

THE LANCASTER NEWS

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OFFENSIVE IS HALTED BY TREMENDOUS RAIN

BATTLEFIELD IS ALMOST A SEA OF MUD.

Conquered Territory Yields Details of Awful Effect of the British Artillery Fire.

A torrential rainfall and the resultant turning of the battlefield into a veritable quagmire almost halted during Wednesday the great allied offensive against the Germans in Flanders.

For the most part, the day was spent by the British and French troops in consolidating positions won in Tuesday's spectacular drive, or in putting down strong German counter attacks, made in endeavor to wrest from their antagonists their former positions. At two points near Ypres, the Germans, using great masses of men, were successful in their counter attacks against the British, but this advantage was offset in the Zillebeke and Yser canal sectors, where respectively the British and French troops advanced their lines.

Meanwhile the guns of the belligerents are continuing to roar all along the entire front in reciprocal bombardments preparatory to the recommencement of the infantry battle when the clouds lift and the rainfall ceases.

German Losses Heavy.

The losses of the Teutons in the fighting thus far have been extremely heavy, the ground at various points being covered with their dead—some of the killed mere school boys and seemingly unfitted physically for the arduous trials the soldier in the present war must undergo. In addition, the British alone have taken more than 5,000 prisoners—4,000 of them on the Ypres salient.

On the southern end of the front, in the region of the Aisne and on the Verdun sector, the Germans continue to carry out offensive operations against Gen. Petain's armies. In spite of their heavy bombardment along the entire Aisne region, however, the French in a vigorous counter attack east of Cerny again have made progress and taken prisoners. On the other hand, the Germans northwest of Verdun in an attack were unable to penetrate French first line trench elements in the region between the Avocourt woods and Hill 304.

On Eastern Front.

Although the Austro-Germans continue to press the Russians in Galicia and Bukovina, having taken an additional position from them along the Horodenka Czernowitz railway and north of the Dniester river, the Russians southeast of Tarnopol in the vicinity of Trembowla have taken the offensive in an endeavor to prevent the northern end of their line in Galicia from being pushed back farther toward the Russian frontier. The Russians have been successful in capturing one enemy vantage point.

On the northwestern frontier of Rumania the combined Russo-Rumanian forces are keeping up their advantage against the Austro-Germans. In their smash at the enemy line between the Putna and Casin valleys they have penetrated it to a depth from ten to twelve miles and captured 98 guns and in the neighborhood of 4,500 prisoners.

RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL

Conferees Agree on Sum Totalling \$27,826,000.

Washington, Aug. 1.—Conferees on the rivers and harbors bill today reached an agreement on a bill totalling \$27,826,000.

Senate provisions for negotiations toward federal acquisition of the Cape Cod canal were retained. House appropriation of \$26,000 for improvement of the James, Nansemond and Appomattox rivers in Virginia, was restored.

The senate provision for a federal waterway commission, to comprise seven members, including one army engineer, an expert hydraulic engineer and five others to be selected by the President, was retained in the bill.

FINAL AGREEMENT ON NATIONAL FOOD BILL

PALMETTO CONGRESSMAN DID SPLENDID WORK.

A. F. Lever Submitted Final Agreement—Committee Eliminated Features.

Washington, August 2.—The conference agreement on the administration food control bill, containing neither the senate's amendments which would have provided for a congressional war expenditures committee and a food board of three members, was reported to the house today. Both proposals, which had been expected by President Wilson, were stricken out of the bill by the conferees.

The house is expected to adopt the conference report tomorrow and the senate during the coming week, after a debate because of the elimination of its war committee and food board proposals.

Month Late.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The administration food control bill, stripped of the features opposed by President Wilson, was reported out of conference Wednesday, just one month after the date the president had hoped to see it enacted into law.

Enactment some time next week now is predicted. House conferees will make their report Friday and favorable action probably will be taken at once. Senate approval probably will follow early next week although extended debate is expected in the senate owing to the elimination of senate amendments which would have provided for a congressional war expenditures committee and a three member food control board.

The week's deadlock in conference was adopted by Senator Warren of Wyoming (Republican) in agreeing to vote with the Democrats to strike out the war expenditures committee amendment, particularly objectionable to the president.

