

GREAT EFFORT TO CHECK ALLIES IN FRANCE

GERMANS IN FINAL EFFORT TO HOLD LINE

Bitterest Fighting of New Anglo-French Offensive in Progress.

RESISTANCE BY TEUTONS DESPERATE

Apparently Regard Possession of Western Line as of Vital Importance — Counter Attack After Counter Attack Launched Without Regard to Human Sacrifices—British Penetrate German Line Near Vimy.

What is apparently the bitterest fighting of the present Anglo-French offensive began today along the Western line, the hastily organized position east of Arras, to which the Germans retired when the northern end of the Hindenburg line was turned by General Haig. The Germans are putting forth a supreme effort to hold this vital portion of their defenses, the crumbling of which would expose the Cambrai and bring into prospect another great retreat.

The British have driven two wedges into the German positions, forming sharp salients in the region of the Scarpe river and north of the Bapaume-Cambrai road. The head of the first salient has been thrust within four miles of Vimy, the most important point on the Western line, but the tenacity and power with which the Germans are fighting leaves the issue for a time in doubt.

The little news that trickles across the German frontier indicates that the authorities have been thrust within four miles of Vimy, the most important point on the Western line, but the tenacity and power with which the Germans are fighting leaves the issue for a time in doubt.

The fighting which began at dawn yesterday increased in intensity late in the afternoon. The ground gained by the British was won in the face of some of the most desperate fighting on the part of the Germans since the war began.

Trench warfare for the time being is forgotten. The Germans, away from their deep dugouts, where often in the past they were inclined to seek refuge, were urged by their officers to make every sacrifice. During the attacks and counter attacks the cries of the officers could be heard above the tumult of the battle.

This is the last and deciding push. For we shall soon be able to hold out no longer," reads the diary of a captured German officer. It is in this spirit that the present fighting is going on.

The struggles of the opposing troops about Monchy may be seen plainly from the neighboring hillsides. The masses of woods beyond Monchy have served as shelter for the Germans in the last few days and it was behind these logs yesterday that the German commandery rallied their forces.

With reserves brought up quickly they formed counter attacks against the newly advanced British positions, where khaki-clad men were fighting from shell holes and shallow bits of trenches previously dug by the Germans. From these woods the Germans seemed in great solid ranks.

Counter Attacks Come Rapidly. As they emerged the British artillery was quick to spot them and shells began to break in their midst. This interrupted their steady forward tramp. The line wavered and some men were retreating when the impulse from behind pushed them forward. They then broke into a run toward the British lines. A machine gun barrage closed upon them and they fell by scores. British rifles spoke for a time and then the German waves rolled on hand to hand fighting ensued.

The counter attack lasted half an hour before it was driven off. Within an hour a new one was formed, and so the day wore on.

German Disorganize Heavy Cost. London, April 24.—The British salient ground on a wide front last night south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road. They reached the St. Quentin canal at one point. Further north the village of Beaucamp and Villers-Bretonneux were captured.

Kaiser Given Hint That He Should Do as Czar Nick Did

Rome, via Paris, April 24.—The Courriere d'Italia, the clerical organ, declares that it is able to confirm reports published in Spanish newspapers that the immediate following of the German emperor is exerting pressure on him to abdicate. The paper says that at a recent meeting of the Hohenzollern family one member, bolder than the rest, intimated that the emperor might save the situation by following the example of Emperor Nicholas.

The German monarch is reported to have turned pale and, after observing that the general opinion was against him, left the room muttering: "We shall see."

The same evening he summoned another family council. The chancellor was present but whatever passed remained unknown.

Little political importance is attached to this story in Italian political circles. It is thought that the story has a German origin.

front yesterday, says the official statement, were maintained, and further progress was made east of Monchy and near Rouix.

More than 1,500 prisoners were taken in yesterday's operations and many more are coming in.

The official statement today says: "Severe fighting continued yesterday evening and at intervals during the night on our whole front from Croisilles to the north of Gavrelle. The enemy constantly repeated his unsuccessful counter attacks with greater determination and regardless of losses."

