

WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair to-day and to-morrow; little change in temperature.
Highest temperature yesterday, 50; lowest, 37.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

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BRITISH ARMY BEATEN BACK NINE MILES; GERMANS ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE WEDGE; FOE CAPTURES 25,000, BUT LOSES 150,000

PARIS SHELLED BY GUNS, MAYBE 62 MILES AWAY

Ten Killed, 15 Wounded, as
Projectiles Fall From
Mysterious Source.

ONE EVERY 20 MINUTES

Rifling on Shells Indicates
They Were Not Dropped
From Planes.

AIR RAID IN DAYLIGHT

E. S. Officers Scoff at Range
Attributed to German
Artillery.

Gun Shells Paris from 74 1/2 Miles, Is Report

PARIS, March 23.—According to the latest reports the large cannon which bombarded Paris this afternoon was firing from a distance of 120 kilometers (approximately 74 1/2 miles), and was located about twelve kilometers behind (evidently beyond) the French front.

The startling announcement that the Germans had fired on Paris with guns of unprecedented range caused a sensation when it was received in this country yesterday. The news was contained in the following despatch, sent out by the Associated Press yesterday morning:

"The Germans have been firing on Paris with long range guns. Since 8 o'clock this morning shells of 240 millimeters have been reaching the capital and suburbs at intervals of twenty minutes, killing about ten persons and wounding about fifteen. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometers (62 miles). Paris had been under bombardment for about eight hours at the time the Associated Press despatch was filed at 4:15 in the afternoon.

The news of the long range bombardment was received by ordnance experts here and in Washington with frank incredulity. They were even more incredulous when a little later the Associated Press sent out the following despatch:

"The first daylight air raid on Paris also came to-day, which was one of the heaviest ever. The people of Paris refused to immerse themselves in cellars and other subterranean shelters, and although the streets always had a great number of persons in them watching for an aerial battle or some other stirring incident.

"All Clear" Signal Delayed.

"As the day passed and the 'all clear' signal was not given the feeling grew that something new in the way of a raid was expected, and this was not expected until an official statement was issued saying that the delay was due to the bombardment by long distance cannon.

"The 'all clear' was then sounded, and the normal life was resumed. The cable office was reopened to take up accumulated piles of despatches.

"Pieces of the shells on examination were found to be of the type which proved that they had not been dropped, but had been fired from a gun. This apparently led to a greater mystery question as to where the shells were fired from, and the nature of it and by what method it was being operated.

"Another thing which turned the thoughts of the officials at the municipal laboratory to the possibility that a cannon was being used was the regularity with which the bombs fell, one every twenty minutes."

"Because of the closing of the cable office in Paris, the cables last night were crowded with messages held up during the day and little information was received regarding what actually had taken place or had been discovered in relation to the supposedly impossible bombardment. This congested condition of the cables will be quickly rectified by the resumption of the normal life of the city, which will be thrown upon the mysterious guns and their effects.

Air Raid Early in Day.

The following official announcement was given out in regard to the air raid. At 8:20 o'clock this morning a few airplanes, flying at a very high altitude, were seen crossing the lines and attacking Paris. They were immediately pursued by aviators of the entrenched camps of Paris, as well as by those at the front.

The dropping of bombs at several points has been reported. There are several victims. A later announcement will give further details of the raid. The ordnance experts have dropped shells on Paris from a distance of sixty-two miles or anything like it they have produced the incomprehensible sensation of being bombed from the sky. The shells were of the type known as the 17 inch shells with a range of considerably more than twenty miles. The shells fired into Dunkirk from

FRANK H. SIMONDS SAYS GERMANS TAKE ALL ON BATTLE OF PICARDY

They Are Fighting for World Power or Downfall—
Campaign Is Greatest in Magnitude of Issues
Since Napoleon Set Out for Moscow.

By FRANK H. SIMONDS.

