

FRENCH WIN GROUND AT LE MORT HOMME

Make Spirited Attack and Take Strongly Fortified Position.

CAPTURE 220 GERMANS

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, May 31.—The French turned on the Germans on the west bank of the Meuse this afternoon and in a spirited assault occupied a strongly fortified German position...

The French assault came after a night and day of heavy fighting in this region in which the Germans, pursuing their renewed offensive, had been the aggressors. Beginning yesterday afternoon a terrific battle was waged on the whole front between Le Mort Homme and the Meuse with the Germans making repeated attacks...

In spite of the rain of shells the French troops emerged from their shelters when the German infantry advanced and drove them back. The artillery fire leveled a first line of French trenches south of the Bois des Caucures, near Cumieres, and the French had to abandon the trench. This was the only net gain made by the Germans as the result of the whole series of their bombardments and infantry assaults.

South of the village of Cumieres the Germans, converging upon the French lines from west and east, forced the French to fall back along the railway for the time being in the direction of the Chateaucourt station, to the east of Chateaucourt village, but a counter attack recovered the terrain lost and at the end of the action the French were back in their positions on the outskirts of the village.

In connection with the German attack at this point German detachments took advantage of the fog to make their way along the river bank and capture the Chateaucourt station, presumably there to cooperate with the forces operating from Cumieres.

French observers detached from the bank and the French tanks wiped them out. The official communiqué issued by the War Office tonight follows:

On the left bank of the Meuse there was a violent bombardment with shells of large calibre in the region of Avocourt and Hill 304.

In the afternoon in the course of a lively attack our troops captured a strongly organized German work on the southwest slopes of Le Mort Homme. We made 220 prisoners, of whom five were officers, and took seven mitrailleurs.

On the southeast slopes of Le Mort Homme a couple of main batteries last night enabled us to capture twenty-five prisoners.

On the right bank there was very great activity on the part of the artillery of both sides between the Meuse and Fort Vaux. There was an infantry action. Our batteries took under their fire and dispersed enemy concentrations south of the Bois des Caucures (northeast of Hill 304).

There was an intermittent cannonade on the rest of the front, more intense in the region east of Mort Homme (east of Hill 304) and the Hartmannswillerkopf.

A minor German offensive was undertaken last night east of Serpont, in the Haute Alsace. It was repulsed in a violent preparatory attack, preceded by a footing in some French trenches, but a counter attack immediately recovered the positions.

The afternoon communiqué was as follows: On the left bank of the Meuse ferocious battles took place yesterday and last night between Le Mort Homme and the Meuse. The enemy, at the conclusion of a bombardment of unheard of violence, which had been going on for two days, delivered repeated and concentrated attacks, in which large numbers of men were employed, upon our trenches east of Le Mort Homme and on certain of our positions in the village of Cumieres.

Everywhere our troops resisted and repulsed the enemy, who suffered important losses. Nevertheless, in the region south of the Bois des Caucures we were compelled to evacuate our first line trench. This already had been completely leveled by the bombardment of the enemy.

South of Cumieres German attacks delivered from two sides of the village were successful in the beginning in driving us back in the direction of the Chateaucourt station, but a spirited counter attack made it possible for us to force the enemy back to the outskirts of the village of Cumieres.

Certain German detachments which, under cover of a fog, had made their way along the Meuse to the height of the Chateaucourt station were annihilated by our fire.

On the right bank of the river there has been important fighting. In upper Alsace the enemy, after an intense preparatory artillery fire, attacked our positions at a point about 1,200 yards east of Mort Homme, and secured a footing in some of our trenches but were at once driven out by our counter attack.

On the left bank of the Meuse the German attacks were repulsed and our positions were cleared of the enemy. Three officers and eighty-eight men were taken prisoners.

During our attacks on May 29 we captured in Caucures Wood one naval gun, eighteen machine guns, a quantity of ammunition and a large amount of other material. The artillery activity has been extremely spirited on both banks of the Meuse.

French Writer Says Germans Will Pay for Verdun Madness.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, May 31.—Marcel Hatin, the publicist in the Echo de Paris writes: "I am asked on every day whether an offensive to relieve our troops at Verdun may not have been expected on our side and especially on our allies' side. From what I can learn the greatest patience must be observed. The hour will come when the enemy will pay dearly for his Verdun madness."