"The positions gained by us yesterday have been maintained. Further progress has been made east of Monchy-le-Freux and in the neighborhood of Rouix. A particularly violent German counter attack early this morning against the village of Gavrelle was successfully beaten off."

"The number of prisoners which passed through collection stations as a result of yesterday's operations already exceeded 1,500, including thirty officers. Many more are still to come in."

"South of the Bapaume-Cambrai road we gained ground during the night on a wide front east of Epehy and reached the St. Quentin canal in the neighborhood of Vendhuile. Further north the villages of Villers-Plouich and Beaucamp have been captured by us, together with a number of prisoners."

Only one German Airplane Seen. Berlin, via London, April 24.—Only one German airplane was seen in the British ground yesterday, says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff. The ruins of Guemappe remained in the hands of the British. An attempt by the British to break thru the German line near Arras, the statement adds, failed "with tremendous losses."

"The war office asserts that England's might has suffered a heavy and sanguinary defeat thru the foresight of German headquarters and tenacious desire of the German troops for victory."

Americans Must Leave Berlin. London, April 24.—The German foreign office has notified the American correspondents who have remained in Berlin that their presence in Germany is no longer desirable, according to the Exchange Telegraph correspondent at The Hague.

The American newspaper men have therefore decided to leave for Switzerland or Scandinavia.

Rations System for Great Britain? London, April 24.—A meeting of expert advisers to the food controller and experts from the Belgian relief commission was held this morning, at which relief members gave an account of the bread card system employed in Belgium.

It was said that on the result of this conference depended largely whether the food controller would institute a rationing system for Great Britain or would rely merely on the control of supply.

Turks Driven Back. London, April 24.—The Turks in Mesopotamia have been driven from their position between Samarra and Izbah, the war office announces. The British, pursuing them, captured Samarra Station yesterday, capturing sixteen locomotives and 224 railway trucks.

Increased at Germany's Act. London, April 24.—Dispatches from Petrograd early today state that the Russian socialists are greatly exercised over the sinking by a German submarine of the steamer Zara, which was taking home a number of refugees. The Zara sailed April 11 and was torpedoed two days later.

SPEAKER CLARK OPENLY AGAINST DRAFTING BILL

Believes House Will Reject Selective Conscription Plan.

WILSON'S ADVISERS APPEAR CONFIDENT

Vote on Measure May Be Reached in House Thursday and in Senate by Saturday—Federal Employees Granted Leaves to Assist State and Municipal Organizations in Mobilizing Country's Resources.

Washington, April 24.— Passage of the war army bill by the end of the week was forecast today on the assembling of congress. General debate on the measure continued in both houses. A vote may be reached in the house Thursday and in the senate by Saturday at the latest.

Attention is focused mainly in the house, where opposition to the administration plan of raising an army by selective draft is strongest. However, administration leaders are confident of success.

Spears Draft Is Disgrace. Speaker Clark opposed the selective draft and predicted it would never pass congress today, in receiving a delegation from the National Security League. Petitions bearing several million names were laid before the speaker.

"Conscription never will pass in my opinion," he said, "I am for letting the flower and youth of this country volunteer before we fasten the disgrace of a draft upon them. The war department is jumping around trying to bulldoze people into passing this bill and I don't think they will do it."

To permit experienced federal employees to assist state and municipal organizations in mobilizing and conserving the country's resources, President Wilson, by executive order, has suspended the rule of more than forty years by which federal employees are prohibited from accepting other employment.

No German Submarine Captured. Denial of reports that a German submarine had been captured by an American warship, after being caught in a net near Newport News, Va., and was being taken to New York was made today by Secretary Daniels.

"The statement is entirely without any basis of truth," the secretary said. "It has been current here for several days and has been denied officially by the naval commander of the Norfolk district."

