

GREATEST BATTLE IN WORLD'S HISTORY NOW BEING FOUGHT ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Germans in Massed Formation Attacking British Defences at St. Quentin Mowed Down by British Shells and Machine Guns of Airmen. British Line Retired to Safe Positions Where They Are Now Holding the Enemy. Mysterious Bombardment of Paris from Distance of 76 Miles. Canadians Launched Great Gas Attack Considered Preparatory to Advance by Them.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, March 23.—Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery have broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, the War Office announces. The British troops on the northern portion of the battlefront are holding their positions. The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions further west. Very heavy fighting with fresh enemy forces is in progress.

FEELING OF SUPREME CONFIDENCE IN ENGLAND

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, March 23.—The attention of all England was centered today on the western front. There was no boastfulness, but the feeling was one of supreme confidence and pride in the army which stands on the first line of defense between democracy and autocracy. The newspapers warn against undue optimism. But they point out that the fighting instinct still lives in the British breast, notwithstanding the long years of peace and ignorance of military training, and that when that fighting instinct dies the world will see the death of the British nation.

MOST COLLOSAL STRUGGLE IN WORLD'S HISTORY

Since it has developed that this is indeed the most colossal struggle in the world's history, the public and press are unanimously of the opinion that its failure will mean the end of the war. The Times says Germany evidently is resolved to stake all of her chances on the western front, and adds: "She has committed herself to the greatest gamble in history. We believe she will fail, and it is precisely because the failure of the present attack must result disastrously upon Germany that we derive encouragement from the military position as it is disclosed today."

KEEP A COOL HEAD

The Morning Post cautions the nation "to keep a cool head and allow no plausible argumentation upon scanty facts to persuade it to premature conclusions." The Manchester Guardian says: "If the Germans persist in attacks and lose they will have lost the war."

SLAUGHTER IN ENEMY'S RANKS APPALLING

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, March 23.—Throughout the night the battle front extended southward and it was reported this morning that the French army was now engaged.

The most intense fighting appears to have been around Roisel and Trincourt.

The slaughter in the enemy ranks was appalling. Twelve times, every available gun in the area was concentrated on solid massed bodies of enemy troops, while the airmen grew weary with emptying their machine gun drums and dropping their bombs into the dense gray crowds of troops and returning for more ammunition.

ENEMY GAINS NOT OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

(Special to the Guardian)
BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 23.—(Via Reuters Ottawa agency) Last evening the great German offensive was proceeding. The weather is glorious. Definite details are still unobtainable.

Despite our giving ground under the unprecedented weight of men and guns, the enemy gains are nowhere of strategic importance. The withdrawal everywhere was carried out in orderly manner after exacting a painful price on the enemy.

GROUND COVERED WITH GERMAN DEAD

(Special to the Guardian)
Our airmen report the ground to the enemy's rear is strewn with grey corpses.

FRENCH ARMY NOW ENGAGED.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, March 23.—Throughout the night, the battle front extended southward and it was reported that some of the French army was now engaged. The most intense fighting appears to have been around Roisel and Trincourt.

GERMANS USING CAVALRY.

(Special to the Guardian)
BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, March 23.—It was reported this morning that enemy infantry had pushed down across the canal de la Somme, and had driven forward against the positions to which the British had retired. German cavalry was seen advancing be-

hind the infantry. There was small doubt but that the attacking forces intended to make a supreme effort to rupture the British line in this sector.

The Germans this afternoon were pressing the attack hard on the British right flank, near Ham, while on the northern end of the battlefield, there has been desperate fighting since yesterday about Mory, which changed hands several times.

CASUALTIES ARE HEAVY.

Certainly, the Germans are putting all their available strength into the assault and fresh troops are constantly appearing. The fighting yesterday was of the most sanguinary character and the enemy continued to lose great numbers of men, though his system of massed attacks. That does not mean that the British have not suffered casualties. They have necessarily, but their losses are much smaller than those of their opponents.

BATTLEFRONT A VERITABLE HELL.

The visibility became excellent late yesterday and the whole battlefield was turned into a veritable hell, with the artillery action on the unprecedented concentration of guns on both sides cut loose their freight of death.

THOUSANDS OF GUNS WORKING TO FULL CAPACITY.

