

ALLIES CHECK HUNS

Towns of Neuve Eglise and Hangard Retaken by British and French Troops.

FRENCH LINE ADVANCED

Substantial Gains Reported Near Orville-Sorel on Front of Two-thirds Mile—German Pressure on English Forces Continues.

(Continued From First Page.)

yesterday and last night was aimed at the capture of Baillieu, Hazebrouck, Merbecque, Steenbecque and Aire, all of which are important railway towns. The ground east of this sector is very low and wet and is unfavorable for the rapid movement of heavy guns. Work on the Armentieres-Baillieu railway has been rushed furiously by the enemy since the occupation of the former town and artillery is being moved forward as rapidly as possible.

Aviators Give Huns Hell.

In the meantime the enemy has been having a hard time with his transport. British aviators yesterday dropped many tons of bombs on the packed roads leading from Estaires to Merville, causing heavy casualties and much confusion.

Hostile pilots who attempted to drive the British flyers back along this front fared badly. Official figures are not available, but the correspondent is confident in stating that no less than 49 German planes were shot out of the air and crashed to the ground yesterday along the sector lying roughly between Wytschaete and a little south of Armentieres.

Enemy Shows Tenacity.

The German casualties yesterday and last night were very heavy. They can hardly be avoided in following out the method of massed attack being employed by the enemy, who must be given credit for showing great discipline and sticking powers in the face of terrific punishment from the machine guns and artillery.

Yesterday afternoon a heavy attack north of Locon forced the British to give some ground. Again last night at 8 o'clock the Germans surged forward east of Locon and succeeded in penetrating the British lines. Hard fighting followed and the enemy was finally driven back.

Battle Is Desperate.

Not satisfied with this, the Germans attacked again in the same place and once more the assault was smashed. Another attack southwest of Le Sart also was repulsed. Robecq, southwest of Merville, was the scene of heavy fighting last night, and this morning the place appeared to be still a battle ground which neither side could claim. North of here the British had clung to St. Floris, to which the Germans were trying to drive in order to reach Aire. Merville was strongly held by the enemy this morning.

In the fighting about Baillieu last night the Germans succeeded in penetrating Merville and here a hot fight was exchanged at close quarters, with the result that the enemy was pushed out and held off in the outskirts of the place.

Baillieu Is Burned.

The whole southern part of Baillieu broke into flames last night and burned fiercely, the glow of the fire being visible against the clouds for miles across the low-lying country. La Creche again was in British hands this morning, this place representing a part of the result of last night's counter attacks between Baillieu and Neuve Eglise. North of Eglise there is no change reported in the situation.

LONDON, April 13.—The Germans were driven out of Neuve Eglise this morning, according to the report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters to-night. Four attacks against the British positions southeast of Baillieu also were beaten off.

PARIS, April 13.—French troops in an attack tonight northeast of Orville-Sorel made an advance of several hundred meters along a front of about two-thirds of a mile, according to the War Office announcement to-night. A German attack in the Noyon sector was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