Captain Sweeney Offers Services. New York, April 24.—Capt. Charles Sweeney, of Spokane, Wash., who has fought in the foreign legion in France, arrived here today and will go to Washington, D. C., to offer his services in the training in the American army.

The French government granted him unlimited leave for this purpose. Captain Sweeney's valor won him the cross of the Legion of Honor and other honors. He is a West Point graduate.

NEVADA FURNISHES QUOTA. Called Upon to Recruit 162 Men and 152 Haves Been Enrolled. Washington, April 24.—Nevada will be the first state to fill her quota of recruits for the regular army. The state is called upon to supply 162 men and has supplied 152 since April 12.

Illinois again led yesterday with 364, making a total of 2,971 for the month. New York was second with 238 and Pennsylvania third with 211. The total for the day was 2,987, although Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Vermont furnished no recruits whatever.

American Aviator Killed. Paris, April 24.—Corp. Ronald Hoskier, of South Orange, N. J., one of the stars of the American flying corps, has been killed in an aerial combat in the offensive that is now in progress.

Serg. William Dugan, one of the American aviators with the French army, who yesterday was reported missing, escaped death in an engagement with a German pilot and succeeded in landing inside the French lines, according to word received today.

CONSIDER FOOD PROBLEMS. President Pearson, of Ames, Advocates Fixing of Minimum Prices. Washington, April 24.—Wartime food problems were considered today by committees of both houses of congress.

R. A. Pearson, president of Iowa State College, before the senate agricultural committee, believed it might be well for the government to fix minimum prices.

"Assurances should be given," said Mr. Pearson, "that the farmers will be protected by a minimum price to insure them against loss."

Speculators Hold 30,000,000 or More Eggs in Chicago

Chicago, April 24.—According to Herbert Emerson, who has been to the Pacific coast investigating food conditions for John J. Dillon, commissioner of the state of New York, there are between 30,000,000 and 36,000,000 eggs on the tracks in Chicago held by speculators to keep up high prices.

Mr. Emerson said the Pacific coast states this year, instead of importing eggs as they have done generally, will have a surplus of 15,000 to 100,000 cases to sell. He said he had no evidence of an "egg trust," but added he is sure there is a "mighty close understanding" between the big dealers and is confident an investigation would cause a break in prices.

trans-shipped thru German firms to German raiders. He pictured a tin plate scarcity and the necessity of conserving the supply for military purposes. Under the proposed export law the government could stop all such exportations.

BRITISH IN HOLY LAND. English Troops Now Firmly Established in Palestine.

[Associated Press Correspondent.] With the British forces in Palestine the British troops that entered El Arish, the gate of Palestine, two months ago are now firmly on the soil of the Holy Land, marking a new era in the history of the east.

From the sands of the deserts to the sown land progress was gradual. Early in January a bold cavalry dash drove the Turks out of their last port of Egyptian territory.

El Arish was turned into a big railway depot and today for the first time a railroad line runs direct into Africa from Asia. El Arish is thirty miles from the frontier of Syria. Thirty miles northwest is Gaza. From El Arish to Gaza will be a populous country side before long. The Bedouins, successors of the robber Philistines of biblical days, have thus far held up the development of a fertile country but a strong ruling power will curb them, as did David and Solomon in their time.

Democracy Marching in Germany. Amsterdam, via London, April 24.—The General Anzeiger of Dusseldorf publishes the dispatch that at a reception to foreign journalists in Berlin the most reassuring declarations were given concerning the democratic character of the new orientation as evidenced by proposed legislation.

In fact, it was said, democracy is on the march. Regarding Germany's war aims, it was declared that the "world will be astonished by the moderation of the German peace terms."

Norwegian Steamers Sunk. London, April 24.—It is officially announced, says a Central News dispatch from Christiania, that the Norwegian steamer Reice has been sunk in the North sea and the Norwegian steamer Skjold, of 1,125 tons, in the Atlantic.

FOOD COMMITTEE APPEALS TO IOWANS

Urges Civic Leaders, Bankers and Business Men to Assist in Mobilization of Agricultural Cross of State—Financial Support Solicited.

