

BRITISH SLAUGHTER HUNS AS MILLIONS STORM LINE

THINK OFFENSIVE MADE TO DECEIVE PEOPLE AT HOME

Washington Sees Camouflage
in Display of Strength
on West Front.

MILITARIST CONTROL DEPENDENT ON ACTION

Political Maneuvers Could
No Longer Be Made to
Appease Unrest.

Washington, March 24.—The German offensive, says the war department's weekly communique issued today, proves that the German militarists, no longer able to control the German people by political maneuver, have been forced to attempt a gigantic feat of arms to maintain their domination.

While the great attack has been able to make headway, no definite enveloping movement has been outlined, the communique says, and it would be premature to express opinions on the tactical phases with a combat situation inevitably changing in a battle of such magnitude.

"The assault launched by the Germans against the British front has reopened the fighting season in the west," says the communique.

To Hold Domination.
"This operation confirms to us that the German higher command, unable to control the strategic situation through political agencies, as has been unceasingly attempted during the past four months, has been forced to engage in a desperate military venture to retain its domination over the peoples of the central empires and, if possible, to force a victorious peace by the fortune of arms."

"The German attack began with a brief but overwhelming artillery bombardment with high explosive and gas shells, at dawn on March 21, in the rolling country north of the Oise, 94 miles northeast of Paris."

Austrian Divisions Present.
"From Croisilles, south of Vendeuil, a distance of 47 miles, the Germans concentrated this preliminary barrage in which a number of Austrian batteries participated."

"At the same time hostile artillery was active in the Ypres-La Bassée region."

"The German infantry divisions thereupon advanced to the attack along the flanks of the salient in front of Cambrai, furious fighting continuing on the northern flank between Croisilles, Bullecourt and Lagnicourt; on the southern, along the line Gouzencourt-Hargicourt-Leverguier, and extending across the Crozat canal to beyond La Fere."

No Enveloping Movement.

"The British forces are heavily engaged, and while the Germans have

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Captured Hun Declares Yankees Good Fighters

Prisoner Taken by American Patrol in No Man's Land Says
Germans Underfed and Morale at Low Ebb.

With the American Army in France, Saturday, March 23.—By the Associated Press.—The experience of a patrol of four Americans who, after crawling nearly a mile, surprised a German listening post and brought back a prisoner, were told today. The patrol was in command of a lieutenant. The lieutenant jumped on the German, who was so deeply engrossed in his duties of listening that he had not heard the approach of the Americans, while the others of the patrol went into the post.

U. S. Corporal Uses Bayonet.

The lieutenant and the German rolled into a trench filled with three feet of water. A second German attempted to shoot the lieutenant, but an American corporal drove his bayonet through him.

The patrol brought their prisoner back over the route they had taken to the post and when he came to describe his capture, the German said wonderingly:

"The first thing I knew a big American was on top of me and had me by the throat and next I was being hauled across No Man's Land."

Semmes Good Soldiers.

The intelligence officers gleaned from the prisoner that his comrades in arms were inspired to regard the

Huns Claim British Are Using Torch

Berlin, via London, March 24.—Paris has been bombed by German long-distance guns, according to the German official communique issued tonight.

MUCH BOOTY CAPTURED.
Enormous quantities of booty have been taken by the Germans, according to the statement, which follows:

"Between the Somme and the Oise, our corps are fighting their way forward. Chauny has been taken. Our booty in war material is enormous. The English in their retirement are burning French towns and villages."

FIGHT FOR BAPAUME.
"We have bombed the fortress of Paris with long distance guns."

"A gigantic struggle is taking place for Bapaume. A battle is in progress on the Transloy-Comblès-Maurepas line."

"The Somme has been crossed at many points in our attack between Peronne and Ham."

NEWS DEPRESSES BRITISH PEOPLE

Day in London One of Most
Anxious Since Retreat.
From Mons.

London, March 24.—The British people have experienced no other period of anxiety comparable with this week and since the days of the retreat from Mons, in August, 1914, when the fate of the small British army was undecided.

There was perfect spring weather today and all the streets and parks crowded, but solemnity and gravity prevailed everywhere, which even a stranger must have noticed. Men and women, and even children, were reading the newspapers and special editions, which printed the afternoon official reports, were bought as fast as the newspapers could supply them. The churches were filled and the day was one of anxious waiting.