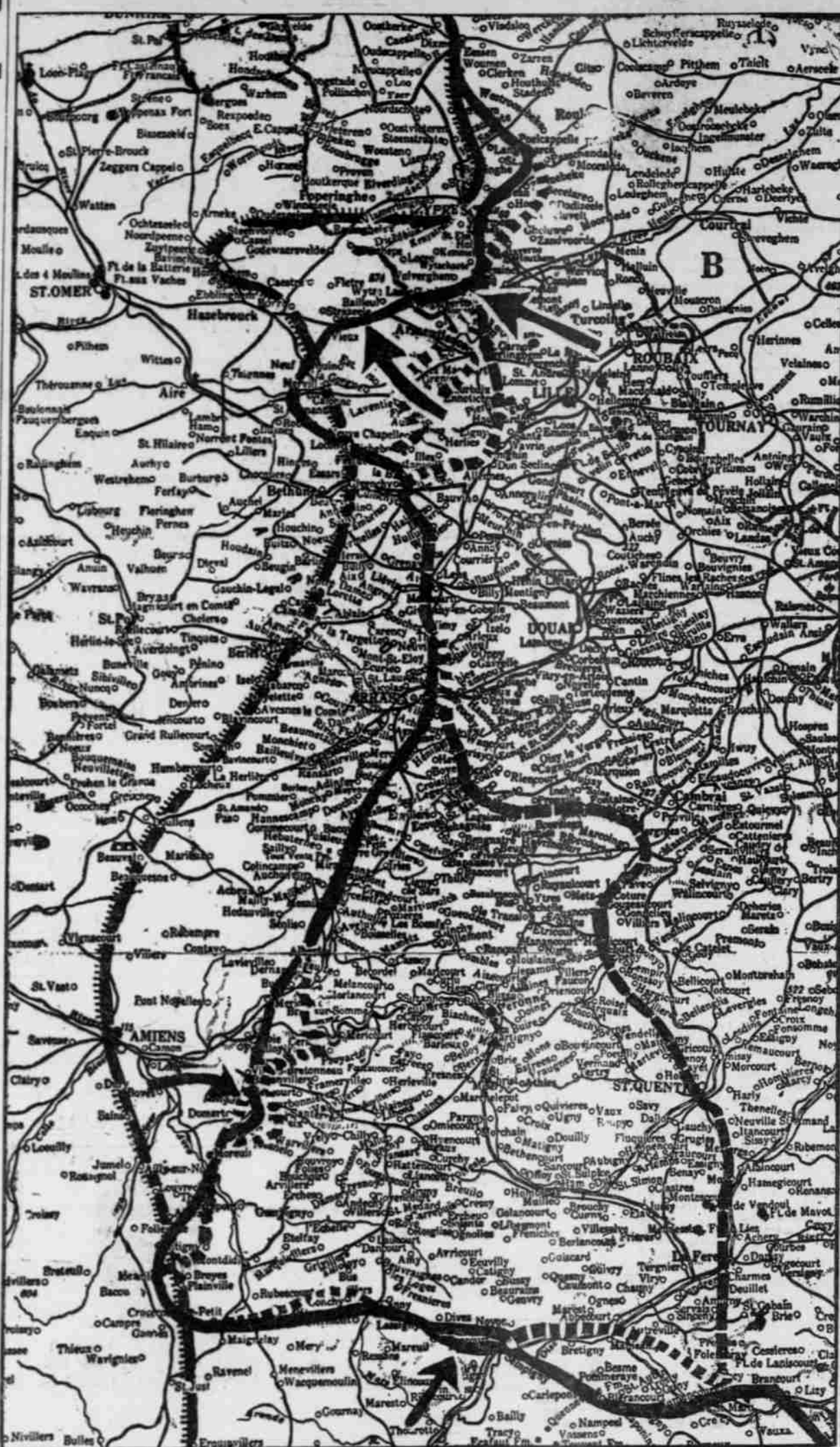
WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—All efforts of the German high command for the present are directed toward the systematic dislocation of the British armies. Having failed to break the communications between the British and French, the enemy has turned his sole attention northward, and it appears likely that the Germans will continue to throw all their available strength in that direction.

The enemy's plans seem to be to deliver a succession of hammering blows at different points between the Somme and the sea and with the desire of bringing about a British evacuation of the entire northern district of France. Six German armies are participating in the battle raging along the front. They are as follows: Von Arnim's, Von Quast's, Von Below's, Von Marwitz's, Von Hutier's and Von Boehm's, on the east of the Oise.

Allies' Tenacity Fells Huns.

The Germans, owing to their possession of interior lines of communication inside the semi-circle formed by the front, are able to move their strategic reserves with greater facility than the allies, and thus by surprise attacks with rapidly concentrated superior

MAP SHOWING LATEST BATTLE LINE ON WEST FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM.



