

BRITISH FORCES WON A GREAT VICTORY ON THE FRENCH FRONT

Canadians Play Important Part in the Great Battle

Are Now in Complete Possession of the Famous Vimy Ridge---Repulsed Numerous Counter Attacks---Our Boys Had Tough Bit of the Front to Defend.

LONDON, April 10.—The British offensive between Lens and St. Quentin, with which the spring operations have been opened and which is still in progress, has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated. General Sir Douglas Haig today reports that yesterday's captures exceeded 9,000 men, while 40 guns fell into the hands of his troops.

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy ridge, even the eastern slopes of the ridge having been cleared of Germans.

The Canadians also have repulsed German counter-attacks. These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai.

With Vimy ridge gone, the whole German line covering the French towns and industrial districts to the north becomes a wavering one and any leisurely retreat the Germans may have planned is made uncertain and precarious. With the capture of the advance ridge the British made a considerable stride along the road to Douai, while the capture of the high ground northwest of St. Quentin tightens the chain which the French and British forces are surely drawing around that town.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The American liner New York struck a mine last night off Liverpool. Consul Washington, at Liverpool, reporting the incident to the State Department today, said: "The American liner New York struck a mine at 7.40 last night five miles off Liverpool bar. The company reports passengers landed at Liverpool, except four, still on the ship. No casualties. Vessel proceeded to dock under her own steam."

HUNS EXPECTED TO MAKE A NAVAL ATTACK ON

KRONSTADT WHEN ICE LEAVES GULF OF FINLAND

KRONSTADT, April 6, via London, April 10.—Kronstadt is feverishly preparing to repel an expected German naval attack when the Gulf of Finland is free of ice. A correspondent of the Associated Press reached the famous island of Fastness by travelling over the last ice west which separates it from the mainland, and found the garrison working night and day in anticipation of the long-predicted assault.

The fortress is entirely controlled by a council elected by the troops, which is unanimously resolved to defend Russian freedom and territory to the last. The council is equally resolved against fighting for the annexation of foreign territory. One member of the council said that as long as Germany was unwilling to abandon its plans of annexation, there was nothing to do but fight. He said that everything possible had been done to put the defences of the fortress in first class order and that the stronghold was as strong today as ever.

RUSSIA WANTS NO MORE TERRITORY, BUT WILL

FIGHT TO DEFEND THE LIBERTY SHE HAS WON

LONDON, April 10.—Russia has renounced all idea of territorial expansion, according to a Petrograd despatch to Reuter's quoting a statement by Minister of Justice Kerensky.

Minister Kerensky, in the course of a speech delivered on Monday before the military delegates, declared that while Russia wished no more territory, she would defend to the end the liberty which she had won.

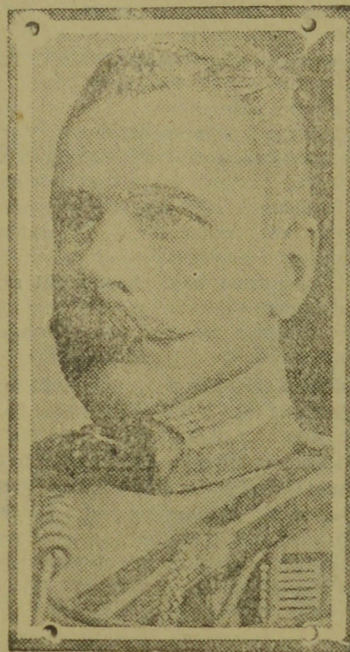
Reuter's correspondent also reports that the new Governor General of Finland, Feder Roditcheff, denounced Russian peace advocates in an address before the congress of the constitutional democrats, the party which he formerly led in the Duma. Governor Roditcheff, after referring to the sacrifices made at Gallipoli for Russia by France and England, said: "In Petrograd there is a body of bold persons which dares to speak of peace in the name of the people. But the people themselves are silent. Our duty toward the provisional government is to raise our voices and say: Russia is with you, yield to nothing which concerns her requirements and interests."

FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT.

PARIS, April 10.—A further advance was made south of the Oise by the French last night, the War Office announces in the following statement: "North of the Oise the enemy's artillery showed less activity than on preceding days. Patrol encounters and rifle firing occurred. South of the Oise we made progress east of the lower forest of Coucy."

THE KING'S MESSAGE TO GENERAL HAIG

LONDON, April 10.—King George sent the following message today to Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, the commander of the British armies on the western front:



SIR DOUGLAS HAIG

"The whole empire will rejoice at the news of yesterday's successful operations. Canada will be proud that the taking of the coveted Vimy ridge has fallen to the lot of her troops. I heartily congratulate you and all who have taken part in this splendid achievement."

Judge Grimmer, of St. John, is stopping at the Queen.

BRITISH CAPTURED OVER 9000 PRISONERS IN MONDAY'S DRIVE

Success of New Offensive on Western Front Has Aroused High Hopes in Great Britain---No Voluntary Element in Retreat of Huns.

LONDON, April 10.—It is officially reported that the British forces captured over 9,000 prisoners and more than forty guns in yesterday's operations.

The announcement also says: "During the night there was severe fighting at the northern end of Vimy ridge, where the enemy had retained a foothold. He was ejected and an attempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge has been cleared of the enemy and our troops advanced and seized the village of Fampoux and neighboring defences north and south of the Scarpe."