Senator Warren is understood to have been influenced by a tacit understanding that the senate rules committee will report favorably in a separate measure a resolution to provide for a joint congressional committee on the conduct of the war, introduced by Senator Weeks of Massachusetts. Administration leaders will wage a bitter fight against it.

Conferees from each house declared they had emerged from conference victorious. The result resembled a draw. The senate conferees sacrificed their war expenditures committee and the three member food control board amendment while the house conferees accepted greatly restricted price fixing and control provisions, a 2 minimum for wheat and a less drastic prohibition section. Under the latter manufacture of distilled liquors would be prohibited and the president given power to limit the manufacture of light wines and beers, if necessary, and to commandeer for military or other public purposes such distilled liquors in or out of bond he may deem advisable.

Steps finally to enact the first administration food bill, proposing a national food survey and containing provisions to stimulate production, were taken immediately after agreement on the control legislation. The conferees agreed to meet tomorrow, when it is expected that their differences will be promptly adjusted.

TO MERGE WITH PALMETTO LADS

Washington, Aug. 2.—Announcement is made at the war department that the Third regiment of infantry of the District of Columbia National Guard, commanded by Brig. Gen. William E. Harvey, will be sent to Camp Sevier, at Greenville, and brigaded with two regiments of infantry of the South Carolina National Guard. The department refused to say whether or not Gen. Harvey would be in command of the brigade, but admitted that he would be available for the assignment and would not have to compete with any officer of similar rank in the South Carolina regiments concerned.

MANY TRYING TO ESCAPE SERVICE

SEVENTY OF THE DRAFTED MEN WERE EXAMINED TODAY

Of That Number Only Three Failed To Make Some Plea For Exemption. Thirty Were Refused by Physicians.

At 1 o'clock today the Lancaster county examining board, operating under the Selective Conscription law, had examined 70 young men of Lancaster county between the ages of 21 and 31 years. This number 37 successfully passed the physical examination while 30 were rejected on the physical tests. All but three of the 70 claimed exemption, every imaginable claim being put forth. At the present rate, if the physical disability claims are allowed, the claims for dependent families and the claims for industrial reasons are recognized, it will take far more than the 392 men summoned by the board to furnish Lancaster county's quota for the first National Army.

The local board met at 6 o'clock this morning with the chairman in attendance and three physicians, Dr. S. L. Allen, Dr. R. C. Brown and Dr. J. D. Funderburk ready to begin their labors. Owing to the fact that one member of the board was absent, it was not possible to get the work underway until 8 o'clock, but from that hour until noon today rapid progress was made.

The local board completed its compilation of the official list for Lancaster late Thursday afternoon. A copy has been furnished this newspaper and the entire list will be printed in Tuesday's issue of The Lancaster News.

The official list of those standing the examination today is as follows:

Serial No.	Name	Address	Order No.
258	Henry McKinney	Lancaster, S. C.	1
458	B. I. Simpson	Lancaster, S. C., No. 2	2
1436	W. C. Criminger	Heath Springs, S. C., No. 1	3
854	Elec Snipes	Lancaster, S. C.	4
1894	Richard Waiters	Lancaster, S. C., No. 4	5
1878	Charles S. Riner	Riverside, S. C.	6
1095	Jack Gardner	Kershaw, S. C., No. 5	7
2022	Johnie Howey	Osceola, S. C., No. 1	8
1455	Lum Cunningham	Heath Springs, S. C., No. 3	9
783	John W. Jordan	Chesterfield, S. C.	10
1813	William J. McMurray	Lancaster, S. C., No. 3	11
1858	James Cornelius	Riverside, S. C.	12
1752	Aaron Carlast	Kershaw, S. C.	13
1117	Ernest Mungo	Kershaw, S. C., No. 5	14
1572	James Truesdell	Heath Spgs, S. C., Star route	15
1748	Frank Cunningham	Stoneboro, S. C.	16
837	Reuben Robinson	Lancaster, S. C., No. 7	17
2036	Sam J. Pettus	Fort Mill, S. C., No. 3	18
337	Jim Sadler	Lancaster, S. C.	19
676	William C. Taylor	Lancaster, S. C., No. 7	20
275	Sam Nelson	Lancaster, S. C.	21
509	Charley Brooks	Lancaster, S. C., No. 5	22
1185	Joseph L. Faulkenberry	Heath Springs, S. C., No. 2	23
564	Charley Furr	Tradesville, S. C.	24
945	Wylie Miles	Lancaster, S. C., No. 8	25
1913	Asariah Clifton	Van Wyck, S. C.	26
596	Brady Wright	Tradesville, S. C.	27
1267	John A. Faile	Kershaw, S. C.	28
536	George S. Plyler	Lancaster, S. C., No. 5	29
1495	Hamp Kirkland	Kershaw, S. C., No. 1	30
548	John N. Whittaker	Lancaster, S. C., No. 5	31
126	Ernest B. Evans	Lancaster, S. C.	32
1679	Will Hunter	Lancaster, S. C., No. 2	33
1237	William J. Catoe	Kershaw, S. C.	34
784	Charles F. Jones	Lancaster, S. C.	35
1732	George W. Baker	Stoneboro, S. C.	36
755	Edward L. C. Hair	Lancaster, S. C.	37
107	Will Cousart	Lancaster, S. C.	38
1546	Claude E. Stover	Heath Springs, S. C.	39
1563	Claude C. Truesdell	Kershaw, S. C.	40
2099	Mendal L. Jacobson	Kershaw, S. C.	41
1369	Albert Truesdale	Kershaw, S. C., No. 2	42
616	Ray V. Faile	Taxahaw, S. C., No. 1	43
373	Charles Wilson	Kershaw, S. C.	44
1676	Daniel W. Horton	Lancaster, S. C., No. 6	45
1266	Henry M. Ferrell	Kershaw, S. C.	46
1891	Anthony Wilson	Riverside, S. C.	47
775	Ellis Harper	Lancaster, S. C.	48
486	Elias Jones	Lancaster, S. C., No. 1	49
692	Robert P. Barton	Lancaster, S. C.	50
600	Vern Wright	Tradesville, S. C.	51
1986	John E. Sweat	Van Wyck, S. C., No. 1	52
810	Leroy McMurray	Lancaster, S. C.	53
1539	Lonnie Rollings	Heath Springs, S. C., No. 1	54
1782	Robert Johnson	Lancaster, S. C., No. 2	55
507	David A. Blackmon	Lancaster, S. C.	56
309	Willie Reeves	Lancaster, S. C.	57
437	William H. Kee	Lancaster, S. C., No. 8	58
1324	Oscar Miller	Kershaw, S. C., No. 3	59
604	Chalmers Blackmon	Taxahaw, S. C., No. 2	60
43	Joe Bailey	Lancaster, S. C.	61

(Continued on Page Eight.)

SOON TO REQUISITION AMERICAN SHIPPING

IMPERATIVE NEED FOR TONNAGE IS DISCLOSED

Coastwise Vessels Are to Be Replaced by Those Drawn From Neutral Nations.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The imperative need of ships in the trans-Atlantic service was disclosed today in indications that the shipping board is preparing to commandeer all American tonnage and in an order issued by President Wilson which has the effect of cutting off steel exports to Japan unless Japanese vessels are diverted to war uses. The shipping board will announce a commandeering program within a few days. It will call for the requisitioning of ships under authority recently given to the president by congress and probably will include arrangements for turning the vessels back to their owners for actual operation. The government, it is said, has no desire to operate the vessels itself, but through control of charters can direct trade routes and at the same time can lower ocean freight rates.

Coastwise tonnage and vessels taken off South American runs to be put to carrying supplies to Europe probably will be replaced in large part by neutral ships. Both Norway and Holland are ready to release a large amount of tonnage for allied use in return for food shipments. A resolution pending in congress, drawn by administration officials, would permit vessels of foreign registry to ply between American ports.

The British and American governments have about reached an agreement for a joint control of all the world's tonnage and the shipping board's move towards commandeering is a preliminary step in that arrangement. Under the plan the United States would operate most of the neutral tonnage and Great Britain would have under its control allied ships. The arrangement would be used also to bring down freight rates.