The British people had not expected any marked retirement by the British army, although they had been warned that this would be a natural development of a great battle. Hence, the bulletins caused general depression. Toward night, it became known that the official view of the situation did not warrant such despondency.

The loss of guns was regarded as inevitable, but the British casualties are understood to be relatively small, considering the magnitude of the operation, so far as the report gave them. The participation of American soldiers in the battle was one of the most discussed features. Officials of the American embassy were asked for details, but they have none as yet.

Captured Hun Declares Yankees Good Fighters

Prisoner Taken by American Patrol in No Man's Land Says
Germans Underfed and Morale at Low Ebb.

Americans as good soldiers, who were fighting enthusiastically, as they had entered the war later. The food supplied to the Germans was poor, he said, and their morale was for the most part bad. His division came to this front from Bukovina.

Airplanes, with Americans at the guns, took part in a number of engagements today and numerous German machines were driven back to their own lines.

No Offensive Against Americans.

With the American Army in France, Saturday, March 23.—By the Associated Press.—A prisoner taken in the American sector when questioned today, said that no offensive was planned by the Germans in this sector. "All we want is to be left alone," he declared.

Every man of the American front is anxiously awaiting news regarding the German offensive and momentarily expecting to hear that the British have won a victory. The American snipers have been exceedingly active during the day. They picked off a considerable number of the enemy, some of whom were seen to wince and pitch from the parapet into their own trenches. Others were seen to drop in their tracks as the American sharpshooters' bullets hit them.

STRANGE CANNON SHELLS FAIL TO FRIGHTEN PARIS

Populace Soon Accustomed
to Regular Explosion
of New Bombs.

MONSTER 76 MILES FROM CITY'S CENTER

Newspapers Speculate as to
Mechanism of Aerial
Projectiles.

Paris, March 24.—The German "monster cannon" which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the forest of St. Gobain, west of Lezay and exactly 122 kilometers (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall.

The gun bombarded Paris during the greater part of Sunday. The day was ushered in by loud explosions from the 10-inch shells and immediately the alarm to take to cover was sounded. This occurred at 6:55 o'clock and many persons sought shelter, but greater numbers of them appeared in the streets on their way to the churches, which were almost as well filled as usual. The women who sell palm leaves on Palm Sundays did their usual thriving business.

Fail to Frighten.

At first the shells began arriving at intervals of 20 minutes and the detonations, considering the Sunday calm, seemed louder than those of Saturday. Their power to disturb the equanimity of the populace, however, seemed less, the people refusing to be distracted from their Sunday habits to any great extent. For the benefit of that portion of the populace which had been led to believe the Germans had broken through the line and were bombarding Paris from nearby positions, a semi-official note was issued during the day. This warned the people against believing pessimistic reports.

"The French front is intact," said the note. "Any assertion to the contrary is a lie."

Firing Ceases.
The bombardment of the capital ended around one o'clock and as late as 3 o'clock no explosions had been heard for more than an hour. The "clear" signal was sounded at 3:30 o'clock.

Although during the earlier hours of the bombardment the shells arrived on 20-minute intervals, later in the day they began arriving every 15 minutes on the average, and some of them even fell 12 minutes apart.

In military circles the belief was expressed that the Germans were using two long distance guns. The Matin says the position of one of the guns was established in the St. Gobain forest, which would place it somewhat further south than had been believed in the wooded area. This position would be about 75 miles from Paris.

Will Warn Populace.

The government has decided that in the future the bombardment of Paris by long distance guns shall not interrupt the normal life of the capital, but that the populace shall be warned of a bombardment by distinctive means, differing from the usual warnings sent out in cases of air raids. Drums will be beaten and the police will sound whistles.

The newspapers do not conceal their admiration for the mechanical feat of the Germans in constructing their new weapon, but speak passionately of the useless barbarity of the bombardment. The Matin says it is consoling to note that the number of victims is small, but it asks for reprisals on German cities.

Tungsten for Steel.

Professor Paul Painleve, former premier and president of the Academy of Sciences, told the Excelsior that by using tungsten in the fabrication of the projectile the tungsten shells would be of about half the diameter of steel shells of an even weight, and that therefore the atmospheric resistance would be less, this accounting for the extremely long range. He also touched upon the possibility of a propeller being employed on the projectile.

