

WEATHER FORECAST.  
Rain to-day; fair to-morrow; moderate, shifting winds.  
Highest temperature yesterday, 52; lowest, 32.  
Detailed weather reports on last page.

# BRITISH DRIVEN BACK IN TERRIFIC BATTLE; AMERICAN TROOPS TAKING A PART IN FIGHT; GERMANS CROSS SOMME; CAPTURE PERONNE; BERLIN SAYS BIG GUNS BOMBARDED PARIS

## GUN SHELLING PARIS LOCATED 76 MILES AWAY

Monster, Believed to Be in Forest Near Laon, Likely of Austrian Make.

### MAY USE PROPELLERS

Tires Tungsten Projectiles, Half Size of Steel, Is Expert's Idea.

### Long Range Guns Shell Paris Fort, Says Berlin

BERLIN, via London, March 24.—Official announcement that Paris has been bombed by German guns is made in tonight's statement of the War Office as follows:

We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long distance guns.

### By the Associated Press.

PARIS, March 24.—The German "monster cannon," which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the Forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, and exactly 122 kilometers (approximately seventy-six miles) from Paris (City Hall).

The gun bombarded Paris the greater part of today. It was ushered in by loud explosions from the ten inch shells, and immediately, at 8:55 o'clock, the alarm to take cover was sounded. 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 Sunday did their usual thriving business.

At first the shells began arriving at intervals of twenty minutes, and the detonations, considering the Sunday calm, seemed louder than those of Saturday. Their power to disturb the equanimity of the people was not, however, to be ascertained from their Sunday habits to any great extent.

### People Feared Line Had Broken.

For the benefit of that portion of the populace which had been led to believe the Germans had broken through the line and were bombing Paris from nearby positions a semi-official note was issued during the day. This assured the people against believing personal reports.

"The French front is intact," said the note. "Any assertion to the contrary is entirely unfounded."

The bombardment of the capital ended around 1 o'clock, and as late as 2 o'clock no explosions had been heard for more than an hour. The clear sky was sounded at 3:20 o'clock.

### Subways Resume Traffic.

In the early hours of the morning the streets of Paris were shut down or curtailed, but before noon both the subways and tramways began running again. In the afternoon the streets of the city showed great animation.

During the day large numbers of persons unable to obtain means of transportation to take them to their destinations, walked in order that they might not miss their appointments. As is usual with street warnings are sounded, and members of the populace sought shelter in the subways and in basements of houses.

The Government has decided that in the course of the bombardment of Paris by long distance guns should not interrupt the normal life of the capital, but that the population shall be warned of a bombardment by distinctive means, differing from the usual warnings sent out in case of air raids. Drums will be used, and the police will sound whistles. The public services, the trains and the subways, the tramways and the automobile buses will continue to be operated normally.

The new warning is to be known as the "bombardment of Paris" and will consist of a series of whistles, except in the case of air raids, when the whistles will be blown. The whistles will be blown in a rapid succession, and will be followed by a single trumpet and the ringing of church bells.

### Bombardment Howlers Paris.

The bombardment of Paris by long distance guns has been described as a "terrific battle" taking on the character of a "war of attrition." The bombardment was of considerable intensity, and the feasibility of the performance was demonstrated.

## "Battle Has Been Won," Emperor Wires Empress

AMSTERDAM, March 24.—The German Empress, says a Berlin official despatch, has received the following telegram from Emperor William:

I am pleased to be able to tell you that, by the grace of God, the battle by Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won. The Lord has gloriously aided. May He further help.

The Berlin Tageblatt says that when Field Marshal von Hindenburg received the first telegram reporting on the offensive, he remarked to Emperor William:

Well, your Majesty, I think we may be well pleased with this initial success.

The newspaper adds that the date for the offensive was fixed long ago and began at exactly the time set, even to the hour.

## STRAIGHT LINE FIRST OBJECT

Preliminary Bombardment of Less Duration Than Was Expected.

### CAMBRAI PLAN COPIED

Correspondent Sends Vivid Picture of Early Stages of Great Battle.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, March 23 (delayed).—Hampilton Effe, telegraphing to the Daily Mail on Thursday evening from British headquarters in France, says:

"For some days it has been known that the German attack was to be launched March 21. Sure enough at 5 o'clock the enemy batteries began a heavy bombardment all along the front from near the little river Scarpe, which runs east and north of Arras to the end of our line on the river Oise. This is something like sixty miles.