Men who had fought through the great battles of the Somme, Flanders and Arras say that they never before have seen anything to approach the awful gunfire of the present conflict. The expression "dramatic intensity," loses its significance in this instance for there is not even an infinitesimal space between the explosions as the thousands of guns of all calibres work to their full capacity. Especially bitter fighting occurred last night in the regions of Roisel, Mory, Moaly, Morchies and Beaumont.

NO MATERIAL CHANGE SUNDAY.

(Special to the Guardian)
BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 23.—(Via Reuters Ottawa agency) The situation on the western front, the British troops are holding the line on the Somme river to Peronne.

WAR SUMMARY

The great German offensive on the Western front has developed as its salient feature an apparent desperate effort to break into the southwest of St. Quentin, drive a wedge between the British and French and push across the Somme canal in the direction of Compiègne and Paris.

Simultaneously Paris has been bombarded at quarter hour intervals beginning Saturday forenoon with shells of about 9 inch calibre. The source of the bombardment has not been revealed. The nearest point of the front is 62 miles distant, more than twice as far as artillery fire has ever reached previously. Only suggestion is that the Germans have developed an aerial torpedo, which can be fired from a long distance.

There was an admitted break in the British line in the St. Quentin region late yesterday. The Germans forced their way through the defensive system and compelling a British retreat to prepared positions within the area devastated by the Germans in their retreat in the Spring of 1917.

BRITISH RETIRED NINE MILES.

This new line also is now being attacked by the Germans and news despatches filed from the front late in the day indicated that the fighting already was heavy in the vicinity of Ham, which represents a penetration of some nine miles for the Germans. Ham is approximately eleven miles southeast of St. Quentin.

BRITISH ADVANCE IN PALESTINE.

The great battle in the west has caused all other news to become of minor importance by comparison but considerable interest attaches to the announcement of a British success in Palestine, where General Allenby's troops have forced a crossing of the River Jordan and fighting their way eastward after bridging the stream.

BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS.

Besides the mysterious bombardment of Paris, the city was subjected to its first daylight air raid, carried out shortly after eight o'clock Saturday morning. Bombs were dropped at several points by the few machines flying at extreme height, which succeeded in penetrating over the city. A number of casualties resulted.

MYSTERIOUS BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS LOCATED 76 MILES AWAY.

German cannon which has been bombarding Paris has been located at Laon, seventy-six miles from Paris. Bombardment of Paris continued Sunday morning, a shell exploding every fifteen minutes.

Gen. Haig reports the British in new position heavily engaged with the enemy but holding. Fighting is heavy at Ham, nine miles from St. Quentin.

CANADIANS LAUNCH GAS ATTACK.

The Canadians launched the greatest gas attack in history of the war considered preparatory to an advance by them.

BRITISH DROP EIGHT AND A HALF TONS BOMBS ON HOSTILE RAILWAY STATION.

British aviators dropped 8 1/2 tons bombs on a hostile railway station at the rear of the battlefield. Fifty enemy machines were brought down and twenty put out of control.

London states that heavy fighting is still to be expected but copies of offensive taken from Somme prisoners show that their successes were far short of their objectives.

WASHINGTON CONFIDENT GERMAN MANY WILL BE BEATEN.

(Special to the Guardian)
WASHINGTON, March 24.—Great admiration is expressed at the moment in which the British met the greatest shock ever hurled at an enemy and confidence is expressed that Germany will be beaten.

Smith-Dorrien says there is no reason to consider that the outlook is bad. The British drove the Germans out of Croisilles, in a counter attack in the "meat" bitter fighting that has yet taken place. It is stated that if Germany fails in this effort, as yet they cannot withstand an allied smash, having lack of reserve.

BERLIN REPORT.

BERLIN, March 23.—Between Fontaine Les Groisilles and Moeuvres German forces penetrated into the sector in which the British met the greatest shock ever hurled at an enemy and confidence is expressed that Germany will be beaten.

GERMANS ORDERED NOT TO TAKE PRISONERS.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, March 23.—German officers operating in Finland and the Ukraine, have ordered the soldiers to take no prisoners but to hang all red guards as bandits.

CANADIAN ESTIMATES CLOSELY PARED.

OTTAWA, Mar. 23.—The estimates were laid on the table of the House yesterday by Hon. A. K. McLean, acting Minister of Finance. That they have been pared to the bone is evident from a casual glance over the figures. Outside of a few departments the decreases run into hundreds of thousands.