The events of the past forty-eight hours demonstrate clearly that the German attack in Picardy is the great offensive. The Germans are plainly seeking a solution of the problem of the world war upon the battlefield and endeavoring to insure the permanence of their war structure, of their great Mitteleuropa edifice, by a military victory. Since Napoleon set out for Moscow, therefore, there has been no campaign equal in magnitude of issues to the present. Germany is fighting an all-out battle for "world power or downfall."

Not less clear is the fact that the Germans have chosen to make their supreme effort against the British. "The day" long forecast by William II. has arrived, although it is the British Army, not the navy, which bears the brunt of the attack. And the Germans have attacked the British because the British are their great enemy. If the French were attacked and beaten the great British Army would remain and Britain would be forced to continue the war. It is only to force the British to sue for peace that the Germans have attacked the British because the British are their great enemy. If the French were attacked and beaten the great British Army would remain and Britain would be forced to continue the war. It is only to force the British to sue for peace that the Germans have attacked the British because the British are their great enemy.

Hating the British most, believing them the real remaining obstacle to a victorious German peace, the Germans have also attacked Haig because they believe that it will be easier to smother the British than the French. If the trench warfare can be ended and the struggle transformed to a war in the open, a war of maneuver, like the campaign from Mons to the Marne, in German military calculation, the British Army will prove an easy victim. It is over 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Paris to the front. The British are not professional soldiers, officered largely by civilians, not soldiers by career, if old fashioned warfare be restored.

As to the actual battle aspect of the German offensive, it is to be noted first that the artillery preparation was short but of unprecedented intensity, recalling the Verdun offensive of two years ago. At the Somme and in Flanders the artillery duel lasted weeks, but, thanks to the capture of Russian and Italian artillery and to the aid of German and Austrian guns released from the eastern front, the Germans have been able to intensify the fire and shorten the duration of artillery preparation.

After their artillery preparation on a front of some fifty miles between Scarpe and the Oise, that is between Arras and St. Quentin, the Germans threw their infantry attacks, not evenly along the line, but at various widely separated points. On the first day their main effort was directed at British positions on either side of the Cambrai-Bapaume-Amiens road, not far from the scene of the recent battle of the Somme, and extending to the ground of the battle of Arras. By Friday their activities had shifted to the other end of the operational front before St. Quentin and along the St. Quentin-Noyon Paris road.

Double Turning Movement.

It would seem, therefore, that the Germans are again seeking to employ their favorite strategy of a double turning movement. In other words, they are endeavoring to break through the British line at two widely separated points, isolating the British troops between the breaks, and then really great gap in the whole front. This they did with great success in Poland in 1915, in Rumania in 1916 and in Italy last autumn.

Following this plan the Germans have made northward, but inconclusive gains along the line along the Bapaume road, Croisilles, Lagnicourt, Boursies, Dolines, mentioned in the official reports of Friday, are all in this region. On the other hand they have made more considerable gains about St. Quentin and in a tactical retreat to the British line. The Noyon road is disclosed in Haig's Saturday report. The two German thrusts may be compared to the application of a pair of pincers, and the German aim is to crush all the British line between the upper jaw of the pincers on the Bapaume road and the lower on the Noyon road.

But the real question which is now raised is not a question of the relative or actual success of the Germans in breaking one, two or even three lines of British defenses, or taking a number of ruined villages. It is whether the British have provided a sufficient number of positions, one behind the other, to enable them to break the other, to enable them to break the other, to enable them to break the other. On this depends the fate of the allied campaign of 1918. Because the French failed to make this provision, Verdun, the Russian failure led to the disaster at the Danube, and the Italian front had exactly the

same cause. On the other hand Germany foresight in Champagne, at the Somme and in Flanders deprived allied advances of any local profit.

Problem of Defence.

Haig's report of German success about St. Quentin and British retreat over the devastated country to their next line raises the whole question squarely. The Germans devastated the country with an eye to possible later offensives. They destroyed every village and wood that might improve a defence under pressure. All depends now upon the prepared lines behind, of which Haig speaks. The Germans on their part will be handicapped by the difficulties of bringing up their guns to face the new position and of transporting their munitions.