"An enormous number of guns had been assembled for shelling the preliminary advance, but this was not of long duration. In a very few hours it seemed that the first move in the much discussed engagement had been made and that one of the enemy's objectives was to straighten his front in the region west and southwest of Cambrai.

"The German right attacked near Croisilles, Bullecourt and Lamcourt and there was hard fighting in a brick field near the first of these villages.

### Attack at Many Points.

"German waves flowed down the hill from their positions on Croisilles in a hollow below, but they suffered severely as they came. Along the Bapaume-Cambrai road the enemy attacked also, then toward Gouzeaucourt, a name made familiar in the second phase of the battle of Cambrai, while their left wing was pushed in the direction of Ronvoy and Pargny.

"On our front the area of attack juts out in a salient. If the enemy could pinch off his salient and run his line straight on an angle of our front instead of having to run it at an angle, first north and then west, he would be able to hold it with fewer troops. Also by pinching off he would hope to surround and capture a number of our men. These, it seems plain, are the aims with which he set out on the first phase of his offensive.

"He was trying to repeat on a larger scale the operation by which he won back some of the ground which we gained in the battle of Cambrai. Then toward Gouzeaucourt a name made familiar in the second phase of the battle of Cambrai, while their left wing was pushed in the direction of Ronvoy and Pargny.

### Continued on Second Page.

## Smokers Help Two War Funds To-day

FIVE per cent. of the gross receipts in all of the Schulte Cigar Stores to-day is to be given to the New York Catholic War Fund.

Lay in a supply of smokes sufficient to last for several days. Deposit the certificates you receive with your purchases in THE SUN Tobacco Fund boxes.

Thus you will help two patriotic projects, each of which promotes the comfort and welfare of our soldiers at the front.

WARNING! THE SUN Tobacco Fund has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

## GERMAN REPORT OF U. S. DEFEAT NOT CONFIRMED

Gen. March Says Pershing's Despatches Are Merely Weekly Summary.

### WAVES INQUIRERS ASIDE

Acting Secretary Crowell Asserts He Has No Tidings of American Reverse.

### Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—In the face of the official German announcement that American troops, brought up with French and Canadians to reinforce the British right wing, had been beaten and driven back at Chauny, the War Department adopted tonight an air of mysterious silence. The German announcement, which was the first indication that Americans had become involved in the drive, stirred Washington to its depths. Confirmation of the report was impossible to get owing to the absolute silence of Gen. Peyton C. March, the Chief of Staff.

Gen. March, apparently laboring under great stress, arrived at his office early in the evening and locked himself in. It had been understood that he was to see the newspaper men and give them a summary of Gen. Pershing's despatches at 8:30 o'clock. A large crowd had been in the office, but admittance was refused. Not a word came from Gen. March until 10:30 o'clock, when he opened the door and waved his hand to newspaper reporters and strode rapidly down the hall.

### Conflict of Statements.

This statement conflicted absolutely with that given out earlier from Acting Secretary Crowell's office, which made it clear that the despatch from Gen. Pershing had been of such importance that it was at once transmitted to the White House. After examining the report the statement of Gen. March was confirmed. Acting Secretary Crowell said that he had received the report of Gen. Pershing's statement of the German War Office that American troops had been brought up from the southwest to support the British and had been defeated.

Mr. Crowell received his first word of this report from THE SUN at his home. "Had such a thing happened I believe I would have heard of it," he said, "consequently I am not inclined to give it credence."

It is understood that in addition to despatches from Gen. Pershing a despatch from Gen. Bliss also arrived during the day. Gen. Pershing had been requested early this morning by Gen. March to send a daily report and was asked also for information regarding the report of the bombardment of Paris. Whether or not to-day's despatches were in answer to these requests could not be learned because of the silence maintained by Gen. March.

### Absence of Daily News.

The absence of anything like a daily communication from the American headquarters has become a matter of comment here now that American troops have been engaged and are being mentioned invidiously in the German official reports.

