

American Soldiers Reported Captured in Fighting in Region About Cambrai

U. S. TROOPS CAPTURED BY FOE IN DRIVE AT CAMBRAI

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Dec. 5.—British guns today smashed great groups of Germans massed for attack in the direction of Villers Plouich before the German attacking machine could get under way. Otherwise there was a lull over practically the whole of the Cambrai sector today, so far as infantry actions were concerned.

By J. W. PEGLER. United Press Staff Correspondent. AMERICAN FIELD HEADQUARTERS, France, Dec. 5.—German troops fighting around Cambrai have captured a few Americans, according to unofficial word received today from the British front. Headquarters has issued no confirmation as yet.

If the news is true, it is stated on authority that the number of Americans taken was small. The American headquarters has not as yet received a report of the Cambrai fighting, in which American army engineers participated. No announcement of casualties is yet available.

AMERICAN WAR MISSION PLEASED AT EFFICIENCY OF U. S. TROOPS AT FRONT

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 5.—"I am highly pleased with the efficiency shown by the Americans," said Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the United States army, who accompanied the American mission to field headquarters of the American army in France to view the men at work. General Bliss and others of the American mission had just watched the Americans go through a series of stiff war exercises in which they showed keenness, determination, and spirit.

General Bliss continued: "Personally I knew the men were in splendid shape, but I wanted the mission to see them."

Admiral W. S. Benson, chief of American naval operations, made a similar statement. Lord Northcliffe, who accompanied the Americans, said he was very much pleased with the impression his first visit to the American camp had given him.

"But you must excuse me from further comment," added the British peer. "You see, I am the guest of General Pershing."

Real War Thrills. Real war thrills were given to the day when American artillerymen who were working a battery of French seventy-five (three-inch) guns began throwing shells over the heads of the visitors. There was not the slightest danger, but some of the members of the party, especially the wives of some of the commissioners, were visibly nervous at first, as the screaming shells swept through the sky.

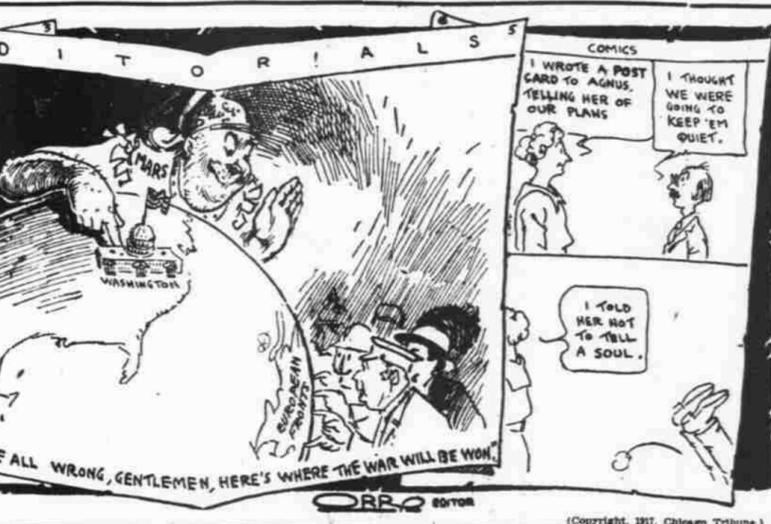
All members of the American mission save Vance McCormick and Dr. Alton Taylor were in the visiting party. Extensive regimental maneuvers were staged for the benefit of the visitors, all of whom showed the keenest interest. Both aeroplanes and artillery took part in the "war games," and in addition there were



THE TINY TIMES. The World's Smallest Newspaper. VOL. I. NO. 207. PARTY PRODUCE. CHECK HATS HERE. OUTSIDE.



EDITORIALS. IF I CAN JUST BEAT THE ALLIES BEFORE AMERICA ARRIVES. YOU'RE ALL WRONG, GENTLEMEN, HERE'S WHERE THE WAR WILL BE WON. THE BIG IF IN LIFE.



COMICS. I WROTE A POST CARD TO AGNUS, TELLING HER OF OUR PLANS. I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO KEEP 'EM QUIET. I TOLD HER NOT TO TELL A SOUL. ORR EDITOR. (Copyright, 1917, Chicago Tribune.)

NEW STIMULUS TO ITALIANS LIKELY AS RESULT OF MESSAGE

By DAVID LAWRENCE. (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.) settlement based on equity and justice, an influence that will be more potent in Rome now than if America had stood aloof from Italy in her hour of distress—these are the reasons which appear to have brought Mr. Wilson to his decision to make war on Austria.

