneville was worth four points to the enemy, then they certainly count now eight to retain.

The Crown Prince's forces have been driven back on two sides of the river to positions they occupied on March 5, 1915, so they are nowhere less than seven miles from Verdun. At the same time they have lost the advantage of the most commanding heights surrounding the city and its forts.

CROWN PRINCE'S LAST HOPE.

Grand Headquarters of the French Army Cable.—The battle around Verdun developed yesterday into purely a big gun duel, in which the French continued to maintain undoubted mastery. Many more prisoners were rounded up. They unanimously say that the French artillery barrage was terrible in its effects. One said: "Not even a hare could have gotten through it."

The testimony of prisoners shows that the Germans intended to hold the left bank of the Meuse at all costs. The regiment stationed there were ordered to die at their posts, if necessary. Many of them did so, while what remained in the line were captured. Over two-thirds of the prisoners were taken there.

A visit to the reconquered territory shows the value placed on the positions of Le Mort Homme and Regneville as defensive organizations. The ground was covered with small fortresses. It was the last hope of the German Crown Prince, who apparently was obsessed with the desire to conquer Verdun. In the neighborhood of which thousands of the flower of the German army found only a burial place, without any laurels of victory.

All attempts to recapture the positions proved vain, every German effort being thrown back in disorder. The remarkable thing about the whole French offensive is the smallness of their losses, while those of the enemy have been terrific, as can be seen wherever one goes on the battlefield. Of one German division at least three regiments exist no more, and those remaining alive are prisoners.

One of the captured men told of how a French shell fell into a depot of poisonous gas shells near Herbebois, the fumes of which killed the complements of three entire German batteries, composing a group which had just been sending hundreds of those horrible projectiles over the French lines. A German infantryman captured related that his battalion while being relieved from front line duty had lost two-thirds of its total strength.

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable.—The official communication issued by the War Office to-night reads:

"Gain prevailed along the whole front; there was reciprocal artillery activity on both sides of the Meuse. In the region east of Alstreich our artillery caught under its fire a German drachen, which was brought down in flames."

"The German artillery was very active north of the Aisne, especially in the sector between Bray-en-Laonnois and Hurberville. Several enemy attacks in the regions of Lafaux mill, Ailles, and Cerey were repulsed."

"On the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) our artillery, which had the upper hand, was very active during the night. On the right bank of the river a detail operation en-

abled us to reduce a small point of resistance of the enemy north of Mort Mont farm. We took seventeen prisoners."

"The number of prisoners taken since Aug. 20 has reached 7,639, including 155 officers and 600 wounded. The captured material listed includes 24 cannon of all calibres, and more than 200 machine guns, in addition to a nine cannon, which were destroyed."

"There is nothing to report from destroyed."

"There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

CANNING AND DRYING

Letter Plan is Easy and
Very Economical.

Much interest is being shown throughout the country in the measures adopted for the instruction of our women in the best methods of fruit and vegetable canning and drying.

The urgent need for the conservation of all foods has given a stimulus towards the saving of the perishable commodities. The Provincial governments, through their departments of Agriculture, have been active in putting on demonstrations throughout the country and the work has been very largely covered through the Women's Institute, Homemakers clubs, etc., but there are many small towns and villages that have not had any help in this direction. People should write to their Provincial Government for bulletins on canning and drying. There is a fear that the shortage in bottles will prevent a greater part of the crop from being cared for. It is not commonly known that many of the things which are canned, such as beans, peas, carrots, swiss chard, etc., can be dried without materially altering the flavor. There is no elaborate machinery necessary for this process. It is as easy to dry fruit and vegetables as it is to can them. It simply requires a rack on which to place the material, and protection from flies, etc.

By means of the process of drying we can save apples, pears, plums, cherries, peas, beans and all the herbs, parsley, thyme, mint, etc., efficiently and inexpensively. A few years ago in most homes the only way of having green corn throughout the year was to dry it. It is now possible to spend wholly upon canned corn, an article that costs three times the price of the dried and is no better.

We are told by some that they have more vegetables than they need or than they can use and, therefore, they are making no effort to save them. It is a world-wide crisis and no food fit for human consumption should be allowed to go to waste. Save all you can. Can it if possible. Evaporate what you cannot take care of. Let no food perish. The success of the world struggle will be decided by food.

MORE DEMANDS FOR REPRISALS

For Air Raids by Germany
Upon Britain.

Service Declared to Need
Improvement.

London Cable.—Renewed newspaper attempts to stir the Government to greater activity have followed yesterday's raids. There also may be more demands for reprisals against the Germans since the bombing of pleasure resorts like Margate and Southend, which have no military or industrial establishments, arouses great indignation.

