

GERMANS RETIRE ON BELGIAN FRONT

Give Up Large Sections of First Line Defences in Warneton Region.

BRITISH STORM POSITION

Capture Strategic Hill and 175 Prisoners in Arras Sector.

LONDON, June 14.—This has been a day of developments decidedly favorable to the British army on both battle fronts in France and Belgium. On the Arras front in France an important position at Infantry Hill, east of the Monchy ridge, was stormed on a front of three-quarters of a mile. On the Messines front in Belgium the Germans have given up without a fight large sections of their old first line system southwest of Warneton.

Though none can tell whether this new German retirement is only a local movement to conform to the line beyond the Meuse, the British correspondents at British headquarters telegraph to-night that "the strategic situation is full of interesting possibilities."

German Abandon Ground.—The German retirement is not directly on the front of Thursday's attack, but immediately to the south of it. In the region between St. Yves or St. Yves and the Lys, a distance of two and a half miles, "important sections" of the German trenches have been abandoned, Field Marshal Haig reports. This has been forced by the continued British advance east of Messines and the incessant trench raids and bombardments to the south of the front. The movement is described as follows: "The enemy's withdrawal in the vicinity of the Messines ridge is certainly not heavy shells are generally reported as falling at the extreme range, which means that the enemy has withdrawn his guns as far as possible, short of actually putting them out of action."

The British contact patrols are harassing the enemy, who is maintaining a steady bombardment of his new positions. The country across which the Germans are now retiring is low and marshy and the weather is very dry, but thanks to the long drought it offers no particular difficulty to the British problems at the present time. Thus the strategic situation is full of interesting possibilities."

Withdrawal is Slight.—The German statement to-day contains the following, which makes it appear that the Germans are withdrawing only on a small scale, to even up their position south of Messines with the new line to the north. "The German military engagements in front of our position developed. The position remained unchanged."

In the attack on the Arras front the British troops followed the objectives they set out to take on Infantry Hill. They captured 175 prisoners, of whom three are officers, and two machine guns. From the hill the British troops were more favorable as regards the village of Boly-Notre Dame, to the east, and the Sart and Vert woods, whence the Germans have been withdrawn. British Night Statement.—We carried out a successful raid this morning on the Arras battle front east of Monchy-lez-Preaux.

All Objectives Gained.—Hostile positions of considerable importance in high ground, known as Infantry Hill, the possession of which had been the chief objective of the enemy on a number of occasions, were stormed by our troops on a front of over three-quarters of a mile. The whole of the Infantry Hill was gained, and we captured 175 prisoners, including three officers and two machine guns. In the air fighting yesterday one German airplane was brought down and three others were driven down out of control. None of our machines is missing.

French in Gun Duels.—French Night Statement.—Moderate activity was displayed by the two armies over the greater part of the front, quite violent in the region of Craonne and southeast of Corbeny. British Statement.—There was lively artillery activity, especially in the region of Steenstraete, Lerne and Boulogne. Both sides fighting took place near the ferryman's house and an engagement between patrols south of Dixmide.

French Day Statement.—The enemy carried on a violent bombardment last night in the regions of Braye, north of Craonne, northwest of Rheims and on the left bank of the Meuse, near Cummeres. Attacks following these bombardments, directed against small posts in different sectors, were repelled completely.

German Day Statement.—Both in Flanders the artillery duel was intense only in isolated sectors. East of Ypres we exploded several mines, which played havoc with the British positions. South of the Douve minor engagements in front of our position developed. The position remained unchanged.

German Night Statement.—South of the Scarpe a strong English attack launched during the forenoon east of Monchy after preparatory gunfire was repelled in close range fighting.

NO CAVALRY IN ACTION. German Report Based on Use of Small Mounted Patrols.—Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, June 14.—There has been nothing to suggest any advance on the front yesterday. We proceeded to reconnoiter the German positions in the morning, which had been ordered by the command.

CONSTANTINE QUILTS GREECE IN WARSHIP

With Queen and Crown Prince He Departs Secretly and Is Bound for Denmark.

ENTENTE TROOPS LAND

"Health Reason" Assigned for Occupation of Heights and March on Athens.

Greater Gain Than Somme; Every Object Attained, Maurice Says.

LONDON, June 14.—The Messines offensive was the most successful attack which the British have yet made, every single objective that was marked in the preliminary plans having been attained, said Major-Gen. F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the War Office, in his weekly talk with the Associated Press to-day.