Colonel House o doubt gave him the information on which he based his judgment. But in every sense of the word the act was individual—Mr. Wilson alone took this great step. The remarkable thing is that the President without submitting his message to a single adviser approximated so well the wishes of the country. So great indeed is the confidence in him here that eve though he gave only vague reasons for wanting a declaration of war against Austria, legislators were prepared to accept his judgment as based on absolute necessity and reasons which it would be indelicate or impolitic for him to discuss. The fact is that throughout Austria-Hungary, German troops are scattered. German officers command Austrian regiments. The Vienna government is managed from Berlin. Austria is indebted to an incalculable extent to Germany for military aid. The dual monarchy has become a vassal state. Wherever the German general staff orders her armies there must they go. They may be on the Italian front one month, or attacking American forces on the French front the next month.

Many Acts of War. Acts of war plenty have been committed by Austrian submarines against American citizens and American property on the high seas. Only the patience of the United States and reasons of state which have not yet been revealed caused this country not to take the same step against Austria that was taken in April against Germany.

But it is for the moral effect of the President's action that eyes are now turned to Europe. To the Austrians and Hungarians, Mr. Wilson has outlined a condemnation of the militarism that led them into the war, has declared an unrelenting purpose to crush that militarism by making war against the two principal members of the Teutonic alliance, but he holds out also the fundamentals of a just and equitable peace as a temptation to them to cast off their present rulers and system and be welcomed again in the family of nations.

U. S. ASSURES SWISS TROOPS WON'T INTRUDE

A communication to the Swiss government affirming the intention of this country to respect the neutrality of Switzerland has been forwarded to Bern, it was learned here today. The assurance was in reply to statements emanating from Bern that the allies intended to turn the German line by invading the mountain republic. The members of the entente have sent similar assurances.

NEW SIBERIAN REPUBLIC MAY RECALL TROOPS

HAPARANDA, Dec. 5.—M. Potpin has been named premier of the new Siberian republic according to word received here today. He is expected to issue immediate orders for the recall of Siberian troops from the front.

BELLANS Absolutely Removes Indigestion. Druggists refund money if it fails. 25c

BOLSHEVIKI SEIZE \$300,000,000 GOLD OF NATIONAL FUNDS

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The Bolsheviki, despite the general belief that their tenure of government is precarious and necessarily will be brief, have acquired some material advantages recently, not the least of which is that they now have the sinews of war, says a copyright dispatch to the New York Sun.

Efforts of the officials of the National Bank to defend its coffers against the designs of the government resulted in failure, and the keys have been delivered to Commissioner Obolensky. The vaults of the Moscow branch, containing a gold reserve of \$300,000,000, already are in the hands of the Bolsheviki officials, and other portions of the gold reserve deposited in branches in country towns doubtless will meet a similar fate.

FOUR 'DRY' CITIES OF BAY STATE ARE GAINED BY 'WETS'

BOSTON, Dec. 5.—The "wet" forces of Massachusetts are today celebrating their gains of yesterday. Springfield remained "wet" by a majority of 2,255 votes; Fall River, Pittsburg, Haverhill and Taunton were changed from "dry" to "wet" by substantial majorities. Leominster, dry eighteen out of twenty years, was saved to the dries by only twelve votes. A recount will be asked.

A hard fight had been made by the prohibition forces in all the four cities, particularly in Springfield, and up to the very last day before the actual voting the "dry" forces claimed that they would win by a safe majority.

In all nineteen Massachusetts cities showed material gains for the "wets," a big increase being shown in the license vote over last year.

'CLUB THE GERMANS,' IS WAR CRY OF TAFT

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—William H. Taft, former President of the United States, continues his broadside blows against the Germans in an address before the American Society of Mechanical Engineers here, he declared that "since we are in the war, we must contribute not only money and foodstuffs, but also man power."

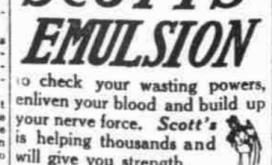
"We must fight to separate the German people from their ruler, and I guess the only way we can do that is to hit them over the head with a club."

FIRST ICE SKATER OF SEASON IS DROWNED

PORT HURON, Mich., Dec. 5.—James Beergeon, seventeen, of St. Clair, lost his life in the first ice skating accident of the season on Belle River this noon. His chum, Elden Rose, fourteen, also broke through the thin ice, but was dragged from the water by Charles and Basisk, who tossed him a rope.

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EUROPEAN WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Military observers at British headquarters on the Cambrai front are of the opinion, according to their dispatches at hand today, that the German command is seeking to turn the Cambrai battle into a decisive action and that this is the proper explanation of the recent German attempts to breach the British line, whatever the cost. This cost has probably been the heaviest of any equal period of fighting since the war began—so heavy, in fact, that it has now given the Germans pause.