The gist of the complaints is that although the fourth year of the war is beginning, the British Government has not awakened as much as has Germany to the importance of aerial warfare, nor kept abreast of the German designs.

The Pall Mall Gazette says the British airman are fighting superbly, but it notes with anxiety that their success seems to be achieved at a steadily growing cost, and that German airman are fighting better than formerly. It says: "Unless there is speedily an official awakening to the reality of the position our future may be jeopardized."

One of the chief handicaps to the air service, according to most experts, is that it remains under a dual management, being subordinate to both the army and navy. Even the defenses of England are under the divided control of these two services.

The Town Council of Southend has petitioned the Government for reprisals. The Berlin statement on the raid says that in an aerial attack yesterday "military establishments at Margate, Ramsgate and Dover were bombed successfully. In numerous aerial engagements the Germans shot down three aeroplanes. Two German machines have not returned."

Absence of Mind.

An old man was leading two lively calves out to early pasture in the morning. When he came to the fields he tied one of the calves to one of his boot straps and the other to the opposite boot strap while he opened the rickety gate. The calves ran away. When he was picked up his wife asked him:

"Didn't you know any better than to do a foolish trick like that?"

"Yes," he answered. "I hadn't been dragged four rods before I saw my mistake."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Now is the glad season when the amateur farmer leans on the hoe and looks for the trenches. Washington Post.

CANADIANS STILL CLOSING IN ON THE ENEMY AT LENS

Manitoba Troops' Victory on Green Crassier
Helps in Advance.

Still Keep Up Fierce Fighting With the Foe
Getting Weary.

London Cable.—The official report from British headquarters in France describes heavy fighting about Lens, where the Canadian troops have gained a foothold on a strong enemy strategic point south of Lens. The text of the statement reads:

"Heavy local fighting has taken place all day for the possession of three important enemy strongholds immediately south of Lens, known as the Green Crassier. Our troops gained a footing on the spoil heap early this morning, and have since beaten off several counter-attacks, in which the enemy suffered heavy losses both from our artillery and in hand-to-hand fighting. Possession of the position is still being fiercely disputed."

R. T. Small wires from the British front:

"An advance by the Canadians in the neighborhood of the Green Crassier, on the southern edge of Lens, this morning, has added greatly to the strength of the British line, which has continued to tighten steadily about the heart of the city. The crassier is really a great slag heap which has been accumulating for years over a considerable area in the neighborhood of groups of railway yards from which coal trains were sent south and west. It lies only about 200 yards south of the Central railway station of Lens, and overlooks it.

"The crassier is an important buffer between the Canadians and the Germans, and the British have been working to tighten the network of passages and ditches beneath Lens. Part of the ground about the crassier is inundated, due to the waterway nearby having broken its banks, and this, in conjunction with the great number of machine-gun emplacements on the crassier, has made it a particularly difficult position for attack.

MADE ASSAULT BEFORE DAWN.

"The Canadians made their first assault before dawn this time, and the attack was preceded by a protracted and exceedingly intense bombardment of the German positions. The Germans, exhausted by the long strain of constant counter-attacks which they have been delivering, found the Canadians in their midst with little warning, but the defenders did not give up without a struggle, and there was considerable bayonet fighting.

"An advance upon two German colonies positions adjoining the crassier to the northwest earlier in the night also involved stiff hand-to-hand fighting. About the crassier are numerous shell-shattered buildings, many of which have been strongly fortified by the Germans. The Canadians this morning bombed their way sys-

BRITISH ARE CLOSING UPON THE HUN LINES

Steady Plugging On Ypres-
Menin Road is Gaining
Ground.

Stiff Fighting
But Many Strong Redoubts
Have Been Taken by
Haig's Men.

London Cable.—The British continue their methodical fighting on the Ypres-Menin road. During the past twenty-four hours they have made gains over their front, varying in depth from a quarter to half a mile, notwithstanding the tenacious resistance of the legions of Crown Prince Rupprecht.

The correspondent of Reuter's at British army headquarters telegraph to-day says: "All yesterday's gains have been maintained in Flanders, and even added to, in spite of violent German artillery firing and counter-attacks. The advantage of yesterday's success is greater than the advance of a few hundred yards suggests. For we are now fighting for the high ground dominating the whole tactical position in Northern Belgium, and we have now bitten off another slice. The greatest latitude of the ridge is toward the east of Inverness cove, whence it trends northeast. Naturally the enemy is concentrating its utmost to retain this commanding position, hence the bitter fighting."

"The extent of the German casualties cannot be judged by the normal calculation of the ratio of prisoners to the rest of the losses, because in a struggle of this character prisoners are bound to be few. The German high command is sacrificing reserves recklessly in the policy of immediate and incessant heavy counter-attacks."

IN INVERNESS COPSE.

