

U-BOAT FIRES ON U. S. DESTROYER GERMANY SUFFERS CRUSHING BLOW

100,000 LOST AND WOUNDED IN OFFENSIVE

All France Hails Victory as Brilliant Demonstration of General's Skill.

GREATER VICTORY EVEN THAN SOMME BATTLE

Western Battle Now Under Way Over Front of One Hundred and Fifty Miles.

Paris, April 16. (Delayed) April 17.—Germany suffered another crushing blow upon the western front, when 40 miles of the strongest part of the lines were wrested from her with an estimated loss of nearly 100,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. All France hailed the victory as a brilliant demonstration of the skill of her generals and the courage of the troops.

Greater Than Somme

Measured by the amount of territory freed, the victory does not compare with the Somme offensive which opened a month ago, but viewed from amount of destruction done to the enemy's armed forces and the damage to his military prestige it is a far greater success. Here there can be no question either of a previously planned retreat or a surprise. The enemy expected an attack and made every preparation to defeat it.

Cross Fire

From Soissons to Craonne the German line runs along a series of hills of an average height of 500 feet, with deep valleys between. The attackers advanced up the valley under a cross fire from each flank, but the artillery curtain on a new plan invented by the British general was so effective that the operation was carried out at less cost than might be expected.

On Line of 150 Miles

The weak point of the German line is from Craonne to Rheims, where the ground is more level. Here the attack made more progress and the danger of the rupture of the line became so imminent that the Germans threw in all available reserves. The reserves were smashed by the French artillery, which kept close on the heels of the waves of infantry. The result of today's operations is that the great western battle is now under way along a front of close 150 miles more than 1/3 of the mighty line from Switzerland to the sea.

DRIVE CRAFT ON REEF AND SHELL HER

New York, April 17.—The British steamship, Karmala, an 8,982 ton passenger vessel, owned by the Peninsula & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., was driven on a reef and sunk on March 17, near Spezia, Italy, after being shelled and torpedoed by a German submarine, according to two Americans who were among the Karmala's 190 passengers, and who arrived here today from Europe. All on board the Karmala were saved.

ALLIED AIRPLANES RAID COLLEGE AT FRIEBURG

Berlin, April 17.—The war office announces that 11 persons have been killed, 29 injured, and considerable damage done to the university buildings by an aeroplane attack on Frieburg.

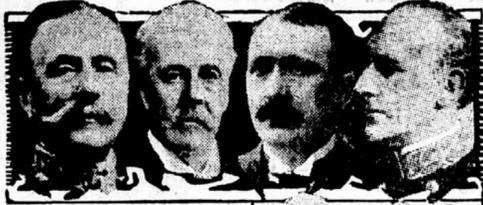
"To this nefarious attack several people unfortunately fell victims. Seven women, three men, and one soldier, were killed, and 17 women, eight men and two children injured," says the statement.

"The leader of the attack, an English lieutenant colonel, fell into our hands. According to his statement, and the contents of a fly sheet which was thrown down, the attack was in reprisal for the torpedoing of the Gloucester Castle, British hospital ship, recently sunk by a German submarine. In justification, our government gave England to understand in time enough that it could not longer tolerate the passage of so-called hospital ships in the precisely defined zone."

SEEN BROTHER OFF.

W. W. Forsythe of Plaza was down Saturday to say goodbye to his brother, H. J. Forsythe, who left Saturday evening on No. 2 for the east, where he reports for final examinations before entering the aviation section of the United States signal corps.

Take Part in Big War Council



Great Britain and France are sending farous men for a council of war at Washington. Among the councilors are, left to right, Gen. Foch, former commander of the French northern armies; Arthur Balfour, minister of foreign affairs of England; Rene Viviani, former premier of France; Rear Admiral D. R. S. De Chair of England. Below, left to right, Field Marshal Joffre, former chief of the allied armies in France, and Octave Homberg of the French foreign office.

SMITH FREED BY JURY LATE LAST EVENING

Verdict Returned at 11:30 After Members Had Deliberated 7 Hrs. and 25 Min.

(Special to Tribune.)

Mandan, N. D., April 17.—After liberating since 4:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon until 11:30 o'clock last night—7 hours and 25 minutes—the jury in the case of the State against George Smith of Beach, charged with the murder of Horace Ball, Beach homesteader, in July of last summer returned a verdict of not guilty last night.

