
Notice to Advertisers.
In order to ensure changes
being made in advertisements,
copy must reach this office not
later than 9 a. m. on the day of
publication.

The Daily Mail

The Weather.
Maritime: Decreasing west-
erly shifting to southerly winds,
fair and cold today, higher tem-
perature on Wednesday.

VOL. XXIII., No. 67

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

ALLIED TROOPS CONTINUE TO CHASE RETREATING GERMANS

Dramatic Retreat of Huns Still Clothed in Mystery

French Troops Steadily Pursuing the Enemy and Now Within Striking Distance of the Hindenburg Line---Military Observers Look For Counter Attack.

French troops, pushing hard on the heels of the retreating Germans, are today within striking distance of the "Hindenburg line," the supposed goal of the retiring forces. The milestones on this line are the historic towns of Lille, Cambrai, St. Quentin, Laon and La Fere. The troops of General Nivelle were rushing towards St. Quentin yesterday at a rate almost unprecedented in the present world war, and reached a point within five miles of the city. Unless some unheralded factor has entered into the situation, the French have by this time either entered St. Quentin or the retreat of the German forces has been halted.

In the meantime, to the north the British are doggedly pushing onward toward Cambrai, and are apparently within striking distance of that town, the heart of the Lille La Fere line and famous since the days of the Romans. The British are advancing more slowly than the French, but nothing either in the official reports from Paris or London, or in the unofficial stories of newspaper correspondents at the front indicates that either army has yet come in contact with the main German forces.

The theory that the Germans propose to halt their retreat on the Hindenburg line has been put forward by military critics in the Allied capitals but there has been no indication from Berlin of the plans of the German general staff, and the purpose and meaning of the dramatic retreat of the invaders of France remains clothed in considerable mystery.

French military observers estimate that the German retirement has already realized 15,000 to 20,000 troops who are now available for a long-predicted counter-offensive to be launched against the Allied lines at some speculative point. The Paris newspapers regard some such move on the part of Hindenburg as almost certain, and discuss the possibility of another tremendous effort to smash a way through to Calais.

Germans Carrying Out Their Retirement

Under the Cover of Picked Rear Guards

PARIS, March 20.—The latest news from the front accentuates the feeling of optimism in military circles here, and convinces the critics that the Germans are now engaged in a most difficult and dangerous operation in view of the large front involved. According to the hitherto accepted theory, to effect such a movement with any safety, it was necessary that a distance equal to a two days' march should be maintained between the pursuing and retreating forces.

Under the present circumstances both armies are in close contact. The Germans are carrying out their retirement under cover of small but picked rear-guards, sometimes entirely composed of officers and non-commissioned officers, which make counter-attacks when the pursuers press too closely on their heels.

Germans Facing a Difficult Position and Will Soon Have Less Favorable Conditions

The weather, which continues to be extremely clear, is in favor of the advancing Allies. French military critics maintain that it is more and more unlikely that the Germans can reach the Lille-La Fere line without mishap.

It is assumed that they propose to convert this line, which was their former base, into their principal position, and remove their base seventeen miles to the rear on a line running from Valenciennes to Laon. It is asserted that from any point of view the Germans are facing an aggravation of an already difficult position and are confronted with even less favorable fighting conditions in the immediate future.

MINISTERS BACK IN ATHENS.

LONDON, March 20.—The ministers to Greece of the Entente nations have again taken up their residence in Athens, Reuter's correspondent there reports. The discharge of a cargo of wheat destined for Piræus begins today. The admission of wheat into Greece indicates the lifting of the blockade which has been in effect for several weeks.

MONTREAL VISITED BY SERIOUS FIRE

Montreal, March 20.—Fire, which broke out this morning in the wholesale district near the corner of St. Paul and McGill streets, did damage estimated at over \$100,000. The fire started in the basement of the Ingersoll Packing Co., and spread to the premises of the Continental Bag and Paper Co. and J. A. Vallancourt & Co., produce dealers.

Animal Trainer Killed by Bear

Los Angeles, March 20.—Captain Bonavita, widely known animal trainer, died here last night as a result of a fractured jaw and severe lacerations suffered in a struggle with a polar bear. He was putting the bear through its customary tricks, when the animal became enraged and attacked him. The trainer was saved from immediate death by a policeman, who fired six bullets into the animal, killing it instantly. Capt. Bonavita's right-hand was bitten off by a lion twelve years ago at Coney Island, N. Y.