"Our brave soldiers at Verdun must still suffer and withstand for some time. If the enemy expects some heavy, improvised offensive which is doomed to failure from us or the British or the Russians, he will more fail to understand the psychology that has been ripened by the Allies' experience in the past. When everything is ready, with artillery, munitions and reserves, we, with our Allies, will give the Crown Prince the answer."

RAID BRITISH TRENCHES. Germans Take Prisoners in Attack Near Neuve Chapelle.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 31.—The following report from the British War Office was issued tonight by the official press bureau:

Yesterday the weather was unfavorable for flying, but in spite of this some good work has done by our aeroplanes. Last night the enemy carried out bombardments of our trenches about Neuve Chapelle, to the north and south of Neuve Chapelle and east of Laventie. The bombardment about Neuve Chapelle, which was very heavy, lasted eighty minutes and was followed by an infantry raid which penetrated our trenches and took some of our men prisoners. The raiding party subsequently was driven out. East of Laventie another raiding party attempted to enter our trenches, but was driven back by our bombers.

Last night the enemy sprang a mine north of the Fort de la Base. Our troops occupy the rear lip of the crater. There was unimportant mining activity about Neuve Chapelle. Yesterday hostile artillery was active about our positions about Pricourt, Aulnoy, Souchez, Arras, Neuville St. Vaast and other points. Our batteries effectively engaged hostile batteries in the neighborhood of Souchez and Laventie and bombarded enemy positions south of the Bois de la Base. Our trenches about Verdun were shelled intermittently today.

VERDUN FRANCE'S GRAVE, BERLIN EDITOR ASSERTS

Charges French With Concealing Enormous Losses—Praises Their Bravery and Declares Work Done in Constructing Defences Has Been Amazing.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN

AMSTERDAM, via London, May 31.—George Bernhard, editor of the Berlin Vossische Zeitung, dating his despatch, "Headquarters before Verdun," writes in his paper predicting that Verdun will prove to be the grave of France. He says:

"This is not a struggle for a fortress or a town, but the life, strength, bones and blood of two great nations. The armies fighting there are not the independent defence and attack instruments of the two countries. They are the peoples themselves. We are thrown back into ancient times when the object of war was the destruction of an enemy tribe."

Heer Bernhard declares that the French losses are enormous and condemns the leaders "for their criminal conduct in concealing that the French manhood is melting away like snow under the fire of the fourteen weeks of battle." He continues: "This has caused us also great sacrifices, but the simplest recitation shows the tremendous difference between our side and especially on our allies' side. From what I can learn the greatest patience must be observed. The hour will come when the enemy will pay dearly for his Verdun madness."

"Our brave soldiers at Verdun must still suffer and withstand for some time. If the enemy expects some heavy, improvised offensive which is doomed to failure from us or the British or the Russians, he will more fail to understand the psychology that has been ripened by the Allies' experience in the past. When everything is ready, with artillery, munitions and reserves, we, with our Allies, will give the Crown Prince the answer."

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PUBLIC KITCHENS FAILURE IN BERLIN

Commons Told War Office Is Gravely Mismanned and Inefficient.

SALARY CUT ASKED FOR

LONDON, May 31.—Winston Churchill came to London again to-day and stayed long enough to make things lively in Parliament, where he propounded a series of questions that resulted in one of the most heated debates of the war. Col. Churchill had picked for his visit the day on which his Parliamentary colleagues were to vote on a motion to reduce the salary of Lord Kitchener as Secretary for War. Clad in khaki, Col. Churchill appeared in the House of Commons. He announced that personally he did not feel Lord Kitchener had earned or was entitled to his salary.

"Grave mismanagement, inefficiency and defective organization" were only a few characterizations Col. Churchill applied to the 1915 and 1916 campaigns. Col. Churchill declared himself heartily in favor of the motion to reduce Kitchener's salary, backing his argument by an enumeration of these charges.

"For every six soldiers in the British army we have but one rifle levelled at the enemy. "Without divisions are broken up by being sent to slaughter while there are thousands of other troops behind the lines.

"I will cite only one case, that of the Ninth Scottish, which lost 6,000 out of 9,000 infantrymen in the struggle at Loos.

"Halakava, with the charge of the Light Brigade, pulled before the deeds of these men. Yet the public knows nothing of the manner in which they went to their death.