R. T. Small telegraphs: "The positions gained by the British yesterday

are along a front varying in depth from a few hundred yards to half a mile. Even the Inverness Copse, astride the Ypres-Menin road, where the Germans were so strongly fortified that one would scarcely have dared to predict success for an attack, was partly in British possession after hand-to-hand fighting, which continued throughout yesterday and into the night.

"Fighting still continues east and northeast of Ypres. The British secured the strong position in Inverness Copse, and their line runs approximately through a point in the center of this wood from the north and south, but the Germans are in possession of a large machine gun position, which dominates the northern portion of the wood, and these guns add to the difficulties of the situation for the British.

"The British made their advance into Inverness in the face of an extremely severe machine gun fire from the wood and from points to the north and south. The ground here is marshy and hard for the infantry to traverse, but the British forced their way forward to the wood when they threw themselves on the Germans with bayonet and bombs and drove the enemy back. Heavy counter-attacks failed to dislodge the British from the line where they finally rested, half-way through the wood.

"Smaller sanguinary fighting also occurred a little north in the Glen-corse wood, where there was a nest of machine guns. In this Ypres-Menin road sector of the fighting the British penetrated the German defenses to a depth of about 500 yards over a front of about a mile.

"In a bigger battle further north the British reduced many exceedingly strong German concrete redoubts and strongholds which had figured in much of the fighting heretofore. One of these, which was the scene of a strenuous battle before the British finally subdued its garrison, was counter-attacked determinedly by the enemy later in the day, but the attack was driven off with considerable losses to the Germans.

"Along this front the British penetrated to an extreme depth of over half a mile, thereby securing much of the ground which they had failed to gain in the bitter offensive of last Thursday. A considerable number of prisoners have been sent back, but no official estimate yet is available."

BRITISH REPORTS.
London Cable.—Thursday night's War Office report reads: "A hostile attack upon one of the

fortified farms captured by us yesterday north of the Ypres-Roulers railway was repulsed by our machine-gun fire."

"We have advanced slightly to the northeast of Langemarck."

"During the past week the fighting in the air has been incessant and more severe than at any other similar period since the beginning of the war. Yesterday the activity of the enemy's aircraft was less marked and his pilots appeared disinclined to engage when close up to the lines."

"None the less, a great number of fights again took place, in which our machines were favored by a change in wind. As a result of the fighting 12 German aeroplanes were driven down out of control. Two of ours are missing, one of which was seen to effect a landing on the beach at Ostend."

"Throughout yesterday's attacks our aeroplanes successfully co-operated with our artillery and infantry. The usual bombing and reconnaissance work was also carried out. In the course of the day and night five tons of explosives were dropped on various objectives behind the enemy's lines."

"The afternoon report said: "On the Ypres battlefield, east of Langemarck, a hostile attack at a strong point under gunfire was repulsed. In the neighborhood of Lombartzyde the enemy raided a forward post. Two of our men are missing."

A NEW MARNE IN ROUMANIA?

Germans Said to Be Effectively
Checked.

Prospects of Allies Good On
All Fronts.

London Cable.—M. Cambon, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, in an interview to-day, commented on the British, French and Italian offensives, which he said had exerted a tremendous wear and tear on the German troops the quality of which he added, was inferior to what it was recently. Likewise the check of the German advance in Roumania reminded him in a measure of the battle of the Marne. All signs point, M. Cambon concluded, to the indication that the German force which once was called indomitable has been checked for all time.

In his weekly review of the war Major-General F. B. Maurice to-day said:

"The Germans are carrying out our campaign in France and Flanders on the same careful, methodical plan which I have often explained to you. Each move is made against strictly limited objectives, beyond which we do not attempt to go. In the case of the offensive which began Aug. 16th, the object was even more limited than usual owing to the unfavorable condition of the ground. But we got what we wanted and settled ourselves there for the next move."

"At Lens we are now right into the town on the southwest and north-west boundaries."

"The Germans are fighting very hard and very well. This is particularly true of their troops on the British front, where they have brought up reserves from the French front. How far they are pushed is shown by the fact that they have had to employ many more divisions than we and that they have been compelled to withdraw more than twice as many divisions as we on account of exhaustion or losses."

"The Germans have not only brought up plentiful reserves against the British thrusts, but also quantities of artillery. When signs of our Flanders offensive first appeared on the horizon they transferred all the good aeroplanes they had on the Russian front to Flanders, but without helping the air situation much."

AIDED VERDUN PUSH.

"The withdrawal of German reserves from the French front undoubtedly made the French Verdun push easier, and this was naturally one of the things taken into account by the Allies. The French attack at Verdun, I may say, is being carried out according to the same methodical plan as ours in the north. In their first attack they gained about three-fourths of their objectives, leaving the other one-fourth to be cleared up later by localized operations."