Comparing this assault with the German attack on the Somme, Maurice said the British gained on the first day more than twice the ground captured in the first four days of the great conflict along the Somme, while the British casualties at Messines, using the same periods for comparison, were only one-fourth what they were in the Somme fighting.

Gen. Maurice was most optimistic in his talk to-day. "Marking that the British successes were growing steadily, he added: "We still have the undeveloped resources of America behind us, which gives us complete confidence in the future."

Discussing the British method of attack at Messines, Gen. Maurice said the impression had got about that the success in this assault was due to the great mine explosions, but that this was a fallacy. "Our real success was due to the arrangement of our artillery fire and the superiority of our artillery over the German," he said. "This artillery superiority in turn was due mainly to our superiority in the air service which directs the artillery."

The million pounds of explosives set off by the British on the night of June 7, since it caused a panic among the Germans and permitted our men to get through more easily. But our mines were under the German front line trenches, which were not held strongly, so I believe the explosion caused only a small proportion of the German troops to be killed. "Our success in attaining everything we set out to get in this battle is the more striking because the Germans knew an attack was impending. I have just obtained some German orders which show the enemy was conversant with what was going on in our order, dated May 31. Even so, our approximate position in the night attack, stating that it would take place between June 3 and 5. Another order stated that the Messines-Wychechte ridge was the German objective, and pointed out to the German troops holding this section that this position was most important and must not be given up. A number of German orders were captured, becoming increasingly daring, and declared the British practice of swooping down low over the German trenches was a "clearly defined objective."

"The destruction caused by our artillery in this battle was terrific. I have toured the section since the attack and found every German machine gun, every trench and every machine gun emplacement smashed. This means very heavy German casualties."

On the Asiago Plateau last night the enemy made a surprise attack on the position we recently took on the Monte Ortigara. The attack failed, owing to our vigilance. The enemy then attacked in force and with extreme violence, but the defenders, resisting firmly, drove him back in disorder with heavy loss.

On the Julian front the enemy, ably supported by his artillery, yesterday made several minor surprise attacks northward. The most important took place south of Castagnavizza. Our artillery stopped those attacks and shelled and dispersed moving transports and troops in the Bassano and Treviso areas. At St. Lucia-Tolmino, and blew up some ammunition dumps of the enemy's rear line near Sello."

BRITISH CAPTURE BIG RED SEA FORT

Get Salfit, Near Aden; Only One Killed.

LONDON, June 14.—British naval forces have captured from the Turks the fort at Salfit, on the Arabian coast of the Red Sea after one of the shortest and most bloodless battles of the war. In three hours fighting, which gave them not only the fortifications but the harbor works, the British captured the fort. They took ninety-four Turkish prisoners and captured much booty.

By this exploit the British fleet Indian fleet the way has been opened for a parallel attack on the Turkish forces near Aden and the Red Sea has been made safer for traffic through the Suez Canal. Salfit is on Kamaran Bay, in Yemen province of the southwestern Arabian, about 175 miles north of the Gulf of Aden. The port is an important asset of the Hedjaz, which has declared its independence of Turkey. The Admiralty made the following announcement: "The commander in chief in the Red Sea reports that yesterday morning the British fleet under the command of Admiral Jellicoe captured the fort at Salfit after a resistance of three hours. Ninety-four Turkish prisoners, three machine guns, and other booty were captured. The fort was captured by the British fleet."

BRITAIN TO CONTROL ITS LIGHTING PLANTS

Plan Nearly Ready for Bulk Production of Current.

BOGUS NOTE CAUSE OF JAPANESE ANGER

Washington Investigating Cable Said to Have Been Sent to Tokio.

SWEDEN TO REMAIN NEUTRAL

Poor Harvest May Add to Suffering, Lindman Warns.

RUSSIA SETTLING DOWN.

Foreign Minister Decides Many Points at Issue.

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MISSION TO RUSSIA TO AID DEMOCRACY

Ambassador Francis Explains Object of Elihu Root and His Party.