THE WEATHER. TEMPERATURE. TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TODAY IS THE 1329th DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.
TORONTO, Mar. 25.—Fresh winds generally fair.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 40 above. At 9 a. m. it was 31 above. At 9 p. m. it was 35 above. The lowest the previous night was 24 above.

THE WEATHER. TEMPERATURE. TIDE, MOON, ETC.

The tide will be high this morning at 9:45 and tomorrow at 10:18; it will be high tonight at 9:38 and tomorrow at 10:26.

The sun sets this evening at 6:35 and tomorrow at 6:37; it rises tomorrow morning at 6:11 and Wednesday at 6:09.

THE WEATHER. TEMPERATURE. TIDE, MOON, ETC.

The first quarter of the moon was on Tuesday March 19th at 8:30 a. m. There was a full moon on Wednesday, March 27th at 10:33 a. m. The length of today will be 12 hours and twenty two minutes.

GREAT LOSSES CAUSED.

BERLIN, March 23.—Great losses were caused amongst the population of Menin and Houthin (southeast of Ypres), situated behind our front, by the enemy's fire and dropping of bombs.

"Army groups of the German Crown Prince, Gen. von Gallwitz and Duke Albrecht—Near Rheims, on both banks of the Meuse and on the Lorraine front near Blamont the artillery fighting was heavier throughout the day. On both sides, of Omes it continued to be heavy during the night.

This is the first that the name of Gen. von Gallwitz has been mentioned in the official German reports as commander of an army group on the western front. When Field Marshal von Hindenburg assumed supreme command he divided the western front into commands under Prince Rupprecht, the German Crown Prince and Duke Albrecht.

The front of Gen. von Gallwitz apparently is between Verdun and the

FRENCH AND BRITISH LEAVING PETROGRAD WERE INTERNED.

(Special to the Guardian)
MOSCOW, Mar. 23.—An intercepted German wireless message says that many members of the French and British colonies fleeing from Petrograd were captured by the Germans when an allied vessel was caught in the ice in crossing the Gulf of Finland to Sweden. The captives, the message said, were sent to concentration camps.

GERMAN ATTACK A COMPLETE FAILURE.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, March 23.—The Bourisles Fleischer's attack was a total failure south of St. Quentin, one British division beat off six German divisions on a front of seven miles, advanced three thousand yards and suffered bloodily. Before Cherisy the reserves completely checked the advance.

In the sector south of Cherisy, the Germans had eight divisions on a front of six miles, against two British divisions.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED AT PORTAGE.

A fatal accident occurred at Portage station Friday night when Mr. John Bolger of St. Louis was crushed beneath the train. Deceased endeavored to board the train while it was pulling out from Portage with the result that he lost his footing and fell beneath the car wheels.

His leg was crushed, one arm broken and he suffered internal injuries as he fell.

All possible haste was made and the injured man taken to Alberton. The doctors there, who decided they could do nothing, advised taking Mr. Bolger to his home at St. Louis.

This was accordingly done and he passed away at one o'clock Saturday morning.

Deceased was about 35 years of age, and it is understood he leaves a wife and two children to mourn his untimely death, to whom The Guardian extends its sincere sympathy.

No blame is attached to the train crew as the affair was purely accidental. This dreadful occurrence goes to show how careful people should be never to attempt the boarding of a train while in motion.

SHOT EACH OTHER TO ESCAPE SERVICE.

HOUSTON, Texas, March 22.—Sergeant Claude E. Mason and Pte. Robert V. Pyle, who recently shot each other in the leg in order to escape military service, have been found guilty by a court-martial of cowardice and disregard of duty. It became known today. They have been sentenced to 15 years each at Leavenworth prison.

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DRUG CLERK WANTED, REGISTERED preferred,—or one with some experience in dispensing. A good opportunity and a good salary to a suitable person. Apply to Johnson & Johnson, druggists, Charlotte town. 4067-3-21M6j

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia

German border. It may include the sector held by the American troops, although at the present time they are not extensive enough to be opposed by a special German command, unless some unusual operations are underway. Recent despatches from the American front have indicated that there was great activity behind the German lines.

WAS ON EASTERN FRONT.

