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The Daily Mail

ALL THE NEWS FOR ONE CENT

The Weather.

Maritime: Moderate winds, fair, not much change in temperature.

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

FRENCH TROOPS WON A SMASHING VICTORY ON VERDUN FRONT

Huns Taken by Surprise And Completely Routed

French Victory at Verdun One of the Most Notable of the War---The Enemy Given a Genuine Surprise---Enthusiastic Over Victory.

PARIS, Oct. 25.—The French attack at Verdun apparently took the Germans completely by surprise, and not at one point did they succeed in stopping the impetuous rush. In three hours the French recaptured territory to gain which required months of patient effort by the Germans, including such positions as Douaumont Fort and Thiaumont Work, which in the past few months were won and lost repeatedly.

The official French account of the battle, every word of which was wrought carefully, does not say the German line was forced back, but that it was "burst." Later details of the French victory show that its extent was as much of a surprise to the French as it must have been to the Germans.

General Petaine regarded the front east of the Meuse as too cramped, and suggested to General Nivelle, the commander at Verdun, that he give himself more "elbow room."

With that end in view, infantry was sent up to reinforce the French, and artillery was ordered for the establishment of new batteries.

The aviation department was commissioned to make an exhaustive survey of the positions of the German batteries and points of assembly. This work was carried out and the secret was kept so well that to all appearances the Germans never had an inkling of what was in prospect.

Furthermore, they evidently believed the energies of the French were being absorbed by the battle of the Somme, and made no preparations to meet a thrust at Verdun. Thus it came about that what was intended for a small manoeuvre became a brilliant tactical success.

The French Victory at Verdun One of the Most Brilliant Operations of the War

PARIS, Oct. 25.—Verdun, long lost sight of, sprang suddenly yesterday into the forefront of the public mind, which exclusively had been directed towards the battle on the Somme.

The German front on the right bank of the Meuse literally was swept away for a distance of four and a half miles like straw before the wind.

General Nivelle for weeks past has been watching the German movements like a lynx, carefully calculating the effect of every withdrawal of troops for transfer to the Somme and the eastern front. At the same time he quietly made his preparations, and when he judged the Germans had thinned their defences to the danger point, he struck like lightning.

The result was one of the most brilliant operations of the campaign. The Germans, who yesterday were pressing close on the inner line of defences at Forts Souville and Tavannes, have now been driven beyond the outer defences of the Fort Douaumont and Vaux line.

Vaux Fort remains in possession of the Germans, but the French line extends beyond it on the north and south.

Victorious French Troops Swept Over Trench After Trench and Took Many Prisoners

The French artillery preparation was brief but intense, and was over before the German commanders had time to bring up reinforcements, even if they were available.

The assaulting French waves caught them before the Germans recovered from their surprise, and swept over trench after trench, sending prisoners in all lines to the rear.

The French losses were very light, it is believed, even lighter than any recorded in the attacks on the Somme front.

News of the success has caused tremendous public enthusiasm here, and this is all the greater because of the general impression that Verdun was over and done with and that both sides were contenting themselves with holding what they had won. Yesterday's operation proved that the French could strike a smashing blow at Verdun, while carrying on an extended offensive on the Somme, and has greatly increased public confidence and gone far to lessen the depression caused by the recent loss of Constanza.

COUNTER ATTACKS AT VERDUN.

PARIS, Oct. 25.—The Germans made a counter attack north of Verdun last night in an effort to regain ground won by the French in yesterday's assault. They attempted to recapture the Haudremont quarries and the Dambloup battery. The War Office announces that in both cases they were repulsed. The French gains were maintained. The German officer in command at Fort Douaumont is among the prisoners taken.

THE U-53 IS REPORTED SUNK AGAIN

Boston, Oct. 25.—Capt. W. G. Tudor, of the British steamship Hochelaga, which arrived from Louisburg yesterday, said that before he left Nova Scotia persistent rumors were current that the German U-boat 53 had been sunk off Sydney, N. S., by the Canadian patrol boat Stanley. He said he was unable to verify the report.

"Before I left Louisburg, I was told by a shipping man that I need not worry about the German submarine," said Capt. Tudor. "This man said that the U boat would not bother any more British vessels, because she had been sunk by the Stanley."

C. P. R. STRIKE DECLARED OFF

WINNIPEG, Oct. 25.—The C. P. R. strike was declared off this afternoon following conferences between representatives of the trainmen and the company. The details of the long conference have not been given out authoritatively, but it is known that the men have gained everything they sought. It means increase of average of two cents per man per hour over the entire system of the 7,500 conductors and switchmen involved.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. William Johnson and daughter, Miss Ruby Johnson, of Acme, Alberta, formerly of Chatham, are here, guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. Atkinson, Charlotte street. Lieut. Governor Wood arrived last evening and is a guest at the Queen.