\$4,000 Per Shot.

The newspaper Le Journal in its article regarding the gun, says it is of 249 millimeters caliber and of Austrian manufacture. It is a very delicate piece of machinery, which must be handled by expert mathematicians and gunners, the newspaper adds, as

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Facts to Date of Huns' Drive on West Front

More than 1,000,000 German soldiers are engaged in the great offensive.

The British main army has not yet been involved; chosen shock troops have gallantly repulsed the Hun attack, inflicting fearful casualties upon the massed enemy.

Berlin claims the capture of 30,000 men and 600 guns since the offensive was started. German casualties have not been estimated, but undoubtedly reach six figures.

German reports that American troops have been met and defeated are discredited by Washington. No American units have been involved in the attack.

The offensive extends along a 50-mile front, and has penetrated the British line to a depth ranging from two or three to a dozen miles.

German prisoner declares that this attack is the Kaiser's last "do or die" effort, and harder fighting is expected in the Huns' desperate attempt to achieve their aim of breaking the line.

Field Marshal Haig planned a withdrawal months in advance, choosing to yield ground in exchange for the frightful damage inflicted upon the enemy.

Fifty-four German airplanes participating in the attack have been brought down.

HUN TRANSPORT STRIKES MINE; ALL ABOARD LOST

London, March 24.—Finlanders arriving at Stockholm on the gunboat Svenskund, say that the German transport Frankland struck a mine and sank at Moorland, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Stockholm. The transport was crowded with soldiers, cannon and munitions, and according to the dispatch, the entire crew, all of the soldiers and Admiral von Meyer, were lost. A Stockholm dispatch dated March 22, said that another German transport had been blown up by a mine near the Aland island and that the transport Frankland, which came to its rescue, was damaged severely by another explosion.

The Weather

Forecast—Partly cloudy Monday with probable showers west of the divide; Tuesday generally fair and cooler.

LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.

Maximum 58 Minimum 31
At 6 a. m. 34 At 5 p. m. 51

The year's most nearly perfect example of spring weather filled highways and byways yesterday, and incidentally gave to Palm Sunday an unusually festive appearance. It was a glorious day.

FROM OTHER POINTS.

City	Min.	Max.
Bismarck	62	68
Huron	62	68
Moorehead	59	65
St. Paul	52	58
Denver	69	79
Helena	65	68
Helena	66	68
Spokane	64	68
Calgary	58	64
Edmonton	42	48
Medicine Hat	62	68
Winnipeg	46	52

Kansas City's Sympathetic Strike Postponed 48 Hours

Kansas City, Mo., March 25.—The general sympathetic strike called for all union labor in Kansas City for 5 o'clock this morning has been postponed 48 hours, it was announced by union leaders early today.

Haig Carries Out Plan of Retreat; Attack Continues

London, March 24.—In the face of slaughtering fire hurled from artillery, machine guns and rifles behind the carefully prepared British defenses, the German hordes are still desperately storming the 50-mile front chosen for their supreme offensive.

Covered by chosen shock troops, whose resistance has been one of the most gallant events in the whole war, the main British army has been withdrawing in good order, according to preconceived plans, letting the vast German armies shatter themselves against a series of strong defenses.

The Kaiser and the crown prince, under whose eyes the desperate German venture is being made, are hurling their men against the British line without regard for lives, and the slaughter has been frightful. In close formation the Germans, more than a million of whom are engaged in this battle, the greatest in the world's history, have surged forward, gaining slowly at a staggering cost in blood.

Along most of the front tonight the British lines are holding firm, the enemy having spent his strength. At salient points where the advance is still powerful, the British have given ground slowly, exacting a fearful price in lives from a foe whose line of communication becomes more tenuous as his strength ebbs under the Tommies' withering fire.

The withdrawal was planned long ago in event of a great attack. Field Marshal Haig's strategy has been to retire while shock troops in comparatively small numbers manure the oncoming Germans.

NO CONFIRMATION THAT U. S. TROOPS WERE IN BATTLE

Washington Not Advised of
Sammees' Participation
in Great Struggle.

Washington, March 24.—No confirmation of German reports that American troops have participated in the fight on the British front had reached the war department up to a late hour tonight. Major General March, acting chief of staff, who remained at his office much of the day and night, said that no advice to this effect had been received.