Chauny, where the Americans are reported to have participated, is eight miles from La Fere and six miles west of the original battle line. It is 125 miles from the American sector north of Toul.

While there has been no official mention of American troops near La Fere, it was learned to-night that at yesterday's war council the presence of an American unit within twenty miles of La Fere was admitted.

It is presumed that the Americans formed part of the reserve troops called upon to fight rear guard actions with the enemy long enough to delay his progress for the accomplishment of some purpose on the Allies' side. The Americans may therefore have carried out their object against the advancing Germans and valiantly sacrificed lives to stay the advance. But the only mention of American troops in the German report is the German statement that the Americans were beaten and driven back.

### Air of Confidence.

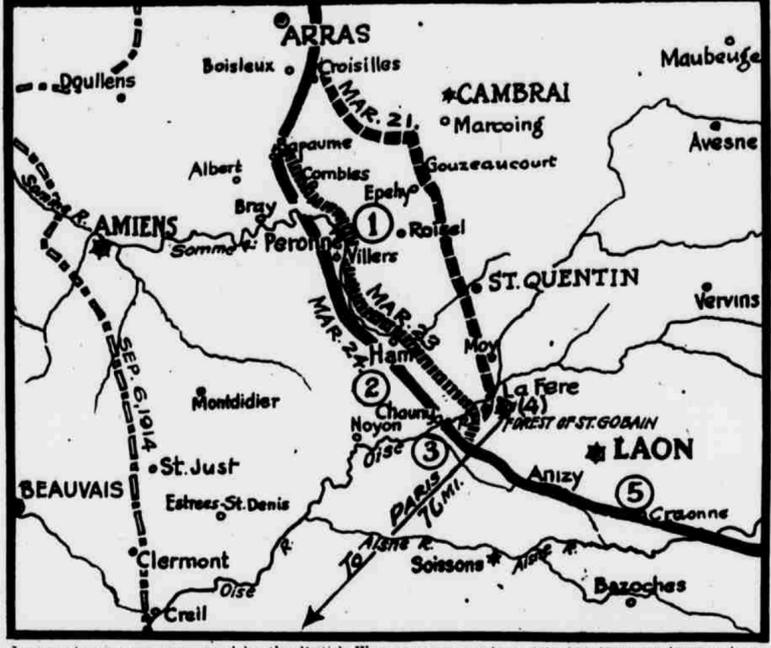
There was still an air of confidence at the War Department to-day based largely upon the reports of the good order displayed by the British in their retirement. This was reflected both at the British and French embassies, where it was repeated that there was nothing apparently alarming in the situation.

At the French Embassy confidence was largely based on an official despatch received from Paris early in the morning. The despatch follows:

"The German offensive continues between Croisilles and Tergnier with very

### Continued on Second Page.

## WHERE GERMANS ARE ADVANCING.



Increased gains are announced by the British War Office as the fighting on the present offensive in France grows in intensity. Peronne (1) and Ham (2) are reported by Berlin as captured by the Germans. It appears that the Germans have made their largest gain between St. Quentin and Ham, a distance of approximately 11 1/2 miles. At Chauny (3) Berlin says the Germans have defeated American troops who were brought up with the French to reinforce the British front. The nearest American forces were on the Aisne front in the Chemin des Dames sector (5). Paris reports that the big German gun which has been shelling the city has been located in St. Gobain forest, 76 miles away.

## Text of Official Statements

LONDON, March 24.—Following are the official reports of the fighting on the western front:

German night and day attacks on 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.

We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long distance guns. A gigantic struggle is taking place for Bapaume. A battle is in progress on the Transloy-Combles-Maurepas line.

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

German (day)—The battle near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won.

The British Third and Fourth armies and portions of Franco-American reserves which have been brought up were beaten, and on the line of Bapaume-Bouchesvenne and behind the Somme, between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny, were repulsed with the heaviest of losses.

The army of Gen. von Below (Dito) took by storm Monchy height and south thereof carried forward the attack in a westerly direction beyond Wancourt and Henin. It is now engaged in a fight northwest of Bapaume for the third enemy positions. Strong British counter attacks were repulsed.