"In the neighborhood of St. Quentin the enemy has been driven from the high ground between Leverguier and Hargicourt. Fighting continues along the whole battle front."

London, April 10.—The news of the successful opening of the new British offensive has stirred intense interest and aroused high hope among the people throughout the country. What ever the enemy may have claimed as to the retreat in the Somme sector having been pre-arranged and strategic, it is contended that their recoil before the blow delivered in the Arras-Lens region cannot be explained away in any such manner.

A New Chapter in Struggle.

It is urged that there is no possible voluntary element in this retirement, and that there can be no dispute as to who took the initiative. A new chapter in the conflict on the western front has begun and whether or not it is to prove the beginning of a decisive battle, it is bound, according to the prevalent opinion here, to lead to results of the highest importance.

The main feature of the battle thus far on which attention has been focused, is the capture of Vimy Ridge. The immense value of this series of heights which dominate the plain from an elevation of 400 to 500 feet, has been recognized throughout the war, and great sacrifices have been regarded as justifiable if they resulted in its possession.

The French and Germans fought fiercely for control of the ridge in the summer of 1915, both sides suffering heavy losses, but in the end the Germans held the main portion of the position.

Later the British took over the line from the French and were ousted by the Germans from the part of the ridge which had been won by their predecessors.

Importance of Vimy Ridge.

One military critic, commenting on the present battle, thus describes the importance of the Vimy Ridge: It is admittedly the bastion of the enemy's western line. Whatever else has been allowed to go, he held Vimy Ridge with grim resolve and lavished upon it all the arts in fortifications and defensive skill that the war has taught him. Upon it hinges the whole strategy of the enemy's retreat in the west. With Vimy firmly held he can swing his line farther south slowly back, until each part of it reaches the position where he has a mind to stand, and he can cover the French industrial districts, upon which he depends so much

for supplies. But with Vimy gone the defence of these districts can hardly be maintained, the post of whole retreat shifts and gives backward and is in instant risk of fracture.

The issues depending upon British ability to hold the ridge are therefore immense. At the moment there is nothing to suggest a doubt that the ridge will be held, but the battle is still fiercely continuing and there is little disposition here to indulge in confident predictions. Nevertheless the opinion is expressed that if the Germans are definitely driven from the ridge without hope of re-attacking, they are likely enough to be compelled to acknowledge defeat and retire to what is called the Meuse line, running from Verdun through Mezieres, Maubena and Lille.

British Expectations.

In the meantime the fighting goes on over a front of about 50 miles from Lens to St. Quentin, the core of attack being around and north of Arras. As far as information goes, everything is going well for the British and justifies their sanguine hopes, but the comments today generally include a warning not to allow these hopes to run too high. The enemy is known to have great reserves at hand and an iron compulsion binds him to make every effort to avoid defeat.

The papers warn the country that it should await the event in a spirit of sober expectation and that it is not the time for exuberant boasting.

Fighting for High Ground.

London, April 10.—Heavy fighting took place last night on the northern end of the Vimy Ridge, from which the Germans were driven. The eastern slope was also cleared.

Near St. Quentin the Germans have been driven from the high ground between Leverguier and Hargicourt.

Fighting continues along the entire battlefield.

The British have seized the village of Reoux and the neighboring defences north and south of the Scarpe river. The Germans made a strong attack on a narrow front southeast of Ypres and reached the British support lines.

They were driven from the British trenches by a counter attack.

Mr. James Robinson, ex-M. P., of Northumberland, is a guest at the Barker House.

BRAZIL SOON TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Only Awaiting a Report of the Sinking of Steamer Parana--President Announces That He Will Call a Cabinet Meeting.

RIO JANEIRO, April 10.—The official report regarding the sinking of the Brazilian steamer Parana, which the government has been awaiting before taking definite action toward Germany, is believed to have been received today from the legation in Paris. It is expected the government this afternoon will sever relations with Germany.

President Braz has informed the cabinet that he will summon it for a conference immediately upon receipt of information regarding the Parana, which he has requested from the legation in Paris. It is learned from a reliable source that a reconstruction of the cabinet was discussed at the last council of the ministers. It is proposed that the present administration chiefs should resign in a body as soon as relations are broken with Germany.

A note under the title of "German Militarism at Home" takes up the question of the German rifle societies in the south of Brazil. It denounces these organizations for their affiliation with the league of German marksmen or Nuremburg, which it says gives them an undeniable military character. The paper declares that Brazil should take warning in time.

Brazil has recognized the new government of Russia.

Diplomatic Relations Broken Off.

RIO JANEIRO, April 10.—Diplomatic relations between Brazil and Germany have been broken off, according to the Evening News. Switzerland will take charge of the Brazilian interests at Berlin.

GALLANT AIRMAN IS REPORTED MISSING

London, April 10.—The Evening News says that Lieut. William Leeto Robinson, the first aviator to bring down a Zeppelin in England, is reported missing.

Lieut. Robinson earned the Victoria Cross and became a popular hero in England last September by shooting down a Zeppelin at a height of 10,000 feet. The Zeppelin was taking part in an attack on the London area.