Des Moines, April 24.—A special appeal was issued today by the food conservation committee named by Governor Harding, asking that civic leaders, bankers and business men aid in helping to mobilize the agricultural forces of the state. The appeal said:

"One additional man or older boy going on a farm at this season of the year means the equivalent of forty acres of corn."

An appeal also is made for financial support for county agricultural associations. Contributors are urged to place funds in banks to the credit of the war emergency food committee, all such money to be expended in the county in which it is raised.

SECOND TRIAL OF SPANELL. Texan Charged With Killing Lieut.-Col. M. C. Butler On Trial.

Coleman, Tex., April 24.—The selection of a jury for the trial of Henry J. Spanell, charged with the killing of Lieutenant-Colonel M. C. Butler, at Alpine last June, began this morning.

The state accepted the offer of the attorneys for the defense to let the testimony of Mrs. B. F. Jenkins at Spanell's trial for the killing of his wife be read at the present hearing, should she not appear.

The defense then asked permission to have the testimony of William Granger and Bob Neff read in event they are unable to attend.

The state objected but Judge Woodward announced the court would permit no further delays. The defense then filed a plea to broaden the rules regarding character evidence and by permitting the introduction of all the details of Spanell's life let in considerable testimony which was barred at his trial at San Angelo, when he was acquitted of the charge of killing his wife.

Discuss Ship Construction. Washington, April 24.—Construction and distribution of American ships was discussed today by President Wilson with Chairman Denham of the shipping board. Bills to be introduced in congress soon probably will include one to authorize the president to suspend when necessary provisions of the seaman's law.

EARLY ERRORS COST BRITAIN HER BEST MEN

General Bridges Tells Americans Volunteer System Failed.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE NOW IN FAVOR

England Sent Practically Whole Trained Army to France Early in War, Leaving No Experienced Men to Train New Army—Says Wastage of Blood of Nation Was Enormous—Artillery Must Be First Care.

Washington, April 24.—General Bridges, a member of the British commission, declared today in a talk with correspondents that the British democracy has become "almost fanatical" over universal military service.

The volunteer system under which the empire entered the war, the general said, cost the lives of the most valuable citizens.

"War," said General Bridges, "now has become an immensely democratic business and needs the full effort of every member of the community. Men, women and children are equally drawn into its vortex, women and children being forced into industry and fed on half rations to supply the men at the front."

"The source of our greatest difficulty was the sending to Europe of practically our whole trained army as an expeditionary force. This robbed us of all our trained officers. At the same time we allowed most of our better class youth, university men in many cases, to enter ranks, which withdrew them from the officers' class and placed that responsibility on far less equipped persons. The wastage of the best blood of the nation was enormous."

"It is my opinion that if it had not been for Kitchener's immense personality we would have had conscription within a few months. If Lord Roberts' proposal had been forced we would have saved enormously."

Eight Months to Train Division. General Bridges estimated eight months as the necessary time to train a division. Individual recruits, however, may be made fit to go to the front in a few weeks provided they are distributed in proportion of fifty amongst 200 trained men.

"Artillery must be in great preponderance," he said, "before an attack can be initiated. The bayonet, however, is still essential. I should estimate that the present successions on the western front are due to British preponderance over the German artillery of at least three or four to one."

"There is absolutely no doubt as to the outcome of the war; the only question is as to its length."

He commented briefly on the problem of making fighters in a democracy. The French bourgeois in the general's opinion makes the ideal soldier because war has been almost an instinct in his blood since the days of Napoleon. He said there had grown up between France and England a feeling that was more than friendship and that was almost a love match.

ISSUE IS OVERSUBSCRIBED. Subscription Books to Offering of Treasury Certificates Are Closed.

Washington, April 24.—The federal reserve board telegraphed instructions to all federal reserve banks to close their subscription books at 10 a. m. today to subscription to the first offering of \$2,000,000 in treasury certificates.