The army of Gen. von Dermar-Witz, following upon the heels of the vanquished enemy, pressed forward in close pursuit during the night as far as the third enemy position in the Equancourt-Nurlu-Temploux-La Fosse Bernes line.

### Attacking German Armies Form Junction.

Early yesterday morning they renewed their attack against the enemy and defeated him in spite of his desperate defence and continual counter attacks. A junction with the left wing of the attack of Gen. von Below was effected.

Between Manancourt and Peronne the troops of Gen. von Katten and von Gotard have forced a crossing over the Tortille sector and on the Somme battlefields are fighting around Bouchesvenne. Peronne has fallen. Other divisions have pressed forward to the south thereof as far as the Somme.

As early as Friday evening the army of Gen. von Hutier, pressing slowly forward, took by storm the third enemy position, broke through it and compelled the enemy to retire.

In ceaseless pursuit the corps of Gen. von Luttwitz and von Oettinge have reached the Somme.

Ham fell, after a desperate fight, into the hands of our victorious troops. English reserves, which were thrown against them in a desperate attack, sustained sanguinary losses.

The corps of Gen. von Weber and von Conte and the troops of Gen. von Geyl, after a fierce battle, crossed the Crozat Canal.

troops of all the German races exerted their utmost. The attacking spirit of the infantry could not have been exceeded. It has shown what German bravery can accomplish.

Light, heavy and the heaviest artillery and mine throwers, unceasingly pressing forward over crater fields, especially contributed to the support of the infantry attack, which continuously pressed forward. Flame throwers took their part of pioneers in the fight, as in their ordinary work, and maintained the old traditions.

Aviators and balloons brought valuable information to the command. Our chasing and battle balloons, accustomed to victory, maintained in hard fighting mastery in the air and attacked the retreating enemy columns. Motor troop columns and trains worked incessantly.

Points of communication in the rear of the enemy were the objectives of our bombing squadrons, who have been active every night.

Our captures have increased to over 30,000 prisoners and 600 guns. On many of the remaining points of the western front artillery battles and reconnoitering engagements have continued.

British (night)—Fresh hostile attacks developed this morning in great strength on the whole battle front, and they have continued throughout the day.

South of Peronne the enemy succeeded after heavy fighting in crossing the River Somme at certain points. These are being dealt with.

North of Peronne enemy attacks were directed with greatest violence against the line of the River Tortille (a tributary of the Somme). Our troops on this portion of the battle front have been withdrawn and are fighting in new positions.

Further north repeated assaults by large bodies of German infantry have been repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy. In this fighting the Seventeenth and Fortieth divisions greatly distinguished themselves, beating off many hostile attacks.

### Haig Reports His Troops Holding Line.

British (day)—There has been no material change in the situation on the battle front during the night, although further fighting has taken place at a number of points.

Our troops are holding the line of the Somme River to Peronne. Small parties of the enemy which endeavored to cross in the neighborhood of Pargny were driven back.

On our right we are in touch with the French, and to the north of the River Somme at Peronne our troops hold their positions, after beating off a number of attacks on different portions of this front during the early part of the night.

Heavy fighting is still to be expected. French (night)—There was intermittent artillery activity north of the Chemin des Dames. Artillery engagements, sometimes violent, occurred in Champagne, in the region of the Monts, on the right bank of the Meuse, between Courrieres Wood and Bezonvaux and at Hartmannswillerkopf.

French (day)—German troops, after a violent bombardment, undertook a surprise attack to the south of Juvincourt, but quite without success.

There has been fairly spirited artillery fighting in the region of La Fere Wood, in the Vosges not far from La Fontenelle and at Hartmannswillerkopf.

Enemy Employing Million Troops in Effort to Break the British Line—Is Sacrificing Them by Thousands.

## RETIREMENT OF HAIG CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO PREARRANGED PLAN

Fighting Continues Heavily at all Points, With No Indication of a Letup—Berlin Now Reports 30,000 Captives.

### Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 24.—The situation on the battlefield in France to-night is that one-half of the territory wrested from or given up by the Germans since July, 1916, is now again in their hands as a result of the four days fighting.

In the terrific struggle for Bapaume on the Transloy-Combles-Maurepas line they are at the last named town, within four miles of the battlefield in 1916. The British, in falling back now, are traversing the old battlefield.