FRENCH MARINES MAY BE WITHDRAWN FROM ATHENS

ATHENS, Oct. 24 (via London).—The Greek government today issued a statement to clear up misunderstandings due to exaggerated reports of King Constantine's interview with the French military attaché on Friday. The communication explains that the French government makes no new demands, but merely submitted a memorandum and that the King never declared he was prepared to break off relations with the Entente. It is thought that as a result of a conversation between the King and the French minister this morning, during which explanations were made, the French marines may be withdrawn soon from Athens and Piræus.

A Reuter despatch sent from Athens on Friday said the French military attaché had presented to the King demands that Greece transfer the entire military force in Thessaly to the southern part of the country and deliver to the Entente Allies the war materials intended for the Thessalian forces, but there has been previous intimation that the King had threatened to break off relations with the Entente.

GERMANS ADMIT LOSS GROUND.

Berlin, Oct. 25 (by wireless to Sayville).—The War Office announced today that an attack made on the Verdun front by the French yesterday gained ground for them.

French assaults on the Somme, they say, were without success.

Report Probably Incorrect.

"Canada," a weekly paper published in London, England, contains the statement that Lieut. W. R. Clarke, 71st York Regt., Fredericton, N. B., previously reported wounded, is reported killed in action October 7th. This is considered incorrect by his wife and by his father, Mr. Harry M. Clarke, both of whom are in this city. His wife received a letter written from Shorncliffe on October 11th, which contained no mention of even an early departure for France.

CHERNAVODA EVACUATED.

Petrograd, via London, Oct. 25.—The Roumanians and Russians have evacuated the Danube town of Chervavoda, in Dobrudja, the War Office announced today.

Fifty-Five Years Married.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Campbell, on Monday last quietly observed the fifty-fifth anniversary of their wedding at their home in Kingsclear. They were married on October 23rd, 1861, and have always resided at Kingsclear. Their many friends will be glad to learn that both are in the enjoyment of excellent health. Mr. Campbell is still able to devote his attention to his farming operations, while Mrs. Campbell assists with the housework.

If we could only see ourselves as others see us—but we can't so what's the use?

Fullness and length mark the gowns on display—and the same features will show up on bills therefore later.

WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE TERRIBLE ON SOMME BATTLEFRONT

Troops Wallow in Mud and Shiver From The Cold---Fierce and Bloody Fighting all Day on Tuesday---Huns are Ferocious in Defence.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE, via London, Oct. 25.—The British are saying that if the Germans had ordered the weather it could not have suited their purpose better than during these past two days of persistent rain, which has turned shell craters into bowls of porridge, made trench sides fall in, kept every stitch of clothing of the men in the front line saturated, and made the field across which charges have to be made as slippery as glass where there are not mire holes.

Sunday and part of Monday, with clear cold weather, which let the gunners see their targets, the soldiers were swinging their arms to keep warm. Now the gunners stare out into the walls of mist, and soldiers who have been in the trenches look like balls of mud.

Artillery preparations necessary for attack are impossible without visibility, and, as one gunner said, the visibility is so low that the "tanks" will have to use fog-horns to prevent collisions if they go wandering across the uncharted shell craters.

The Germans in their machine gun positions need only enough visibility to see a few hundred yards.

British Captured 1,000 Yards of Enemy Trenches After a Most Bitter Struggle

But about Letransloy, where the British attacked Monday over a narrow front and took about a thousand yards of trenches the bloodiest and fiercest kind of fighting has been proceeding all day (Tuesday). The utter discomfort and the mud and the wet seem only to make both sides more bitter.

Against the British here are the veteran German regiments which took Forts Vaux and Douaumont at Verdun, now as savage in defence as they were in attack last spring.

The trenches in this region have names appropriate for the weather and the seasons, such as "Misty Trench," "Hazy Trench," and "Stormy," "Cloudy," "Windy," "Spectrum" and "Orion" trench. The Germans have been making no attacks except counter-attacks, aiming to drive the British out when they get foothold in any one of these trenches.

The men of both sides, wallowing in the mud, struggle to keep up some kind of shelter from the shell fire and against the fire of machine guns, while other wallowing men strive to keep from foundering while the trench mortars splash fountains of mud over them.

ON THE MACEDONIAN FRONT.

PARIS, Oct. 25.—Italian cavalry from southern Albania formed a junction yesterday with cavalry and artillery from the Entente forces on the Macedonian front, the War Office says.

C. P. R. AUTHORITIES MAKE SLIGHT CONCESSIONS

WINNIPEG, Man., Oct. 25.—After an almost continuous session of fifteen hours, the conference of Canadian Pacific Railway officials and representatives of the conductors and trainmen's unions, seeking to avert the strike set for this afternoon, adjourned at 7.30 this morning for two hours.

At 5 o'clock the company's officials drew up a new schedule and submitted it to the men's representatives. It is stated that several important concessions were made, but that in the opinion of the men they did not warrant calling off the strike.

This schedule is being considered during the adjournment, and the attitude of the men may be clearly revealed on the resumption of the conference at 9.30.

Grant Hall, C. Coleman and C. C. Murphy, general superintendent, represented the company at the conference, and S. N. Berry, James Murdock, G. R. Chester, of Winnipeg, and E. H. Cooke, of Moose Jaw, the men.