May Be Engineers.

It was recalled that American railway engineers in training at the British front were involved in the German counter attack on the Cambrai front some months ago, but there has been nothing to indicate that any other than engineers or other special units have been employed at any time with the British forces.

Officials Keenly Interested.

Officials generally displayed the most eager interest in every item of news as to the German drive. The government may have received some confidential advice from General Pershing on the situation, but General March said nothing was to be given out when he left his office. Other officers pointed out that any information as to British or French operations must be made public by the officials of those countries and that whatever General Pershing may have transmitted would be regarded as confidential in the extreme.

The intense interest in press reports displayed by President Wilson himself indicates that official information was meagre. The associated Press dispatches were transmitted to him during the evening.

Second Phase of Battle.

The official British and German reports were taken here as showing that a second phase of the great battle had begun and was continuing throughout the day with no decisive results. It was evident that the British second defensive system was being severely tested by German attacks, though no details were transmitted which would permit military officials to estimate the scope of successes claimed by the Germans and to some extent admitted by the British. It appeared, however, that the British line in general was still intact at the close of day.

OPEN OREGON LANDS.

Washington, March 24.—Opening to entry of about 300,000 acres of land classified as agricultural in Jackson and Josephine counties, Ore., has been approved by Secretary Lane. These lands are a part of what are known as the Oregon and California railroad grant lands.

ALLIES VIEW SITUATION HOPEFULLY.

With the British Army in France, March 24.—By the Associated Press.—The British and French, who co-operate at the junction of the two armies, are viewing the trend of the German offensive with optimistic eyes. Hard fighting was in progress, but the latest reports showed little or no change in the situation in favor of the enemy since yesterday, while on the other hand the defenders had pushed the attacking forces back after a bitter struggle and were holding strongly along the whole new front to which they had withdrawn.

Fighting of a most desperate nature has been continuous since the initial attack, but so far the British have used few troops other than those which are holding the front lines.

More than 50 German divisions already have been identified by actual contact and many of these men were simply given two days' iron rations and sent over the top into the frightful maelstrom made by the allied guns.

The British losses have been within the bounds expected, due to the tactics of the commanders. The allies have lost a considerable number of men in prisoners and a certain number of guns. But very few pieces of artillery have been taken by the Germans since the first day. In fact, the whole withdrawal has been executed in a masterly manner, showing how thoroughly the British had planned for the very events which have occurred.

There is every reason to believe that harder fighting than has yet taken place will develop shortly. The Germans in the British view, cannot now hesitate in carrying out their attack, and it is a case of break through or admit defeat. In this circumstance it is interesting to note a statement made yesterday by a German officer, a prisoner, who declared that the German offensive was an act of desperation, brought on by the fact that the fatherland must have peace. However, the British take such assertions at their face value and are proceeding accordingly.

MAIN BRITISH ARMY INTACT.

The main British army, it is declared, has been conserved, and up to the present very few counter attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the Germans' newly acquired positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to the German artillery and infantry more and more difficult and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, so far as he may, wear himself out against a powerful defense.

On the battle line in France the sanguinary struggle still is going on with the British troops on most sectors apparently holding their own, but with the Germans at salient points still pressing forward.

The town of Chauny, southwest of St. Quentin, situated on the road to Compiègne, the gateway to Paris, has been occupied by the Germans and, according to the Berlin official communications, everywhere between the Somme and the Oise rivers the Germans are pressing their advantage.

Throughout Sunday, along the entire 50-mile battle front the fighting never ceased and where Field Marshal Haig's men were unable to withstand the terrific onslaughts delivered by greatly superior forces, ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

More Than Million Germans.

It has been definitely ascertained

54 AIRPLANES LOST BY HUNS

London, March 24.—According to an official report announced this evening on the aerial operations since the start of the German offensive against the British in France, 54 hostile airplanes have been brought to earth by the allies.

that considerably more than a million Germans have been brought to the western front in an endeavor to crush the British army holding the line from the region of Arras to the south of St. Quentin, but it daily becomes increasingly evident that the enemy in his drive has met with opposition, not counted upon, and been unable to realize the full his objective.

In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of Peronne and Ham and to have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 30,000, in addition to 200 guns and large stores of war material.

Huns Say Yankees Were

It is claimed also by the Germans

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