
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: Moderate winds, fair and a little milder today.
Local rains on Tuesday.

VOL. XXIV., No. 71

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1918

TWO CENTS PER COPY

EACH BRITISH BATTALION HAD TO FIGHT A WHOLE DIVISION OF GERMANS

**Some Interesting Details of the Great Struggle on the Western Front---
The Preliminary Bombardment by the Germans was Terrific.**

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

British Army Headquarters in France, March 25.—The main advance on the British right flank by the Germans Thursday morning was on St. Quentin, and the enemy used a division for every two thousand yards of the front, there being approximately one German division against every British battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urvillers and Essigny le Grand, and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It is now possible to give more details of the early stages of this and other fighting.

On the extreme right of the British army the enemy crossed the river Oise at two points. One body of troops came out of La Fere and swung north, while another army crossed at Moy and turned south to form a junction with the La Fere group.

STRONG BRITISH REDOUBTS WEST OF ST. QUENTIN MADE A HEROIC STAND AGAINST THE HUNS

At Venduël a group of British held out until four o'clock Friday afternoon. A little further north the Germans stormed Urvillers and Essigny. Just west of St. Quentin the British were forced to fall back, but throughout the day they clung to the Holon wood, a little northwest of the city.

South of St. Quentin a number of strong British redoubts made a gallant defence, and it was nightfall before the last of them, with their machine gunners, had been reduced. The end of the first day found the British behind the St. Quentin canal. Friday morning the enemy renewed his assault with increasing vigor, and after desperate fighting in the region of La Fere succeeded in getting across to the British side.

Further north the British also withdrew from the Polnon wood. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British positions.

COMPANY OF BRITISH MACHINE GUNNERS HELD UP ENEMY ADVANCE FOR A LONG TIME

In the other main theatre of operations, between Arras and Bapaume, the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between Cojel and Sensee rivers. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific, and their infantry outnumbered the British eight to one in some cases.

Early the Germans began attacking southward into Bullecourt and the British withdrew to a line covering Vaulai, Vrancourt, Morches and Baumetz les Cambrai. The hottest and most disputed point was Mory, which the Germans occupied only yesterday.

During Friday the Germans overran St. Leger, Vaulaix, Vrancourt and Henin. One company of machine gunners on Henin hill held up the German advance for a long time, doing deadly execution in the densely formed ranks.

The Germans have been bringing up artillery in the most able manner behind their shock troops, and have been making use of this arm as the advance continued.

Made Splendid Sacrifice.

LONDON, March 25.—The British in their retreat defended every hill, ridge and fortification with the greatest stubbornness, messages from German war correspondents on the west front say, according to a Central News despatch from Amsterdam. The British artillery, it is added, splendidly sacrificed itself in covering the retreat; the batteries only breaking up when the German storming troops arrived within a few hundred yards of the positions. The British gunners then fired their last ammunition and retired.

SHOULD PRAY FOR SUCCESS OF THE ALLIES

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Mar. 25.—The Bishop of London, Rt. Rev. Arthur F. W. Ingram, has issued a message to the people of London, saying:

"The great struggle for the freedom of the world has now clearly reached its crisis. Do let us, who are at home pray as we never prayed before for the gallant men and their leaders, upon whom and God the issue depends."

"Besides our private prayers and prayers in churches at the hour of noon each day, let us push ourselves wherever we are at work, in office, in bank, in munition factory and invoke divine strength and wisdom to come to their aid. Then indeed will this be a holy week in a special sense, and it will lead on, if it please God, to an Easter victory."

HAS GIVEN RECRUITING QUITE A BOOM

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Boston, March 25.—Officers of the British and Canadian recruiting mission in this city said today that the great German drive on the western front already has shown its effect in increasing the number of recruits and that they were expecting a further increase as further details became known.

Word that the McLean Kilties, many of whom were recruited in New England, had been broken up to fill gaps in the ranks of battalions which have been in the thick of the fighting in recent months, led the officers here to believe that many of these men would take part in the present battle.

(Mr. E. B. Seely of St. John, is at the Barker House.)

BOMBARDING PARIS FROM A GREAT RANGE

The City Bombarded on Palm Sunday with 10-inch Shells from a German Gun 76 Miles Away.