The issue has been oversubscribed, it is believed, 100 per cent, possibly more. Offers of subscriptions received during the next few days will be recorded for future use.

President Wilson today signed the bond bill, authorizing the sale of \$5,000,000,000 in government bonds and \$2,000,000,000 in treasury certificates.

Announcement was made today that the issue of treasury certificates offered thru the reserve banks would be increased from \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 and that all of this sum already had been subscribed.

FIRE IN MINE SHAFT. One Thousand Miners Temporarily Laid Off As Result Of Blaze.

Butte, Mont., April 24.—One thousand miners were temporarily laid off thru a fire discovered here last night in the Modoc shaft at the 1,200 foot level.

The blaze started from electric cables and is not expected to assume serious proportions as it will be confined to the shaft.

NEWS OF THE DAY

T. R. BULLETIN
The Weather.
Sun rises April 25 to 5:05, sets at 6:52.
Iowa—Unsettled tonight and Wednesday; probably showers. Cooler Wednesday in west and central portions.
Range of temperature at Marshalltown: Monday, 68 and 40; Sunday, 76 and 44; April 23, 1916, 63 and 42. At 7 this morning, 43; yesterday, 45.

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Telegraphic News:
Germans Making Effort to Hinder Lines.
Allies Make Small Gains.
French Envoys Come to Conference.
Unpreparedness Cost Britain Early.
Speaker Clark Opposed to Conscription.
Egg Market Cornered.
PAGES TWO, THREE AND FOUR.
Iowa and General News:
Wealthy Farmer Threatened President.
Higher Postage Possible.
Food Problems Before Congress.
Training Camp to Open May 8.
More Guards For Iowa Factories.
Farm News.

PAGE FIVE.
Story:
The Destroying Angel.
PAGE SIX.
Editorial:
Prices Oct. 15, 1866.
Not More Judges, More Work.
Getting Along.
Topics and Iowa Opinion.
PAGES SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN.

City News:
Local Military Company Begins Drill.
More Men Wanted to Complete Roster.
Seven More Recruits Leave.
New Law Increases Powers of Cities.
Community Course Committee Organized.
General and Brief City News.
PAGE TWELVE.

Markets and General:
Wheat Prices Swing Higher.
Corn Firms Up With Wheat.
Cattle Steady.
Hogs Strong and Higher.
Standard Oil Still Controls.

Germans May Stage Insurrection in Southern Brazil.
Rio Janeiro, April 24.—Telegrams received here from Parana confirm reports that the Germans in southern Brazilian states are concentrating in the state of Catharina. It is believed a German insurrection in the south is imminent.

FIRST LOAN TO BRITAIN. Big Bond Issue to Be Put Out in Installments.

Washington, April 24.—The first American loan to the allied nations will go to Great Britain. The amount and other details probably will be made public by Secretary McAdoo within a few days. Whatever the sum, the amount will be available out of the proceeds of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue soon to be offered to the public, of which \$3,000,000,000 will be loaned to the allies.

Announcement to this effect was made last night at the treasury department after a day crowded with conferences participated in by Secretary McAdoo, federal reserve board officials, American bankers and bond dealers, and official representatives of Great Britain and France.

Another development was the announcement that the size of the first issue of bonds authorized under the \$7,000,000,000 war finance measure will be largely on the immediate needs of the allies. Reports as to this have yet to be received in detail.

The entire \$5,000,000,000 of authorized bonds will not be offered in one lump sum, according to present tentative plans, but probably will be called for in several installments of issues. By this course it is believed that financial disturbances which might result were the country called on to absorb the whole issue at once will be averted.

NO LONGER NEUTRAL. Associated Press Members Today Are Of One Opinion.

New York, April 24.—The annual meeting of the Associated Press was held here today. In an address to the members at a luncheon Frank B. Noyes, president of the Associated Press, said: "In the past it has been necessary on like occasions for me to explain the constraint the Associated Press was under to observe strict neutrality on all controversial points due to the varied and manifold opinions of its membership. Today this is not only not necessary, but the contrary is true, for no trace of neutrality is coursing in our veins—but red blood and red blood alone."