MILLION MEN IN ARMIES HURLED AT ALLIED LINES

Fresh German Divisions
Stream Forward Trying
to Smash British Line.

BATTLE A REAL INFERNO

Eyewitness Gives a Graphic
Story of Terrific Struggle
and Awful Slaughter.

By the Associated Press.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 23.—The British, gallantly fighting, are still presenting a solid front to the irrepressible Germans, although the defensive troops have withdrawn their lines in certain places for strategic reasons.

All day yesterday and much of last night the conflict continued to rage with increasing violence, as fresh German divisions were hurled into the fray in an attempt to smash through the British defenses. More intense fighting is expected.

The operation is so vast and is changing with such kaleidoscopic rapidity as the line surged backward and forward that it is impossible to visualize the scene sufficiently to give a connected and accurate account of it at present.

Forty-nine German divisions (588,000 men) have been identified thus far on the battlefield and prisoners have been taken from eighteen of them. Some estimates place the number of German divisions engaged as high as ninety (1,080,000 men), but it is impossible to know the exact number. The German line is a continuous, unbroken line of men, and the British are constantly appearing.

The fighting is of the most extraordinary character and the enemy continued to lose great numbers of men through his system of massed attacks. That does not mean that the British have not suffered casualties. They necessarily have, but their losses are much smaller than those of their opponents.

Gunfire Is Unprecedented.

The visibility became excellent late yesterday and the whole battle front was turned into a veritable hell with the artillery on both sides cutting loose their tongues of death.

Men who had fought through the great battles of the Somme, Flanders and Arras say they never before have seen anything to approach the awful gunfire of the present conflict. The explosion of shells is of a magnitude and 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 fullest capacity.

Especially bitter fighting occurred last night in the regions of Ham, Mory, Mory (Morchieux) and Beaumont. About Mory also the battle has been fiercest, and the story of the British defence can be told in a record of a man's stand and the fighting here began yesterday morning, when the Germans attacked with a superior number of troops. The British held on during the day, but last evening the enemy gained a foothold in the village after a sanguinary struggle at close quarters.

The British air service has been doing valuable work with its machine guns against the enemy.

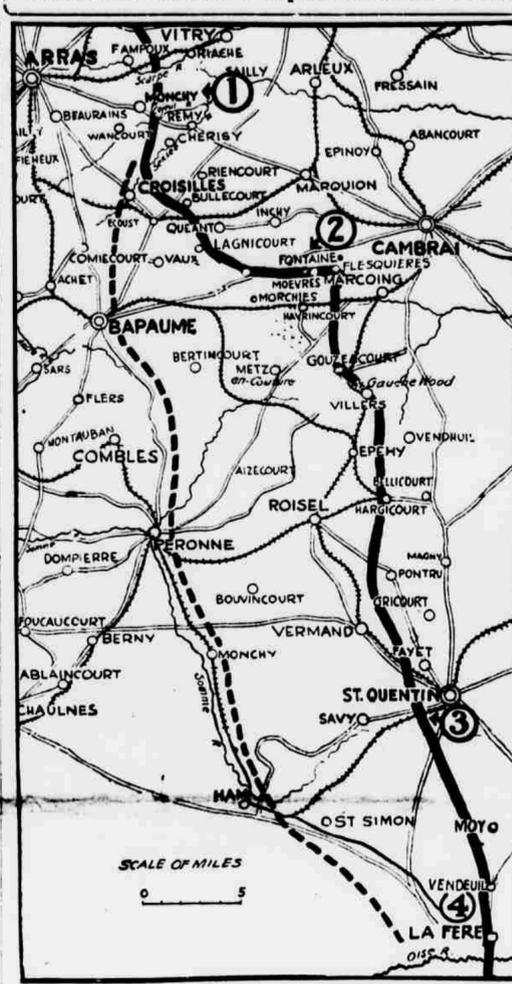
It was reported this morning that enemy infantry had pushed down across the Canal de la Somme and had driven forward against the position to which the British had retired.

Tentons Prem Attack Hard.

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.