Great Britain, it was learned today, is about ready to recall British ships that have been out at the disposal of her allies. Continued sinkings are said to have made it necessary that every British vessel be used in supplying the British people and armies.

The president's instructions, which will bring Japanese ships into the Atlantic, were issued to the division of export licenses and provide that no steel or iron products shall be sent to allied countries unless they are to be used for actual purposes or will contribute directly to prosecution of the war. Japan has been a large buyer of American ship plates and has been building up a great merchant fleet.

The shipping board has just put into operation its control over coastwise freight rates and will begin within a short time to hear complaints. It has no power to fix rate schedules, but on complaint can order specific rates cut if they are found discriminatory.

GEN. OREGON RETURNING

Carraza's Former War Minister Going Back to Capital.

Mexico City, Aug. 1.—Gen. Obregon, who resigned as minister of war last May and retired to his home in Sonora, is reported on his way back to the capital. He is said to have arrived at the Pacific seaport of Mazatlan.

Two Spaniards and five Cubans are reported to have been expelled from Tampico. The men are alleged to be labor agitators.

SOUTHERN INCREASES WAGES.

Knoxville, Aug. 1.—The Southern Railway has granted wage increases to more than one thousand employees of the Coster shops. Machinists will receive an increase of 8 1-3 cents per hour; helpers 6 1-2 cents per hour, and apprentices 2 1-2 cents per hour.

WILL RESUME BATTLE WHEN THE CLOUDS LIFT

CONSOLIDATING POSITIONS AFTER DRIVE TUESDAY.

Teutons Sustained Extremely Heavy Losses as Result of Spectacular Offensive.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—Heavy rains which continued in an unceasing downpour since last night transforming the battle ground in Flanders into a sea of mud had forced a comparative lull in the operations this morning at most points within the zone of the entente allied offensive begun yesterday. Generally speaking, the situation early today was unchanged along the British front. Several German counter attacks were repulsed during the night and the heavy artillery continued, but the movement of big guns has been rendered most difficult by the rain. The German artillery today actively shelled the trenches which were wrested from them yesterday in "No Man's Land" about the salient and the British guns continued to pour a steady stream of shrapnel and high explosives into the positions to which the enemy had retired.

The air squadrons on both sides were rendered helpless by the storm to assist in the direction of artillery fire.

Changes Hands Often.

The section of the defenses of the Warneton-Gapaard road which was taken by the British in the first rush was the scene of heavy fighting during the night and the Germans succeeded in retaking it. The British however, delivered a strong counter attack and again drove the enemy out after sanguinary fighting.

Just to the north of the Ypres-Comines canal the Germans also launched a counter attack but were hurled back.

It has not yet been possible to count the prisoners, but it is known that they will run up in the thousands.

Many German Dead.

The conquered territory about the Ypres salient has yielded its details of the awful effect of the British artillery fire. The German bodies lie thick in many places and in instances too numerous to escape comment fully accounted soldiers were found turned away from the direction of the British indicating that they were retiring when struck down. Large numbers of the dead were mere youths, slight of build and physically unfitted to bear the strain of war.

Germany's Comment.

Most expressive was the comment made by a German officer who was found badly wounded in a shell hole. Addressing a British officer in excellent English and with a quiet smile, he said:

"Good morning, you see you have played the devil with our defenses. Your guns have been doing some good shooting."

Many German infantrymen fell victims to their own artillery at the outbreak of the entente attack, some of the observers here lost their view of the targets and in a confused, frenzied attempt to stem the onslaught the German gunners unwittingly dropped shells among their own men. Again stories are heard of German batteries being withdrawn without the knowledge of the infantry, leaving the latter to face attack without artillery protection.

CHARGED WITH DESERTION.

Sailor Wanted to be Sure to Fight.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 1.—Willis R. Taylor, a member of the navy, fearing that the vessel on which he sailed would not get into real action, deserted and came to Fort Oglethorpe, where he enlisted in the army. When arrested by secret service men, he declared his only excuse was that he wanted to fight Germany just as quick as possible and thought the army would offer him better opportunity to get to the firing line. Taylor was taken to Newport News under arrest.