Long Line at Left Is Farthest German Advance in 1914. Heavy Line Down Center and Turning to Right Is Present Battle Line. Heavy Broken Line at Intervals Near It Shows Position From Which Germans Have Advanced Within Past Two Days. Heavy Broken Line at Right Marks Position From Which Germans Started Their Present Drive. Chief Center of Yesterday's Activities Is Indicated by Arrows Near Top.

forces can compel the retirement of the allies at any point.

Hitherto, owing to the great tenacity of the allies, the enemy has been unable to carry out his plan of advance according to his prearranged programme. This has been learned from orders captured on prisoners who have fallen into allied hands in considerable numbers these latter days during close fighting. These orders foresaw the capture of the line along the Lys River on April 3, while Bethune should have been taken on April 10, but it was saved by the wonderful defense of the British at Giverny.

On the French portion of the battle line the principal fighting is progressing on the sectors toward Amiens, where the Germans persist in trying to pierce the line in order to obtain the moral victory of taking Amiens, but they are unable to overcome the opposition of the French. During last night the battle here never ceased a moment, enemy assaults being immediately followed by French counter-attacks, which resulted in the recapture of the important village of Hangard, with a number of prisoners.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—The latest phase of the battle of the Somme is determined by a German attack in the direction of Baillieu from the south. Yesterday's all-day fighting resulted in the retirement of the British forces farther west of Merville.

British in Front of Forest.

The enemy made a fresh assault early last night with the intention of occupying the great forest of Nieppe, but he gained only a few hundred yards at the expense of heavy casualties and the British front this morning lies in front of the forest.

The fighting today evidently is intended to give the Germans an opportunity of getting across the British positions in the Trepas salient, which still is strongly held.

Neuve Eglise was the scene of a hand-to-hand struggle, which resulted in the Germans getting a foothold in the village, but enemy frontal attacks on the Measnes ridge were beaten off. By a counter attack the British and French south of the River Somme yesterday afternoon recaptured Hangard, which the Germans had strongly fortified. The entente allied forces also

which was full of machine guns. Some prisoners were taken.

Attacks on British Right Fail. Further attacks on the British right wing between Giverny and Robecq, on La Bassée Canal, yesterday wholly failed. Two attempts made late in the afternoon to capture Locon also were repulsed. The British also counter-attacked around Giverny and took an important German post.

With the exception of Merville, the Germans thus far have not reached their objectives in part for the present drive north and south of Armentieres, but developments indicated that the enemy had no intention of abandoning the assault immediately.

A captured German document reveals that there were to be three smashes on the front north and south of Armentieres. One had Baillieu as its main objective, the other Merville and Aire, and the third Bethune.

Enemy Forces Are Large.

Not less than 25 divisions had been employed by the enemy in this pretentious programme, which has meant that at some places the British have been very heavily outnumbered. A German division aggregates 12,000 to 14,000 men, including 7500 rifles. At St. Venant, Merville and Aire, was heavily attacked Friday by strong forces of Germans after their success of last night, which gave them possession of Merville. The enemy seemed desirous of reaching Aire, a railway center, and was throwing large numbers of troops into the conflict in an attempt to drive the British back. The German threat in this direction undoubtedly is of considerable importance.

The fighting Friday continued to be of the bitterest nature, not only in the Merville neighborhood, where the main assault was made, but also northward from Giverny.

Fighting Is Continuous.

The German attack about Giverny, on the southern end of the battle line, was pressed yesterday by some nine divisions. There virtually has been no cessation in the fighting here since the beginning of the battle Tuesday. Thus far the British have maintained a stone wall defense, against which the Germans have flung themselves with heavy losses.

The casualty list of the attacking

troops was swelled appallingly Friday, as the British artillery and machine guns pounded concentrating points and troops advancing in close formation. The work of the British gunners at

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TACOMA, Wash., April 13.—(Special.)—Harry F. Simpson, Springfield, Ill., and Elvin Bostrom, Tacoma, Or., obtained a marriage license here today.

General Martin Promoted.

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Giverny has been noteworthy. On the first day, when the Germans swept forward in masses, and the situation was very grave, many artillerymen worked for hours shooting point blank at close range. One gunner, Sergeant, stood by his piece firing with open sights at a range of 200 yards, and held the enemy off for a considerable time before he was compelled to fall back.