Paris, March 24.—Palm Sunday in Paris was ushered in by the loud explosion of one of the ten-inch shells fired by the Germans from their new gun more than seventy miles distant, at 6.55 o'clock this morning. The alarm was sounded immediately and many people took shelter, but large numbers appeared in the streets on the way to the churches which were almost as crowded as usual, the women who sell palm leaves doing their customary thriving business.

The shells arrived at regular intervals of twenty minutes at first. The detonations seemed louder amid the ordinary Sunday calm, than yesterday, but they seemed to have lost their power to disturb the population, which refused to be distracted from its Sunday habits to any great extent.

In the absence of means of transportation, a great many persons were seen on the streets leading to the centre of the city, walking to keep their appointments.

The rapidity of the fire increased after the first few shells landed, explosions following each other every fifteen minutes on the average. Some of the shots came after an interval of twenty minutes.

An official statement said the German "monster cannon" has been located in the forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, and exactly 122 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris City Hall.

LAST RESORT OF MILITARISTS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Washington, Mar. 25.—Failure of the militarists to hold the German people by political strategy has caused the rulers to resort to a desperate battle test, trusting in their supremacy, says the war department's weekly report today in commenting on the great German assault on the western front.

FRENCH JOIN BRITISH IN GREAT FIGHT WITH HUNS

Line Along the Somme is Being Firmly Held---Wedge Driven Into British Line a Deep One.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

France has thrown the weight of her forces in the great battle raging with unexampled intensity on the western front, and the British and French armies are now battling together against the onslaught of the common enemy in his desperate attempt to break through the Allied line. The British armies are holding fast along the line of the Somme, and also in the region north of Bapaume, Field Marshal Haig reports today. The Germans in their thrusts in the latter section entered the British trenches at only one point, and there they were immediately ejected. The assaults elsewhere were smothered by the British fire with great losses to the enemy.

On the Somme bodies of German troops which had succeeded in finding their way across the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne, were driven back to the easterly bank. On both sides of Bapaume the German attacks were resumed today.

THE DANGER POINT.

The greatest danger point at present seems to be further south, where the Germans apparently have driven through the greater width of the region they devastated in retiring in 1917, as the Paris statement today reports heavy fighting in the region of Noyon. This town itself is some ten miles to the west of Chauny, in the region of which Berlin yesterday reported the repulse of Franco-American reserves, but the German advance probably has been met considerably short of Noyon.

The wedge driven into the Allied line is evidently a deep one, however, as the French troops are reported by Paris to be contesting for the heights to the north of the Oise with important German forces. The Oise on this point of the front runs southwest past Chauny and passes to south of Noyon.

BRITISH COUNTER ATTACKING.

London, March 25.—The British have been counter attacking between Nesle and Ham, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports. The French also were in action. North of Baugauga, he states, the Germans were attacking in considerable force at dawn, but did not get through the British barrage.

KING'S MESSAGE TO SIR D. HAIG.

London, March 25.—King George today sent the following message to Field Marshal Haig: "I can assure you that the fortitude, courage and self-sacrifice with which the troops under your command continue so heroically to resist greatly superior numbers are realized by me and my people. The Empire stands calm and confident in its soldiers. May God bless them and give them strength in this time of trial."

Greatest Battle in History Raging on Western Front

R. C. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CRITICIZED

Quebec M. L. A. Condemns the Opposition of the Church to Compulsory Education.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Montreal, March 25.—A severe arraignment of the Roman Catholic school authorities in the province of Quebec was made on Saturday at the Belmont street school by T. D. Bouchard, M. L. A., mayor of St. Hyacinth, in an address to the Headmasters' Association, of Montreal, on "Compulsory School Attendance."

Mr. Bouchard asserted that the statistics as to the school attendance in this province, prepared from figures compiled by curies, was incorrect and misleading, and arranged with a view to give the impression that under the present system the school attendance in the province of Quebec was ahead of every province in Canada except one. This, he intimated, had been done entirely to back up the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church to compulsory education, and he sharply criticized the authorities of the church for that course, declaring that if the church feared the light of education there must be something wrong.

