

You will notice that The Times gives you the complete, graphic report of the great drive—the news with the rumor and chaff sifted out, or, if printed, plainly indicated as such.

The Tacoma Times

Night Edition

1c A COPY 25c A MONTH IN CITY. VOL. XV. NO. 75. THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA. TACOMA, WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1918.

HUNS GAINING!

American Troops Thrown Back, Says Berlin Report

"They Shall Not Pass"



CLAIM 40,000 ARE CAPTURED

(United Press Leased Wire.)
BERLIN, via London, March 25.—French and American troops have been thrown back thru the pathless, wooded country near Lauenville, Villequier and Aumont, the Berlin war office declared today.
The capture of Bapaume was announced.
"Near Bapaume, the enemy was again defeated. Northeast of Bapaume, German troops broke thru and drove the enemy back by way of Rtres and Salliy."
Guiscard and Chauny have been captured, the statement said. "Enemy losses are unusually heavy."
Forty thousand allied prisoners have been taken, together with more than 600 guns and quantities of other war material. Divisions freshly brought up failed to bring a decision in favor of the enemy, the statement said.
"In the evening, they were defeated and streamed westward," it was declared.
Hot fighting is in progress for the possession of Combles. Nesle was stormed during the evening.
Strong positions west of the Crozat canal were captured.
Passage of the Somme river was forced below Ham, the war office announced.
"We mounted the heights west of the Somme," the statement continued.

Field Marshal Haig, in his official statement, admitted the Germans crossed the Somme south of Peronne, near Licourt, but declared they were driven back. It is not plain whether the Berlin war office and Haig referred to the same action.
Ytres and Salliy are southeast, rather than northeast of Bapaume. It is probable that the German statement meant the British retreated in the direction of those two towns.
Haig admitted the enemy gained a slight foothold in the new British lines north of Bapaume during powerful attacks Sunday evening, but declared they were later driven out.
Combles is midway between Bapaume and Peronne. It is 13 miles west of Peronne. It is 13 miles west of Villers, the nearest point in the line to the start of the offensive.
Nesle, 15 miles south of Peronne and seven miles west of Ham, the capture of which had been admitted by the British. Nesle is 17 miles west of the original line, and if it is in German hands, as claimed by Berlin, this marks the farthest enemy advance to date.
This is the second reference to French and American troops aiding the British in resisting the German drive. Franco-American forces were first mentioned in Sunday's official statement of the Berlin war office.
If Berlin's statement is true, it would indicate that the French and American troops involved really are a part of the "mobile reserve" authorized by the Versailles inter-allied conference. The nearest point in the line where American troops previously have been mentioned is in the Chemin des Dames sector, about 35 miles southeast.

May Occupy Russ Capital

(United Press Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 25.—The Germans may occupy Petrograd today, a state department message indicated.
American Consul Fredwell, cabling from Volodia, March 20, just after leaving the Russian capital forecast enemy occupation "within 24 hours."
"Practically all Americans, he reported, had evacuated the city."

HAIG MORE OPTIMISTIC IN REPORT!

(United Press Leased Wire.)
LONDON, March 25.—German forces crossed the Somme river south of Peronne between the city and Licourt, but were driven back to the east bank by counter attacks, Field Marshal Haig reported today.
The first hostile attacks this morning developed north and south of Bapaume, Haig said.
(Bapaume is 18 miles west of Cambrai and more than six miles southwest of the nearest point held by the Germans before the present offensive.)
The battle continues with great violence on the whole front.
North of Bapaume yesterday evening powerful attacks were repulsed with heavy enemy losses. At only one point did the Germans reach the British trenches. They were immediately thrown out.
Elsewhere the enemy's attacks were stopped by rifle and machine gun fire by the British and he was driven back with great losses.

(This may be regarded as the most optimistic official statement issued by Field Marshal Haig since the German offensive began. According to the British commander, the enemy's advance has been stopped all along the line — temporarily at least.)

FIGHT GROWS MORE INTENSE

"Americans Feel You Will Win," President Wilson Cables Haig

(United Press Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 25.—"Americans feel you will win," was the message President Wilson sent to Field Marshal Haig today, as the great west front battle swept on in its fury.
The message reflected the confidence of the president in the critical events now transpiring in France. His cable read: "May I not express to you my warm admiration for the steadfastness and valor with which your troops have withstood the German onset and the perfect confidence all Americans feel that you will win a secure and final victory."
"WOODROW WILSON."

BY WILLIAM PHILLIP SIMMS
United Press Staff Correspondent

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, March 25.—With increasing intensity the fighting thunders on from the Scarpe to Oise.