The case was brought here from Golden Valley district court on a change of venue and was tried before Judge Hanley. The state alleged that the Ball home was dynamited and that the explosion killed Ball. Mrs. Ball, wife of the murdered man, and who was to have been the state's chief witness, left the state shortly after the preliminary examination of the defendant, and was unable to be located. Several other of the state's important witnesses were lacking when the trial was called, a week ago yesterday.

The case was sensational in the history of the criminal cases tried in the Morton county district court, in the fact that the state sought to prove an intimacy between the defendant and the murdered man's wife. Evidence was largely circumstantial. The state's evidence was riddled under the fire of the cross-examination of the defense during the last few days of the trial. The verdict was unanimous.

Wheat Prices Show Decline

Chicago, April 17.—Removal of the duty on Canadian wheat and measures proposed at Washington for the control of foodstuffs resulted today in a sharp break in wheat prices, at the opening of the Board of Trade. May wheat, which closed yesterday at \$2.51 1/2, sold down to \$2.30 at the opening. July dropped an extreme 7 1/4c to \$1.92 and September, which closed yesterday at \$1.75, declined to \$1.67.

RECOMMENDS OPENING OF ROSSER HIGHWAY

Commissioner Best last night recommended that Rosser street be opened up to and across the Northern Pacific right of way from the east and that the street be extended and opened west of the Northern Pacific right of way. The application for the opening of the street was made to the city commission a week ago and the matter was referred to the commissioner on streets.

FORD WAIVES PATENT RIGHTS IN TRACTORS

Detroit, April 17.—Henry Ford has waived all patent rights on his farm tractors and has cabled the specifications to England so Great Britain can manufacture tractors. It also was announced today that Mr. Ford hopes to have thousands of tractors ready for use in the United States and Canada by August 1. His entire tractor plant, like his automobile factory, will be at the disposal of the United States government.

CITY SIMPLY ASKS STATE TO PLANK ITS LINE

Status of Street Railway Proposition Rests with Governor and Board of Control.

The status of the street railway railway controversy between the City of Bismarck and the State of North Dakota in connection with paving between the tracks today rests on the action which the state board of control and the governor will take on the resolution unanimously adopted by the city commission last night and which will be communicated to the board today.

That the city is reluctant to order the board to tear up its line on Main street and on Fourth street between Main and Thayer—a distance of three blocks—is shown in the proposition submitted to the governor and the board today which modifies to an appreciable degree the resolution adopted a week ago which was drafted in its demand for the removal of the car line because the state did not have funds to pay for its share of paving.

The city's ultimatum reads that "if the state will put in new ties in the first district placing them in conjunction with the contractor and the state furnish the labor, the city will pay for the laying of the paving covering the space outside of the rails, the state to plank the space between the rails, these ties to be obtained ready for placing within 30 days." The same proposition as mentioned applies to the territory also covered by district No. 2 except that the state will have until August 1 to get the ties on the ground.

This proposition was submitted and was made on the basis and understanding that the governor and the board of control agree to recommend to the next legislature an appropriation to reimburse the city for the sum amounting to at least one-half of the actual cost of the paving.

The other alternative presented in formal language to the board and the governor today is that "if proposition No. 1 does not meet with your approval, the city commission asks whether you are willing to rebuild said car line with new ties within the length of time set by you (six months). If not, our first proposition does not meet with your favorable consideration, the city commission asks that the state remove the rails and ties from Main street and on Fourth street from Main to Thayer and ask your prompt action in order that the paving may not be delayed."

The ultimatum added, "we would appreciate a prompt decision." Issue of the Meeting. The street car line proposition was the issue before the commission meeting last night, with but \$2,500 provided by the state for the maintenance of its street car line for a period of two years, the city faces a peculiar situation. To pave the street at the cost of the city and the property owners whose property abuts the paving would be taxing the property owners heavily in view of the fact that the street is 40 feet wide compared with a width of 25 feet on the other streets. Then, too, the rails on the car line are not of the standard size and the state lacks the funds to put in standard rails which would be a heavy burden because of the price for steel. Planking the inside of the rails seemed the only course for the commission to pursue until the state is in a position to take up the matter.

ALLIES CLAIM ADVANTAGE IN GREAT BATTLE

Titanic Struggle for Mastery of Western Front Sees the Germans Falling Back.

ST. QUENTIN-CAMBRAI MAIN LINE THREATENED

French Now Have for Immediate Objective Isolation of Important Railroads.

MEETING WITH SUCCESS.

London, April 17.—Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war council, moving in the house of commons this afternoon, the second reading of the bill to extend the life of parliament until the end of November, said the British troops were engaged in the greatest operations since the beginning of the war, and were meeting with success which exceeded his expectations.