"Today neutrality has been cast aside and we, in common with all true Americans, are standing with our cousins to the north and across the sea, who under many flags are battling that government by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

IOWA BOY KILLED IN WAR. Private Freeman, of Glenwood, Killed in Action in France.

Ottawa, Ont., April 24.—Private F. Freeman, of Glenwood, Iowa, is included in the lists of the Canadians who have been killed while fighting in France. Thirty-one others have been reported as wounded. The week end casualty lists give 2,000 names, the greater number of whom have been injured.

Scandinavia Wants Food. London, April 24.—The forthcoming visit to Washington of Herman Lazerantz, formerly Swedish minister to the United States, it is said, probably will be followed by the sending to America of a commission composed of representatives of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark for the purpose of making the fullest possible arrangements for the importation of foodstuffs.

PROBE SCHOOL INITIATION. High School Fraternity Candidate Dies Of Broken Neck.

Detroit, Mich., April 24.—Earl E. Rice, 17 years old, died in a hospital today of a broken neck. Officials of the board of education have begun an investigation of charges that Rice sustained his injuries while being initiated into a high school fraternity.

FRENCH ENVOYS HERE TO OFFER THEIR ADVICE

General Joffre and Premier Viviani Head Party of War Statesmen.

FAST VESSEL UNDER CONVOY ON TRIP

Closely Guarded During Entire Voyage Across Atlantic—No Naval Salutes Fired—Commission Instructed Not to Urge Anything on American Government But Will Place Experience Before President Wilson and Advisers.

Washington, April 24.—The department of state is advised of the safe arrival of the French commission. It was officially announced early today. Later the state department issued the following:

"The department of state is advised that the French commission will reach Washington tomorrow morning."

The commission, which includes Marshal Joffre and former Premier Viviani, arrived early this morning on board a speedy steamship of the French line, which was conveyed across the Atlantic.

The vessels were met off the coast by American torpedo boat destroyers. Naval officials and a representative of the state department immediately boarded the vessel and extended a welcome to the commissioners.

The Associated Press correspondent who accompanied the party from France sends the following dispatch from the port of arrival:

"As the ship bearing the French commission came into port today American warships broke out the French flag from their masts and American bands played the French national anthem. American and French sailors lined the rails of their respective ships. No salutes were fired."

The special train bearing the French commission slipped out of Paris in the early morning and the transfer from train to ship was without incident. The ship slipped away without meeting submarines.

Guarded During Entire Trip. The first night out the ship and convoy made eighteen knots an hour, before the wind, running without lights. After three years war service the celebrated liner which bore the party is a mixture of former elegance and homely fixtures. Horse racks lined the main promenade deck, powder and shells were stored in some of the cabins fore and aft. Life preservers are piled near the stairways.

Part of the guard turned back on the second night out but the remainder continued all the way over. Saturday an English cargo boat set her course as she would run close, but was given a wide course. There were some hours of rough weather half way over.

The only incident that received a log entry in the ship's log was the appearance of a large yellow and white meteor Friday night.

The mission was instructed not to urge anything upon the American government, but rather to place its experience and information at the disposal of the president. It is an extension to the United States of the practice of the allied governments of conferences first in one country and then in another to obtain unity and co-ordinated action among members of the coalition.

British Commission Begins Work. Arthur James Balfour, British foreign secretary and one of the members of the British commission, today began the work of placing at the disposal of the United States state department the result of Great Britain's war experience.

Invitations have been received from all parts of the country to members of the commission, but owing to the great amount of work to be done the British do not intend to take any time away from Washington. Mr. Balfour passed the afternoon making and receiving official calls. This evening will come formal dinners by Secretaries Lansing, Daniels and Baker, the diplomatic, naval and army representatives, and afterward the pan-American reception.

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