In view of these truly enormous casualties, the German achievement has been very small, and their real objective—piercing the British position and pouring through the break in a wide turning movement—the east and the town of Maroing, four miles southwest of Cambrai, and have thus made the British hold on this place a difficult one. To the eastward they have forced the British out of Masnières and part of the St. Quentin ridge, as well as from the village of La Vacquerie. The British thus have to defend a rather sharp salient on the eastern side of their wedge before Cambrai.

PLAN NOT ABANDONED. Although the failure of the German intent to breach the British line and the terrific losses it involved have for the present stopped any further attacks in force, it is believed that the German plan has not by any means been abandoned. With the arrival of still further levies of reserves, apparently continuously available now from the Russian fronts, it is expected that the German command will renew the great massed assaults upon the British positions.

The fighting in this area is largely in the open, and the combat will resolve itself into a matter of generalship. The British forces have been heavily re-enforced, but the initiative appears to be still with the enemy, and this gives them a certain advantage. This initiative, however, may well pass to the British again within a short time. General Byng, the commander on this front, has already shown himself to be a tactician of boldness and originality. It remains to be seen whether he is a strategist of equal power and resourcefulness.

On the remainder of the front held by the British there has been reported nothing but artillery fire. This suddenly became notably intense north of Armentieres, on the southern side of the Ypres region, south of Messines. In the Paschendaele sector there was also heavy gun dueling. Only artillery activity has been reported from the French front, chiefly west of the Meuse in the Verdun area and on the Champagne front, near Malson de Champagne and Tahure.

ITALIANS HALT TEUTON DRIVE. Opinion appears to be generally held among the most competent observers on the Italian front that the Austro-Germans have now been definitely stopped and held on the Piave line and the mountains westward to and beyond the Brenta river. The enemy is still concentrating troops on the northern end of the line, but the Italian forces, re-enforced by French and British troops, are confident of the issue of any new attacks.

The latest official report from Rome states that artillery fire of considerable vigor has occurred along the Asiago plateau, between Monte Sison and Monte Castel Gomberto. Italian guns effectively shelled enemy troop concentrations. Some activity has developed in the Trentino, west of the Asiago plateau. The Austro-Germans delivered local attacks which were promptly repulsed.

TRAINLOAD OF XMAS MAIL ON WAY TO FRONT

PARIS, Dec. 5.—A trainload of more than 1,000 sacks and many boxes of "Christmas mail and gifts is being transported today in American army headquarters in France. Another shipment is expected from America before the end of the week. On many of the packages is written, "Open at Christmas."

MISS RANKIN SILENT ON WAR WITH AUSTRIA

Jeannette Rankin, the lady from Montana, was non-committal today when asked if she would desert the ranks of the pacifists and vote for a declaration of war against Austria. Miss Rankin voted against the German war declaration.

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PARIS CONFERENCE ORGANIZES JOINT NAVAL COMMITTEE

PARIS, Dec. 5.—Foreign Minister Pinchon has announced the inter-allied conference has decided upon a supreme inter-allied naval committee for co-operative action. The new committee, it is assumed, will be a co-operative branch of war activity, with the supreme inter-allied war council.

The announcement was taken to mean much closer unity in the allied offensive against Germany's submarines. So far as military exigencies permit, the inter-allied council proposes to allow the public of the allied nations to see the workings of the war machine.

With the closing of the inter-allied council and the first session of the supreme war council, it was stated today arrangements were being made to publish a summary of the resolutions adopted at the first-named conference.

Publicity is regarded as one of the allies' "strongest weapons in the fight against autocracy." Notification to the people of what their chosen representatives proposed to do with the people's money, the people's lives, and the people's property in the fight of democracy will stand out in vivid contrast to the German autocratic assumption of divine right over lives, money, and property of its citizens.

On every hand today great satisfaction was expressed at the progress achieved in the conferences here. Best indication that the meeting was preliminary was in the fact that their chosen representatives proposed to allied war aims—a joint statement to which all allies should be signatory—was left for later consideration. The delegates apparently were agreed that of first consideration at the moment were the actual physical weapons of offense and defense.

REICHSTAG FRICTION DENIED BY BERLIN

LONDON, Dec. 5.—An official dispatch from Berlin asserts that there exists no friction between the imperial government and the Reichstag, but that the peace policies outlined by the former are being closely followed by the main committee with Count Hertling, imperial chancellor, and Dr. von Kuehlmann, foreign secretary.

Mathias Erzberger, leader of the Clerical center, is authority for the statement that although this Reichstag has adjourned, the government is giving its leaders an active voice in shaping the government's peace policies.

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