At a meeting of the Irish Nationalist party today, it was decided to oppose the bill for the extension of the life of parliament.

Along a 150-mile battle line, the French and British are pushing back the German army in a titanic struggle for the mastery of the western front. Stepping into the fray, after the British had been hammering the line in the Arras region into bits for a week, the French struck along a 25-mile front, along the Aisne, carried the German positions to an average depth of from 2 to 1 1/2 miles, capturing more than 10,000 prisoners and maintaining all the ground won.

Last night after the great success of their initial rush, General Nivelle's forces occupied themselves with consolidating their new positions, and resisting German counter attacks. All these assaults were repulsed, and in the Ailles region, west of Craonne, the Germans suffered heavy losses. Their total casualties in the first 24 hours' fighting are estimated at 100,000 men.

Both the British and French reports today indicate that the continuation of the operations is being hampered by bad weather. Nevertheless, the British pushed forward between St. Quentin and Cambrai, advancing east of Epehy to Le Tombois farm, within 1 1/2 miles of Le Catelet, where they threatened to cut the St. Quentin-Cambrai main line of communication.

The strategy of the Anglo-French attack has been worked out in complete harmony by the staff of the two armies. The dispatches indicate entire co-ordination for placing and timing the blows delivered so as to insure their greatest possible effectiveness.

In a broad way, it may be judged, the French now have for their immediate objective the isolation of the important railroad center of Laon, to turn the southern end of the Hindenburg line. The British already have pierced this line at the northern end. The joint operation apparently is aimed at the rolling up of the present German front, in an effort to compel a retirement on a greater scale than ever yet witnessed on the western front since the battle of the Marne.

Operations in other sectors of this front and in the other war areas are at present of secondary importance, although the French activities further west in the Champagne, and in the Alsace-Lorraine district, apparently will bear close watching for possible important developments.

In Mesopotamia the British have advanced further up the Tigris, to within a little more than 10 miles of Samarra, 70 miles northwest of Baghdad, where another battle apparently is impending. Little resistance has been offered by the Turks in their retreat.

CHILDREN OF STATE TO HELP PUT IN CROPS

St. Paul, Minn., April 17.—Ten-year-old boys and girls are working 16 hours a day, assisting their parents to plow and seed tracts in the Northwest because of the acute labor shortage, according to J. H. Anderson, president of the Equity Co-operative exchange, following his return today from a trip through North Dakota and Minnesota.

DEATH GRAPPLE OF ARMIES ON RIVER AISNE

Greatest Battle in All History Being Fought on the West Front.

MAY BE DECISIVE ONE OF WAR OF NATIONS

Berlin Claims That French Have Failed to Break Through Lines of Defense.

Berlin, April 17.—"One of the greatest battles of the mighty war, and therefore, also in the world's history," says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff, "is in progress on the river Aisne."

"In the Champagne, this morning," the German statement adds, "fighting between Prunay and Auberville developed, the battle line thereby extending from the river Oise into the Champagne."

"Our troops anticipate with entire confidence the coming heavy fighting."

Attempt Failed.

"A great French attempt to break through yesterday, the object of which was far-reaching, failed," according to the German announcement. "The losses of the enemy were very heavy. More than 2,100 prisoners remain in our hands, where the enemy at a few places penetrated into our lines, fighting still continued and fresh enemy attacks are expected."

A day of apprehension in Berlin ended tonight with alarming events. The threatened strike because of a reduction in the weekly bread rations materialized in only a portion of the larger factories and did not affect transportation or public utilities.

The strike leaders had planned an elaborate system of street demonstrations, which were to start in an outdoor assembly, but inclement weather kept down enthusiasm.

Some of the factories affected announced tonight that workmen would resume work tomorrow. In others, meetings will be held in the morning to decide further course of the strikers.

Strike Limited

The strike is limited to factories managed by the Liebknecht-Erdelbeor branch of the Social Democracy. The Vorwarts, the organ of the Scheidemann Socialist, printed a warning against striking, for fear that the latter would interfere with efforts to obtain a separate peace with Russia.

Peace at Any Price, Their Plea

Austrian-Hungarian People Weary and Praying for End of Conflict.

Berne, Switzerland, April 17.—Peace and spring weather are what the Austrian and Hungarian people most desire. During a long stay in Vienna, when the Associated Press correspondent has just come, there was every indication that the government and people were willing to accept any peace proposal, leaving Austro-Hungarian territory intact and making no place for war indemnities. By the same token there appears to be no doubt but that the democracy will continue fighting unless the minimum conditions are met.