NEW CABINET WELCOMED

Madrid, Mar. 25.—The new Spanish cabinet was welcomed enthusiastically by the members of the lower house of the Spanish parliament. The postal and telegraphers' association, whose members have been on strike for several months has expressed a desire to co-operate patriotically with the government in measures tending towards pacification of the internal disorders. The strikes in Spain are almost all over.

Today's Official Statement Says There is No Material Change---British Beat Off a Number of Attacks and are Holding Their Positions.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, March 25.—There was no material change in the situation on the battle front in northern France throughout the night, although further fighting occurred at a number of points, the War Office announces. British troops are holding the line of the Somme river to Peronne. Small enemy parties which attempted to cross the river in neighborhood of Pargny were driven back. The British after beating off a number of attacks during last night, drove back to the eastern bank of the Somme bodies of German troops which had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne.

OFFICIAL REPORT SAYS POWERFUL ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY DURING NIGHT WERE REPULSED

The official statement is as follows: "The battle continues with great violence on the whole front. Powerful attacks delivered by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening north of Bapaume were heavily repulsed. Only at one point did the German infantry reach our trenches, when they were immediately thrown out. Elsewhere the enemy's attacks were stopped by rifle, machine gun and artillery fire in front of our positions, and his troops were driven back with great loss."

"During the night and this morning fresh hostile attacks have again developed in this neighborhood, and also to the south of Bapaume."

"South of Peronne bodies of German troops who had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie, were driven back to the east bank by our counter attacks."

FRENCH TROOPS GO TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE BRITISH AND ENGAGE IN HEAVY FIGHTING

PARIS, March 25.—The French on Saturday went to the assistance of the British and took over a sector of the battle-front, the War Office announces. In the region of Noyon and on the right bank of the Oise heavy fighting with the Germans is in progress. The statement is as follows:

"French troops began to intervene on March 23 in the battle now being fought on the British front. They relieved certain of the Allied forces and took up fighting on this section of the front. At the present time they are engaged in heavy fighting in the region of Noyon, and they are disputing the heights of the right bank of the Oise with important German forces."

"Northwest of Rheims there has been a violent artillery action in the region of Courcy and Loivre. In the Champagne two German surprise attacks east of Suippes resulted in failure. French patrols took some prisoners near Tahure. There was much artillery activity between Arracourt and the Vosges. At daybreak German forces attacked the French lines east of Blesnoy and east of Badonviller. The Germans were repulsed with heavy losses."

Firing Heard in England.

London, March 25.—Extremely heavy firing from the direction of Flanders was heard all last night along the Kentish coast, according to the Central News. The heavy concussions shook houses. The firing appeared to be at different points over a wide area and guns of all calibres apparently were in action. There were also violent explosions.

AMERICAN BIG GUNS ACTIVE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

With the American Army in France, March 25.—American artillery on the Toul sector continued today to shell effectively enemy first line and communication trenches, the town of St. Haussant and billets and dumps north of Boqueaue.

Many of the American shells have fallen in the German trenches, and the first two lines in at least one place have been virtually abandoned.

AMERICAN SHIP TORPEDOED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Mar. 25.—The admiralty announces that the American ship Chattoochee, 5,088 tons, has been sunk by a German submarine off the English coast. Her crew of 78 was landed safely. The master states that the submarine fired a number of torpedoes, of which struck the vessel.

Mr. M. G. Rogers of St. John, is a guest at the Barker House.

A GOOD OMEN IN GERMAN REPORT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, March 25.—The Manchester Guardian says a significant feature of the situation on the battlefront is that after three days fighting the enemy claims only five thousand prisoners more than after the second day, which means that the British withdrawal after the rupture of the front west of St. Quentin, was made in excellent order. The newspaper regards this as a good omen for the future.

MARITIME MEN IN CASUALTIES

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, March 25.—Casualties among Maritime men are reported as follows:

Infantry.

Killed in action—L. P. Breen, St. John.

Presumed to have died—R. A. Colpitts, New Brunswick; E. W. Pean, St. John, N. B.

Gassed—L. McGinn, Shediac, N. B.; J. D. Dewar, Campbellton, N. B.

Cavalry.

Wounded—Lieut. C. W. Taylor, St. John.