POLES ARE UNITED FOR NATIONAL ARMY

Enthusiastic Over Idea of Becoming Separate Military Power in Entente.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

PETROGRAD, June 11 (delayed).—The proposal to organize a separate Polish army out of the 600,000 Poles at present serving in the Russian ranks, has assumed a practical form since the advent of the new regime has made it possible for Russia and her allies to proclaim the independence of united Poland. The action of France and the United States in prompting the formation of separate Polish armies has given the movement here irrefragable force.

A congress of delegates of the Polish troops has assembled in Petrograd, and an enormous majority are enthusiastically in favor of raising a separate Polish army. The Polish nation is fully alive to the necessity of all hopes of securing the independence and an outlet to the sea from the Central Powers.

The first Polish legions formed in Galicia proved a failure because the Polish army failed for the same reason and the troops thus raised could not be trusted.

The first act of the Polish Military Congress here was to elect an honorary president, Jozef Pilsudski, organizer of the Galician legions, who resigned his membership in the Polish Council of State in Warsaw on finding that his efforts to secure from the Germans the independence of the Polish forces were futile. By this election he was proclaimed commander-in-chief of the united Polish armies.

All the allied embassies and legations were represented at the meeting and came forward to express cordial greetings and hopes for the success of the Polish army.

From the speeches and the tenor of the leading articles in *Dziennik Polski*, it may be gathered that the Poles fully realize the necessity of vindicating the rights to nationhood on the battlefield, side by side with the armies fighting for the cause of freedom and the democracy of Europe, and that effectual operation in the great struggle against their oppressors will entitle them to make their voices heard in the peace conference.

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BRITONS DEMAND AIR RAID WARNING

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title aircraft were approaching the country. He added that the raid thus far had failed to materialize. Lord Derby said that not a single soldier had been killed or wounded in Wednesday's raid, which had been simply a killing and wounding of civilians, men, women and children, and from the German military viewpoint had absolutely no value. He thought that no German airplane had been brought down yesterday.

Yesterday's raid has greatly strengthened the hands of those who so long have advocated a reprisal against German towns and the Government, which heretofore has been opposed thereto, will again be urged in Parliament to take this step.

The Westminster Gazette, which opposes reprisals, suggests that the best way of stopping raids on open towns is for the Allies to intimate to the enemy that they are determined after the war to use their economic power against all who practise frightfulness in the air or on the sea, or accumulate instruments of war and death yesterday.

Referring to the seamen's refusal to carry pacifists because of the cruelties inflicted on the sailors during the submarine war, the newspaper says the same feeling has been aroused in the East End, where the demand is not for ending the war. On the contrary, thousands of working people vow, the newspaper says, they never again will handle German goods or have any dealings with the people who hold responsible for these outrages.

GERMAN FLIERS HOME. Berlin Reports Air Raiders Shell Hit London "Fort."

BRITAIN, via London, June 14.—The German official statement on yesterday's air raid on London says: "A fleet of our large airplanes reached London yesterday afternoon and dropped bombs over the fort. Good hits were observed during the clear weather. In spite of a strong defensive fire and numerous aerial engagements, during which a British airplane fell down over the Thames, all our airplanes returned unharmed."

ITALIAN FETE AWAITS UDINE. Commemoration to Visit Garibaldi Memorial at Staten Island.

The Mayor's committee to receive and entertain the members of the Italian war mission upon their visit here June 21, 22 and 23 yesterday accepted the invitation of the Order of the Sons of Italy to have Prince Udine and the other commissioners visit the Garibaldi Memorial on Staten Island. The visit to the memorial will take place June 22, following the luncheon of the Merchants Association.

The Order of the Sons of Italy arranges the memorial, and it is planned to have members of the various Italian organizations in the city accompany the party to the memorial. Italian American citizens will be given an opportunity to attend the ceremonies. A special schedule of ferry-boats will be put into effect that day.

George W. Burleigh has been asked by the Mayor to arrange a proper reception for the commissioners on Staten Island.

3 MORE NORSE SHIPS SUNK. Members of Crew of One Vessel Reported Missing.

LONDON, June 14.—The Norwegian Foreign Office reports that the Norwegian steamships *Sorland*, of 2,472 tons gross; *Tordensve*, of 1,565 tons gross, and *Bried* have been sunk by German submarines, according to a dispatch from Copenhagen to the Central News Agency.

Some members of the crew of the *Tordensve* are said to be missing.

GERMANY GETS MORE WHEAT. Increased Flour Ration to Balance Potato Shortage.

LONDON, June 14.—Berlin dispatch