Gen. von Gallwitz, in the early part of the war was on the eastern front. He took part in the German drive through Poland, and later in the campaign in Serbia. Late last year news despatches reported that he was in command of the Verdun front under the Crown Prince.

GERMAN PRESS APOLOGETIC RATHER THAN JUBILANT OVER THE "BLOOD BATH."

LONDON, March 23.—The German newspapers reflect a feeling of confidence concerning the present operations in the west, though the seriousness of the engagement is recognized, according to the Dutch News Agencies, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam. The German newspapers insist that the military and political leaders of the Central Powers have left nothing undone to spare their people "this terrible blood bath."

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Hon. Frank B. Carvell has carried into effect his announced intention of ruthlessly eliminating all unnecessary public works. There is a decrease in the public works estimates of over four million dollars, and this despite a vote of a million dollars for the new Ottawa departmental buildings.

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BRITISH CASUALTIES FOR LAST WEEK

76 Officers, 619 Men Killed or Died of Wounds; 215 Officers and 2,657 Men Missing.

LONDON, Mar. 23.—The British casualties for the week ending today aggregated 3,567 men, divided as follows:

Officers killed or died of wounds, 76; men killed or died of wounds, 619; Officers wounded or missing, 215; men wounded or missing, 2,657.

MORE CANADIANS ARRIVE IN ENGLAND

OTTAWA, Mar. 23.—It is officially announced through the Chief Press Censors office, that the following troops have arrived in England:

alry draft; Royal Canadian Dragoons, Cavalry draft; Machine Gun Corps draft, Engineers, Central Ontario Regiment, Infantry draft; Naval draft, details.

AIRPLANES AND GAMES ON CANADIAN FRONT

Canadian Troops Maintain Superiority in the Air. Numerous Enemy Machines Brought Down.

CANADIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

ERS, March 23.—Not since the battle of the Somme have the allies on the western front enjoyed such unquestioned superiority in the air as now. Not only in the air fighting and in activities by day but in bombing operations at night our pilots and observers are more than a match for the enemy. The outstanding feature in the forward areas during the past three days has been the amount of aerial activity while our anti-aircraft and machine guns or those of the enemy are constantly busy.

ed officers and mechanics, who were made prisoners.

Outside of airplanes activity there is little to report from the advanced areas. Our heavies, eighteen pounders, trench mortars, stokes and machine guns have been active in normal harassing fire against enemy positions as well as engaging particular targets. Our patrols have been out frequently, but have only one conflict with the enemy. In this the Bosches were easily overcome. In another instance, it is reported, where a hostile party was seen by our patrols the Hun preferred to run rather than fight.

There was a hilarious celebration on our front line when the men of an infantry regiment engaged a low flying Bosche airplane with their machine guns and brought it crashing down in Lens. Last night another enemy machine came down behind our lines on a trial trip with a crew of two officers, noncommission-

With the advent of the weather baseball materials are appearing in made all over the Canadian front. Cries of "over the pan," and "at a boy," are heard once again in the battle area.

CAPTAIN REDMOND WINS ELECTION

Secured 1,243 Votes to 764 for His Sinn Fein Opponent

(Special to the Guardian)

LONDON, March 23.—Captain William Redmond succeeds his father John Redmond, the Nationalist leader in parliament.

Returns for the election for the seat for Waterford show that Captain Redmond received 1,243 votes, as against 764 for his opponent Mr. White a Sinn Feiner.

GERMAN TRANSPORT BLOWN UP BY MINE

STOCKHOLM, Mar. 23.—Another German transport has been blown up by a mine near the Aland Islands, at the same point where the transport Hindenburg was sunk, the Dagblad reports. Shortly afterwards the transport Frankland came up and rescued the men on the transport, but was damaged severely by another explosion.



LIEUT. COL. W. B. PROWSE.

A London cable of March 21st to Ottawa makes the pleasing announcement that Major W. B. Prowse, D. S. O. has been gazetted Lieutenant Colonel. Major Prowse had been acting Colonel for some time and his permanent promotion had been expected in military circles. His many many island friends will be pleased to learn that his long and successful service has been thus deservedly recognized and will hope that he and his fellow Islanders, distinguished and undistinguished but all deserving, will soon return with their honours thick upon them. The Guardian extends hearty congratulations to Lieut. Col. Prowse.

COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

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