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BRITISH WITHSTAND STUPENDOUS ATTACK HURLED ON 50-MILE FRONT

(Associated Press Review.) The first stage of the great German offensive on the western front has passed and it is to be scored as a German failure, the enemy having fallen short of realizing his aims in the first great smash, according to dispatches from British headquarters today.

After attacking all day yesterday and until a late hour last night, the Germans let down in their smashing operation along fifty miles of the British front and had not resumed their heavy assaults at the latest advices from Sir Douglas Haig today. Further, hard fighting was ahead, however, the field marshal predicted. The enemy was still being held in the British battle positions, he reported, which means that the British line is still intact, although admittedly it has been bent backward at points under the terrific Teutonic assault.

The battle line has moved in only one direction, however, the British having struck spiritedly at the German masses and regained some of the positions which they had temporarily abandoned. The German official statement received today reports that the British positions were attacked from a point southeast of Arras to La Perre, the British first line being captured. The dispatches from their headquarters purposely omit giving the exact position of the British line at present for stated reason that the enemy might be given valuable information if the line were accurately traced.

While the infantry is being held, temporarily in check, the artillery battle is still raging, according to indications in the news dispatches. Great numbers of Austrian cannon are declared to have been transferred to the western front to reinforce the German artillery. Bulgarians, too, have been brought into the field by the German command. It is declared that the understanding being that they are to be used as a strategic reserve.

All other indications are that the central powers have massed all possible forces at the disposal on the west front for their present drive. The prospects seem, however, that they will need every man of them if they keep up their attack long with anything like its initial force, as all the reports indicate that the German losses have been terrific under the withering fire of the British artillery and machine guns. The German artillery, too, has suffered heavily through counter battery work by the British, who found the massed guns fine targets for effective destructive work.

The German war triumvirate, Emperor William, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg and Gen. Von Ludendorff, are reported behind the German guns while the attack is in progress.

Meanwhile the Italian front is beginning to attract more attention. Rome today reports operative a becoming more active along the entire front.

The American troops in France have done some further active work in patrol fighting and raiding. In the sector east of Lunville the German first and second line positions on part of the front were found by American raiders to have been completely destroyed by American artillery fire.

British soldiers have met and withstood the most stupendous attack Germany has hurled against the western front in three and one-half years of warfare. On a front of more than fifty miles the armed hosts of democracy are

at grips with the forces of Prussianism and what may be the decisive struggle in the great war is raging in northern France.

In their first onslaught, the enemy, after a gigantic bombardment from great masses of guns, passed the British outposts at some points and attacked the battle line but nowhere did the Germans gain the objective planned. Regiment after regiment was hurled against the defenses of the British front and Field Marshal Haig reports the German losses as exceptionally heavy. Desperate fighting continues all along the line from the Hennee to the Oise and especially on the Cambrai sector.

Enemy efforts before Cambrai were aimed principally to the north and south of the salient left after the fighting ceased there last November, with the evident purpose of cutting off the salient and driving through the opening toward the old battlefield of the Somme.

Germany's latest offensive finds both sides prepared for the shock of prolonged and sanguinary combat. For months the Germans have been training troops and moving up guns and supplies behind their lines between Arras and St. Quentin. The British also have been active and were prepared for any blow the enemy might deliver and had anticipated that the offensive movement would come where it did.

Behind the British lines is the devastated area over which the Germans retreated last March. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg declared at the time that the devastation was carried out, not only to hamper the allied armies but to provide a battlefield for the future. The German attack may be only a feint but a large breach in the British lines might involve the safety of Paris and Amiens and the French channel ports from the mouth of the Seine to Belgium.

German artillery fire also has been intense on a lengthy front north of the La Basse canal and in the Ypres sector in Flanders. On the French front the Germans have carried out minor attacks northeast of Verdun and in Lorraine. French troops repulsed both attempts with loss.

British monitors and naval aircraft have made a combined attack on Ostend, Belgium, a German aerial and submarine base and British seaplanes have attacked enemy mine sweepers

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DUTCH SHIPS SEIZED IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE

The Hague Reports Non-Receipt of Reply From Allies as to Shipping Question.

Amsterdam, March 22.—A dispatch from The Hague to the Handelsblad says one of the most prominent members of parliament intends to ask the government whether it is not time to recall the Dutch minister at Washington and hand passports to the American minister at The Hague.

Panama, March 22.—The American authorities in the Panama canal zone have seized three Dutch merchant vessels.

The Hague, March 21.—(1 p.m.)—No reply has been received up to this hour by the ministry of foreign affairs from the allied powers regarding the shipping question.

Comment at Amsterdam.

Amsterdam, Thursday, March 21.—Commenting upon President Wilson's proclamation regarding Dutch shipping, the Algemeen Handelsblad says it considers that there now devolves upon the allied powers the moral duty of maintaining international law for states which cannot exist without it. Continued refusal to permit Holland to obtain grain from Argentina, it says, would be a serious matter for both parties.

The Telegram says it is wrong to speak of rejection of the allies' ultimatum by Holland. It asserts that the Dutch government acceded to the proposals of the allies as far as was compatible with its position as a non-belligerent, and adds:

"The ultimatum was thus accepted in principle, but in such a form as to maintain Holland's right as against America's unlimited power. The Dutch government thereby acted in accordance with the principles set forth by President Wilson in considering a future peace, based upon right above might."

The Nieuws Van Den Dag says it is a singular fact that both the Dutch and the allied governments seem to have little knowledge of the course of events. It adds: "One would be inclined to ask whether there is some one in between who is holding up reports."

VIRGINIANS GET EXTRA PAY FOR EXTENDED SESSION

Richmond, Va., March 22.—The work of the Virginia legislature came to an end today after 80 1/2 hours' session on a resolution appropriating \$200,000 member and 5 cents mileage to cover the expenses of the extended session.

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