"On the Italian front also we have made a considerable success this week. The battle there is still in progress and little need be said until it develops further. From the professional point of view, I may say, however, that the Italians have already gained an important victory, which gives promise of developing presently into a victory of the first magnitude."

"In conclusion I might say a word about the German communique of the past fortnight. It is unnecessary to draw any further attention to the glaring lack of accuracy which is so completely demonstrated by the Langemarck fiasco. But for us all there is a note of encouragement in the tone of these daily statements. There tone shows that the high command feels strongly the necessity of coloring all recent operations with a brush which will buck up and encourage the faltering German people. It is necessary to use any means to assure the Germans that everything that happens is a victory. Von Ludendorff claims a victory every day, whichever way his army is moving or is being moved."

BARRIE GAZETTE'S SUSPENDS.

Barrie Cable.—The Barrie Gazette, established forty-five years ago as a Liberal newspaper, issued its last number to-day. Alfred Wilkes, the proprietor, is moving the Gazette plant to Midland where he will be editor and manager for a company which has bought out the Free Press and the Osborne job plant.

One good turn deserves another. Look out for the fellow who is always looking out for himself.

ARAB TRIBES WITH ALLIES

Meet With Success Against
the Turks

In Operations North of
Medina, Arabia.

London Cable.—The Arabs in Arabia in revolt against the Turks have recently carried out extensive operations against the enemy, meeting with success in all of them, according to an official British communication issued this evening. The communication adds that the King of the Hedjaz and his tribesmen evidently have associated themselves with the allied cause. The communication follows:

"Forces operating under the orders of the King of the Hedjaz, apparently carried out a series of extensive operations against Turkish detachments and posts in Arabia. According to information available the Arabs have been working on a carefully thought-out plan which has resulted in the destruction of a part of the railway line north of Medina and in the capture of isolated Turkish posts."

"The plan of operations appears to have been skilfully conceived, and the daring and determination displayed in carrying it out were remarkable. On more than one occasion the Arab forces attacked numerically superior forces and overcame them. In the Maan district alone over 700 Turks were killed in an action and a similar number taken prisoner. In addition four guns were captured."

"The Arab movement, originating with the Sherif of Mecca, apparently is gaining the support of all the Arab tribes in Hedjaz, and is spreading eastward."

ITALIAN DRIVE HEAVIEST YET

New Features Forced Enemy
From Strongholds.

Vienna Admits Losses in the
Offensive.

Rome Cable.—The present Italian offensive is on a vaster scale than any previous ones. New features were the shortening of the period of artillery preparation, which lasted only 24 hours, but was so arranged that, beginning lightly, it increased steadily and rapidly until a hurricane blew in advance of the assaulting troops forming the first line, using their machine guns on the Austrians at short range. Many prisoners were made dead by the violence of the detonations. They had believed their positions quite impregnable.

VIENNA ADMITS LOSSES.

Vienna Cable, via London Cable, 22.—The new attack of the Italians has forced back the Austrian line at some points, the War Office announces, and the village of Selo, on the Carso plateau, has been lost. The statement follows:

"The eleventh battle of the Isonzo is in full swing, the enemy not having succeeded in the ten preceding battles in breaking our victorious defensive strength. South of Anzica and east of Canalton on the Isonzo, south of Tolmino, the enemy succeeded in driving in our front slightly. After an attack at Vrh some of our detachments held their positions until they were surrounded completely, after which they cut their way out. Between the Dorsala and the Wipbach an assault failed on the face of the heroic defence of our lines. On the Carso, the enemy, at the cost of thousands of men, obtained a local success in the conquest of the village of Selo."

"During two days of fighting we have taken more than 5,600 prisoners, and more than 50 machine guns."

ROUMANIANS IN HARD LUCK

Huns Taken From Russian
Front to Batter Them,

But They Are Fighting Heroically Still.

General Headquarters of the Russian Army, Cable.—The bitterest part of the rough task which falls to the high command of the Russian army in restoring discipline is the plight of the small, heroic and loyal Roumanian army, who is resisting a crushing attack. The Germans, without troubling themselves to conceal the movement, are massing against the Roumanians troops taken from the trenches in front of the Russians.

The Roumanians are really well armed in this campaign and each regiment organized by French officers according to French army methods, can hold its own against any equal force.

"The Roumanians are eager to show the Russians how well disciplined they are. The 'Tovarish' (comrades), as the Russians have nicknamed, since they fraternized with the Germans and retreated out of Galicia, are inadequately supporting the Roumanians. The Russian lack of loyalty to their ally makes them deserters, as far as the Roumanians are concerned. Among these 'Tovarish' deserters many German agents are and have been busy. But the Roumanians are bearing the brunt heroically against those who face them."