"The Germans have in the field 175 divisions, or about 8,000,000 men. The French are holding eighty German divisions and the British only forty-five."

"Premier Asquith promptly came to the defense of the War Secretary, outgiving him as one to whom "the empire owes an immeasurable debt." He added: "No other could have summoned such an enormous army without friction."

"Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War, also hastened to defend his chief against the former Admiralty head's charges. As to the accusation of seasoned troops being sent into slaughter, Mr. Tennant replied that from a military standpoint it would be poor policy to oppose the Germans with forces all of which were completely "green." He added that steps had been taken to send freshly drilled recruits to the fighting line. He said a large number of men was required to move up necessary supplies. To the charge that too great a force of men was being kept at home he answered that these men were being trained and added:

"If Col. Churchill were to investigate this matter he would see that large reinforcements are about to be sent out."

Col. Churchill was assisted in his attack on the War Secretary by Sir Ivor Herbert and several other members, who urged a reduction in Lord Kitchener's salary.

The motion was finally voted down without division.

Premier Asquith asserted, in reply to Col. Churchill's attack, that the Government was placing every available man in the fighting line.

The Premier stated that the troops retained in England were "necessary to prevent an invasion."

RAID TURKS BY AIR AND SEA. British Attack El Arish—Aerivators Drop Bombs on Smyrna.

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, May 31.—The following statement was issued today by the Turkish authorities:

Hostile aeroplanes on May 29 dropped thirty bombs on some quarters of the town of Smyrna, killing and wounding several persons and damaging some houses.

On May 27 a hostile torpedo boat and aeroplanes attacked El Arish. Seven persons were wounded by bombs. Two of our aeroplanes attacked the vessel and the aeroplanes of El Arish, effectively dropping bombs and subjecting them to machine gun fire.

SMUTS FORCE PUSHES ON. Occupies Strong Position in German East Africa.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 31.—The War Office announced today that Gen. Smuts, commander of the British column invading German East Africa from the north, has reported that he is advancing down the Tana River, and has reached the South and Pare Mountains.

On Monday he located the enemy near Nkolobeni, where he occupied a strong entrenched position in a narrow neck between the mountains and the river.

Italian Prince Killed. Death of Prince Maximilian, Duc de Savoie, who had been serving in the Italian army as a Lieutenant, was killed today in an aeroplane accident at Pisa. Prince Maximilian was a nephew of Count Carlo Doria, the Prasso, who married Miss Georgina Wilde of New York, daughter of Mrs. Henry Siegel.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 31.—The chauffeur of the taxicab which carried Gen. Gallieni's army to Oron on September 7, 1914, and turned the tide against the Germans, have petitioned the Government to be allowed to take part in the procession in his state funeral to-morrow. The case will be draped with crepe.

"We know how he saved Paris, for we had some share in it," the petition says. "Representation at his funeral would be honor and recompense to us."

Crowds filed past the bier of Gen. Gallieni, former Minister of War, yesterday as it rested in the crypt of the Hotel des Invalides near the tomb of other great military leaders of France.

The bier is draped with flags captured in various campaigns such as the Sudan, India and Madagascar, in which Gen. Gallieni bore a distinguished part. The state funeral will be held to-morrow.

40,119 BRITONS CAPTIVES. 1,370 Prisoners in Germany Have Died, Lords Hear.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 31.—Baron Newton announced in the House of Lords today that the number of British prisoners in Germany is 40,119 military and 4,000 civilians. He said they were poorly fed, but not starving. Of the total 1,370 had died.

The number of British prisoners in Bulgaria, he said, is 419, and in Turkey 8,960, including sixteen civilians.

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TAXI DRIVERS WILL HONOR GEN. GALLIENI

Men Who Took French Army to Front Plan to Participate in Funeral.

RAID BRITISH TRENCHES

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HURLBURT TRUCKS. Why Many Discriminating Users Select the HURLBURT in Preference to All Others. ACKER, MERRALL & CONDIT COMPANY. NEW YORK OCT. 13, 1915. DEAR SIR: IN REPLY TO YOURS OF OCT. 11th, 1915, IN REFERENCE TO OUR HURLBURT TRUCK, WE BEG TO STATE THAT THIS TRUCK HAS GIVEN US EXCELLENT SERVICES, AND THE UP-KEEP COST OF SAME IS FAR LESS THAN OUR OTHER TRUCKS AND FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE PLAC