INFLICT HEAVY LOSSES

Paris, April.—German counter attacks in force in the region of Ailles and Courcy were repulsed last night by the French, according to an official statement issued by the French war office. Heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans.

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN FOR LAND BANK

St. Paul, April 17.—A conference was held today between Thomas H. Cooper, director of the extension division of the North Dakota Agricultural college, and the board of directors of the Federal Land bank, with the view of effecting co-operation between the bank and the county representative of the extensive division in spreading information of the federal loan act among the farmers of North Dakota. The action is thought timely, coming at a time when the government is working for maximum production. The bank wishes to let the farmers know the purposes and advantages of the farm loan act, that they may fully employ the resources of the farms.

TEUTON WAR CRAFT IN AMERICAN WATERS NEAR HARBOR OF NEW YORK

First Shot Fired in Recognition by Central Powers that State of War Exists With United States—Torpedo Goes Wide of Its Mark—Believed Blockade of Our Ports Has Been Started.

Washington, April 17.—A German submarine today fired on the destroyer Smith about 100 miles south of New York. The presence of enemy submarines in American waters indicates that the threatened German blockade of American Atlantic ports has begun.

This announcement was made from the navy department:

"Reported from Fire Island lightship to the naval stations at Boston and New York at 3:30 a. m., on the 17th an enemy submarine was sighted by the U. S. S. Smith running apparently submerged. Submarine fired a torpedo at the U. S. S. Smith, which missed her by thirty yards. The wake of the submarine was plainly seen crossing the bow. Submarine disappeared."

First Information.

First information of the encounter came to the navy department in a roundabout way from the Boston navy yard, which picked up the Smith's report, saying she had been fired upon by a German U-boat.

The navy department, after communicating with Fire Island, Boston, New York, and some other points on the Atlantic coast, announced the report of the Smith's encounter had been substantiated by official investigation. Whether the presence of the German submarine merely follows a sporadic raid such as the U-53 conducted off the New England coast, or whether it is the signal for the beginning of a general submarine blockade of the Atlantic coast, is not known.

First Recognition.

The attack is Germany's first recognition of the state of war declared by the United States. Germany stated in Germany soon after the action of congress that no aggressive steps would be taken against the United States.

Steps Taken.

Hardly any American official believes this statement, however, and steps to meet aggressive submarine attacks on unprotected seaboard cities and towns, raids on shipping within sight of American shores, and a submarine blockade of the principal Atlantic ports to terrorize shipping and people were expected.

Declare Zone.

Last week, word came to Washington in a roundabout way that Germany was about to declare a prohibitive submarine zone about the harbors at Boston, New York, the Delaware Capes, Chesapeake Bay, Charleston and Savannah. This would have included all the important ports on the Atlantic seaboard.

Minimum Profit

As their own "bit" in defending the nation, the packers offered a plan to distribute their products at a minimum of profit to themselves and one of them estimated the saving to the public would approximate at least \$100,000,000 a year.

Secretary Houston favors the plan and will have a part in drafting legislation to put it into effect.

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THROWN UNDER WAGON; FARMER INSTANTLY KILLED

Jamestown, N. D., April 17.—Julie Wilmart, 46, pioneer farmer of Montpelier, was instantly killed yesterday, when the farm team he was driving became unmanageable. He was thrown under the wheels of the heavy wagon.

The rear wheels passed over the upper portion of his body, breaking his neck. Wilmart is survived by a widow and five children, three brothers and two sisters.

His brother, Victor Wilmart, proprietor of a restaurant in this city, left today for Montpelier. Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday.

FURTHER ADVANCE

London, April 17.—The British made a further advance in the neighborhood of Epehy last night, according to an official statement issued by the war office. Rain storms are hampering operations. The British gain was made east of the Ferme-Cambrai railroad, at a point half way between St. Quentin and Cambrai.

GOVERNOR HAS YET THREE COMMISSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

There's still chance for at least nine good patriots to land a public office. Governor Frazier has three commissions yet to name—the state board of electrical examiners, the state board of architects and a state commission to investigate food resources. These commissions, the chief announced this morning, will be appointed in a few days.

WILTON WORKMAN TO BE INITIATED BY LOCAL LODGE

Twenty-five members and four candidates of the Wilton Ancient Order of United Workmen will come to the Capital City this evening and be initiated by the local order. The Capital City Workmen are planning a big time for the visitors and will hold a smoker after the work. Music and luncheon will also be a feature. Local members are asked to attend and help give the visiting men a warm welcome.