Daylight Saving To be Adopted

Paris, March 20.—All clocks in France will be put forward one hour at midnight on March 24, according to the summer time bill, which has been passed by parliament.

Rome, via Paris, March 20.—A decree has been promulgated directing all Italian clocks to be advanced one hour from April 1 to September 30.

Case of Typhoid.
Mr. Thomas Powers, of Smythe st., was taken to Victoria Hospital yesterday suffering from typhoid.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS NOT TO COMMAND ARMY

The New Regime in Russia Will Appoint a General Not Connected With the Romanoff Family---Extremists Making Trouble for Government.

LONDON, March 20.—Grand Duke Nicholas will not, after all, be commander-in-chief of the Russian armies, according to the Petrograd correspondent of the Times, the new government having found it necessary in order to checkmate the mischievous propaganda to appoint a general not connected with the Romanoff family.

The correspondent does not state who the appointee will be, nor does he indicate whether Grand Duke Nicholas is likely to continue to hold any subordinate command.

Has Many Difficulties.

In a long despatch the Times dwells on the difficulties the government is meeting, because of the aims of the extremists, and says that rumors have been circulated designed to discourage enthusiasm on the part of soldiers and munition workers by alleging that Germany has ceased to fight, but they have failed to create any impression.

"Some other legend had to be sought," continued the Times, "and the inventive brains of the demagogues found a convenient bogey in the alleged danger of a counter revolution, they preaching to the soldiers and workmen that the representatives of the old regime were still powerful and mischievous and that it would be dangerous for the workers to return to the mills or the soldiers to resume their duties at present. Under pressure of the moderate elements they, however, raised the interdict on the appearance of the newspapers, and expressed willingness to permit the resumption of street car traffic, which will be re-opened Tuesday."

PEOPLE WEPT FOR JOY AS FRENCH TROOPS ENTERED VILLAGES

The Entire Population Turned Out at Nesle and Waved the Tri Color as The Deliverers Arrived---Devastation And Ruin on Every Side.

PARIS, March 20.—A military eye-witness, writing from the front, says:

"The forward march of our troops is so rapid and villages are so promptly freed, that one is unable to stop in any of them to give a description. Furthermore, all are similar—pillaged and devastated to the foundations.

"At Nesle, a village of 2,500, the French cavalry entered at ten o'clock in the morning. The entire population was in the street crying for joy and waving all the tri-colored cloth that was to be found. A French airplane had the first honor of alighting at Nesle. The aviator, flying over the city, saw on the roof of a house a man waving a French flag. He landed immediately. The last of the Germans had just left.

Much Evidence That German Pillage Was Savagely and Methodically Organized

"At Roze the entry to the village was difficult. Streets no longer exist. Gaping holes caused by the explosion of mines separate the quarters which are in groups.

The Avre river penetrated some of the large excavations, which were transformed into little lakes. Here again pillage was savagely and methodically organized. The entire village, looming up like an amphitheatre, offers to view only houses with bare walls and floors broken in. Tapestries, dishes, linen, pictures and the smallest objects of value were carried off and sent toward Germany. Furniture was burned or transported to the trenches, where it was afterwards broken up. Each inhabitant was left a mattress and a chair, but only what was necessary.

Joy of Inhabitants as They Sight French Troops is Said to be Beyond Description

"Roze retains the aspect of a village, for the church is left and the organ sounds. To describe the joy of the inhabitants is impossible. They grasped our hands in passing. The day for which they have waited so long has arrived. We question them unceasingly. Many of them did not hope to see the return of our troops.

The Germans have broken off evacuating all the civilians. On February 17th 190 of them had received, at 5 o'clock in the morning, an order to leave. Toward evening they left crying. Since then no more have been taken away.

"The Germans did not expect you so soon," was the unanimous cry. We were told by the inhabitants who remain, that the Germans grouped in certain villages the populations of a number of hamlets."

FRENCH STILL IN CONTACT WITH RETREATING GERMANS

PARIS, March 20.—The War Office announced that the French are still maintaining contact with the Germans along the section of the front over which the retirement is taking place, but that the advance has become more difficult by reason of the destruction of all means of communication and on account of bad weather. German attacks at Avocourt works and Hill 304 on the Verdun front were repulsed. Serious losses were inflicted on the Germans.

WAS IN LONDON RAID.

BERLIN, March 20, (via Sayville).—The admiralty announces that Zeppelin L-39, which was brought down near Compeigne, France, last Saturday, was one of the airships that took part in the London raid of the previous night.