Taking the situation as a whole, the

Where the Germans Report Greatest Gains



THE map shows the sector of the fiercest fighting from Arras to La Fere. The heavy black line indicates the line of battle before the offensive began, and the dotted line the probable immediate objectives of the attacking forces, as indicated by the German reports.

The arrow (1) points to Monchev, where the new line turns sharply to the south, the objectives being indicated as Bapaume, Peronne and Ham and thence to a point south of the River Oise and below La Fere.

Between Croisilles and Moeuvres (2) the Germans penetrated to the British second line trenches, capturing the villages of Vaulx-Vraucourt and Morchieux, 3 1/2 and 2 1/2 miles respectively behind the former British line.

West of St. Quentin (3) the fighting also was severe, particularly west of Savy, where the third line trenches of the British were reached. West of La Fere (4) the crossing of the River Oise was effected by the Jaeger battalions.

In an article by Frank H. Simonds, printed on this page, he points out that the results of the battle so far would seem to indicate that the Germans were endeavoring to employ a double turning movement, isolating the British between two widely separated points, as was done in Poland in 1915, in Rumania in 1916 and in Italy last year. Mr. Simonds likens the movement to a huge pair of pincers, seeking to crush all on the British line between the upper jaw of the pincers on the Bapaume road and the lower on the Noyon road.

Text of Official Statements

LONDON, March 23.—Following are the official statements of the fighting on the western front:

German (night)—The first stage of the great battle in France is ended. We have won the engagements near Monchev, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere. A considerable part of the English army is beaten.

We are fighting approximately on a line northeast of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham.

German (day)—Under the command of the Emperor and King the battle of attack against the British front near Arras, Cambrai and St. Quentin has been proceeding two days. Yesterday also good progress was made.

Divisions of Crown Prince Rupprecht stormed the heights north and northwest of Croisilles, between Fontaines-Croisilles and Moeuvres, they penetrated into the second enemy position and captured the villages situated there of Vaulx-Vraucourt and Morchieux. Strong British counter attacks failed.

Between Gonnelle and the Omignon stream the first two enemy positions were penetrated. The heights west of Gonnellecourt, Heudicourt and Villers-Faucon were captured and in the Valley of the Cologne stream Belsel and Marquais were stormed.

The fighting around Epehy heights was bitter. These heights being encircled from the north and south the enemy was compelled to leave them for our troops. Between Epehy and Roisel the enemy valiantly endeavored by means of strong counter attacks to bring our victoriously advancing troops to a standstill. He was driven back everywhere with the heaviest losses.

Germans Before Third Enemy Position.

The heights north of Verdun were stormed. We stand before the third enemy position. Under the effect of this success the enemy evacuated his positions in the bend southwest of Cambrai. We pursued him through Demecourt, Flesquières and Ribecourt.

Between the Omignon stream and the Somme corps of the army group of the German Crown Prince, after the capture of the first enemy positions, made their way through Holnon Wood and fought across the heights of Savy and Rouppe, penetrating into the third enemy position. South of the Somme divisions broke through the enemy lines and in an uninterrupted forward movement drove the enemy over the Crozet Canal toward the west. Jaeger battalions forced a crossing of the Oise west of La Fere. In company with divisions following they stormed the heights northwest of the town, which are crowned with the permanent works of La Fere.

The captures so far reported by the army group of Crown Prince Rupprecht are 15,000 prisoners and 250 guns; by the army group of the German Crown Prince, 10,000 prisoners, 150 guns and 300 machine guns.

Artillery battles continue between the Lys and La Bassée Canal, on both sides of Rethelms, before Verdun and in Lorraine.