The Germans assert that they have crossed the Somme and have taken Peronne, but the British do not admit it. Berlin also reports that the Germans have taken a total of 30,000 prisoners and 600 guns since the present offensive opened, and claims success generally for the Kaiser's armies.

### American Troops Are Engaged.

According to the afternoon German official statement American troops have suffered their first defeat on the battle front in a sanguinary conflict near Chauny. The Berlin statement says that the American troops, who had been brought up from the southwest for a counter attack to prevent the Germans from crossing the Crozat Canal, were thrown back in a southwesterly direction on Chauny.

This is the first official intimation that the American troops have been engaged in the present battle, although it was announced officially last night that Gen. Petain was co-operating with the British to resist the German drive.

The morale of the troops continues excellent, the correspondents at the front report, despite the four days of strenuous fighting and the reserve of artillery is ample to replace what was lost. They intimate that the British are about ready to begin the second round in the world's greatest battle, in which, Gen. Haig predicted, heavy fighting is still to be expected.

### Lay of Ground Aids Enemy.

The German advance has been materially aided by the favorable condition of the ground, which is not cut up by artillery fire and shell holes, but has many good roads, which facilitated the rapid bringing up of the guns on the heels of their infantry and afforded an opportunity for the effective use of cavalry.

The most serious loss to the British in their withdrawal was the abandonment of stores, munitions and supplies between St. Quentin and the Somme, especially at Roisel, Bernes, Hancourt, Athies and Vaux. The ground here is most favorable for transport, so much so that it is unnecessary to use the roads as the artillery and auto trucks are able to cross the fields over the undulating ground.

### Battle Rages With Greatest Fury.

LONDON, March 24.—The fiercest kind of fighting, both by infantry and artillery, continued all day to-day without the slightest intermission on the whole front from near Arras to below St. Quentin, but in the centre of that long stretch of fifty miles it reached a concentration of fury never before attained in this war. It has been definitely ascertained that the Germans are using more than 1,000,000 men and they are exhibiting an absolute disregard of losses which is appalling.

The British are fighting desperately to hold their lines, but are giving ground almost everywhere under the avalanche of German troops. Berlin reports that Ham and Peronne have been taken, and the heaviest fighting of the day is now in progress before Bapaume; the German report to-night calls it a "gigantic struggle."

These three towns were regarded by the British as the heart of their new defence line along the Somme. Their loss is a serious blow and the Germans have not been slow to follow up their success, but already have crossed the river at many points between Ham and Peronne.

### Resistance Stronger Than Expected.

Field Marshal Haig in his report to-night says that the Germans who succeeded in crossing the Somme are being dealt with. Despite the recession of the British lines and the loss of important towns it is clear that the resistance encountered by the Germans is much stronger than they expected and that they have been unable to realize so far their objectives.

Gen. Haig reports that north of Peronne the attacks were directed with the greatest violence against the line of the River Tortille, a tributary of the Somme, where the British troops were finally withdrawn and are fighting in new positions. Ber-

## GERMAN TRANSPORT SUNK.

Frankland Reported to Have Struck Mine in Baltic.

LONDON, March 24.—Finland's arrival in Stockholm on the gunboat Sveuskund says that the German transport Frankland struck a mine and sank at Noorland, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Stockholm. The transport was crowded with soldiers, cannon and munitions and, according to the despatch, the entire crew,

all of the soldiers and Admiral von Meyer were lost.

A Stockholm despatch dated March 22 said that another German transport had been blown up by a mine near the Aland Islands and that the transport Frankland, which came up to its rescue, was damaged severely by another explosion.

### Amiens Official Under Arrest.

PARIS, March 22 (delayed).—The director of the Municipal Laboratory at Amiens was arrested this morning. It is reported a wireless apparatus was found in his home.

## FOE PROTESTS TO ARGENTINA

President Irigoyen Refuses to Aid American Supply Ship.

Buenos Aires, March 24.—The German newspapers, German citizens and such German officials as are left here are protesting vigorously to the Argentine Government against permitting an American supply ship to remain here or load meats for the American fleet.

President Irigoyen, however, has informed Ambassador Stimson that the vessel may remain in port as long as may be necessary.

This Is a Wheatless Day