PARIS, April 13.—The Germans last night renewed their attacks upon the French positions in Brule Wood in the forest of Apremont. American troops in this sector, in conjunction with the French, says today's official statement, have combated with vigor and broken the majority of the enemy attacks. At one point where the enemy obtained a footing, he was thrown out by a counter-attack.

Hangard Is Recaptured.

On the Somme battlefield, the entire village of Hangard and the adjoining cemetery have been regained from the Germans.

The city of Rheims is in flames. The French are attempting to limit the burning area, working under a heavy bombardment. Rheims, city of the famous cathedral which since early in the war has been the frequent target of German heavy guns and now is a shell-torn ruin, has been the special objective of the German artillery fire at frequent intervals for several weeks past. Berlin announced that the bombardment was in reprisal for the shelling of German dug-outs at Laon by the French artillery.

LONDON, April 13.—The Germans made an attack last night west of Merville, on the northern battlefield, and were repulsed, the War Office announced.

The British advanced their line slightly in the neighborhood of Festubert and took a few prisoners. There was heavy fighting last evening near Neuve Eglise and Wulverghem, and the battle here was still in progress at a late hour last night.

Strong enemy forces launched an attack early last night east of Locon and succeeded in entering the British lines at certain points, but were ejected by a counter attack. A second attack attempted later in the night at the same place was beaten off.

In the sector south of the Somme, British and French troops by counter-attacks, drove out the Germans from Hangard, which they penetrated yesterday.

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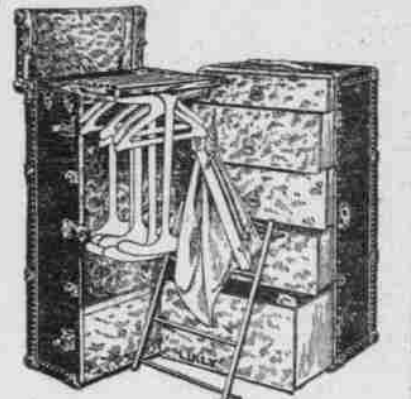
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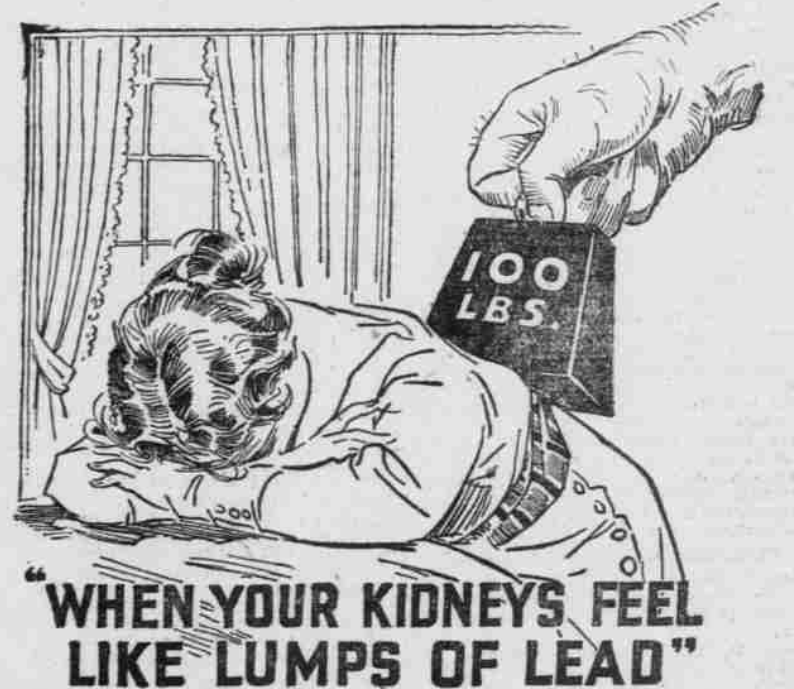
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