British (night)—The battle is continuing with the greatest in-

"Considerable Part of British Army Beaten," Asserts Berlin—"Still Heavily Engaged," Is General Haig's Laconic Report

FIGHTING IS HAND TO HAND AT
MANY POINTS ON SIXTY MILE LINE

Enemy's Drive at Junction With the French
May Force Also a Retirement of the Latter
to Avert a Break---Terrific Cannonad-
ing Plainly Heard in London

LONDON, March 23.—The first stage of the great battle in France, in which at least 1,250,000 men, perhaps 1,500,000, are involved in the most desperate fighting of the war over a front of nearly sixty miles, is finished with the Germans claiming the advantage all along the line from Monchev, near Arras, on the north to La Fere on the south, where the British sector ends and the French begins. "A considerable part of the British army is beaten," says Berlin. The Germans assert also that they have taken 25,000 prisoners so far, in addition to 400 field guns and 300 machine guns. The casualties for the three days fighting are estimated at 150,000 German and 100,000 British.

The greatest penetration of the British line by the Germans is just below St. Quentin, where it is nine miles. Late yesterday the German attack, which was at its maximum near the northern end of the line, just west of Cambrai, was shifted suddenly to the extreme southern end. Here such an enormous mass of men and metal was concentrated that the British could not withstand it.

Enemy Seeking to Drive Wedge.

The line broke, and as the Germans poured through the gap the British retreated to prepared positions in the region devastated by the Germans in their retreat last spring. The Germans followed up promptly and the heaviest fighting is in progress to-night before the new position, which is at Ham, about eleven miles southwest of St. Quentin.

It is believed that the plan of the Germans is to drive a wedge here between the British and French armies at their junction, always a weak point, and if they break through, to push on across the Somme Canal toward Compiègne and Paris.

It is clear that they are making a supreme effort at this point as they have put their cavalry in the field to follow up the victory which they expect their infantry to win.

In the north, where the fighting was most intense up to yesterday evening, the British are holding well. At Mory, northwest of Cambrai, the Germans attained their greatest penetration in this section, about four miles. Terrific fighting is in progress there and Mory already has changed hands several times.

Roar of Guns Heard in London.

Although ferocious hand to hand fighting is in progress all along the line, particularly near the south and north ends, there is no let up in the artillery fire, which is by far the most tremendous that has ever been seen anywhere. The guns are distinctly heard to-night in London, more than 180 miles in a direct line from St. Quentin. In the high places in London a continuous throbbing is audible and many persons to-night went to the housetops to listen.

Field Marshal Haig, the British Commander in Chief, reports to-night that the British have taken up new positions south and west of St. Quentin and "are heavily engaged with the enemy." This retirement would seem to imply a withdrawal of the French also, but no report of such a movement has been received, although it is rumored that the French were under attack to-day near the junction with the British, on the Oise River.

Vienna announces to-night that a great success has been won in the west. Neither this assertion nor that of Berlin that a considerable part of the British army has been beaten is borne out by the facts so far as they are known. The capture by the Germans of 25,000 men is regarded as not improbable, as that number would not be excessive under the circumstances and in view of the number of men engaged.

The Berlin statement reports the capture of two villages on the Fontaine-Moeuvres front, Vaulx-Vraucourt and Morchieux, about three and a half and two and a half miles respectively behind the former British line. It notes also the occupation of the heights west of Gonnellecourt, Heudicourt and Villers-Faucon. A crossing over the Oise was forced west of La Fere. It is asserted that the British third position was penetrated near Savy and Rouppe, between the Omignon and the Somme.

South of the Somme, it is stated, the British were driven across the Crozet Canal toward the west. It is also asserted that the British were pursued through Demecourt, Flesquières and Ribecourt. At Hornles the British were forced back about two and a half miles.

Somme Canal Reported Crossed.

The Germans this afternoon were pressing their attack hard on the right flank of the British near Ham, says the Associated Press correspondent with the British army, while on the northern end of the battle line desperate fighting has been going on since yesterday about Mory, which has changed hands several times.

It is reported that some of the enemy infantry pushed down across the Somme Canal and drove forward against prepared positions to which the British had

Owing to the tremendous importance of news of the great German offensive special war extras of THE EVENING SUN will be issued to-day (Sunday). These extras will contain not only the latest news from the battle fields but from all parts of the country.

SUNDAY
WAR EXTRA

Continued on Second Page.