Both the British and Teutonic troops are fagged but continue battling.

Captured prisoners declare that the heaviest blows are yet to come.

The Germans, at heavy cost, have progressed across the old battlefield of the Somme but the British line everywhere is intact.

Haig's troops have withdrawn in the most perfect order.

All night long the fighting has been most severe, especially along the Saignies-Bapaume road. The Germans in dense masses were hurried forward in the moonlight while the British machine guns raked them in an unending rattle.

Observers close up at the front "glimped back to the artillery and the half striped gunners fired until their pieces were almost red-hot.

The enemy is pressing on almost without artillery support, trusting in their ability to bend the British line by sheer force of numbers.

Best Targets Ever.
No such targets were ever offered to modern gunners.

The fighting on the road north of Bapaume continued to be terrific this morning and likewise southward in the region of Ham and Nesle, the enemy desperately endeavoring to maintain a crossing of the Somme.

Apparently the Germans are attempting to drive a wedge into the center of the battle front where they have created a pointed salient after massed onslaughts and great losses.

The British line is bending but it has not broken. Hindenburg counted upon breaking the line the first day.

The enemy cavalry is doing its utmost to harass the British withdrawal but only comparatively small bodies have yet appeared.

Airmen Never Tired.
The situation necessarily is obscured with the attacks and counter attacks surging ceaselessly both under the sun and the stars.

As is inevitable in the case of such fighting, the attackers have taken guns, prisoners and materials, but I do not believe in alarming numbers.

The airmen continue constantly drawing but only comparatively small bodies have yet appeared.

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KAISER GOES TO PERONNE

(United Press Leased Wire.)
AMSTERDAM, March 25.—Kaiser Wilhelm and Field Marshal Hindenburg visited Peronne Sunday evening, according to Berlin dispatches received here today.
The Kaiser ordered flags hoisted, rockets fired and schools given a holiday throughout Germany, in celebration of Peronne's capture.

27 DIVISIONS HOLDING 97

(United Press Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 25.—Field Marshal Haig is holding the great German drive of 97 divisions with only 27 divisions of battling Tommies, it was stated by British military men here today.

LIVELY GUN BATTLE ON ITALIAN FRONT

(United Press Leased Wire.)
ROME, March 25.—A lively artillery struggle was resumed at various points on the Italian front said the Rome war office today.
Four enemy airplanes were brought down Sunday and two others Saturday.

WEATHER FORECAST

Rain tonight and Tuesday.
Sat's Bear says he's waiting for someone to spring that old gag about all the rain being caused by big gun fire in France.

Still No Solution of Paris Shell Mystery!

(United Press Leased Wire.)
PARIS, March 25.—Mysterious German shells resumed falling on Paris early today and ceased at 9:50 a. m. The people remained in bed and were not disturbed.
The force of the explosion was not greater than that of many shells dropped on the city in the past from airplanes.
The shells were of light explosive power and made a very small hole in the ground. Measurements at several different places showed that the holes averaged four feet in diameter and were not more than two feet deep.
French experts direct attention to the fact that the shells fall at a slackened speed with practically no force.
Several casualties resulted from yesterday's air raid, it was officially announced today.
A number of enemy airplanes succeeded in crossing the battle lines at a high altitude and attacked the city. They were pursued immediately by French airplanes from the front and those attached to the Paris defenses. They were driven off after dropping several bombs.

GEN. WOOD WON'T BELIEVE GUN YARN

(United Press Leased Wire.)
NEW YORK, March 25.—Major General Wood, just returned from France, emphatically declared his belief that no mysterious new German gun is firing on Paris.
"I have read all the reports regarding the attack on Paris," said Gen. Wood in an interview with the New York Herald, "and I am convinced no new gun of marvelous range is involved. In my opinion a great aerial attack is being planned and it seems very possible that radical development of airplane guns by the Germans is involved. I hold this belief despite the assertion that the position of a great new gun has been accurately ascertained. I am sure that within a short time it will be established that an airplane bombardment has resulted in the misleading report."

STILL MYSTERY TO BRITISH EXPERTS

(United Press Leased Wire.)
LONDON, March 25.—The unexplained arrival of German shells in Paris is today regarded here as the greatest mystery of the war. British experts suggest the possibility of shells being propelled from Zeppelins at a great height.
A report of a monster gun being located more than 70 miles from Paris has not been confirmed.
Experts here who are frankly skeptical, considered various theories, including the possibility of a newly discovered propellant of power hitherto unknown, expelling shells falling in Paris.

PLAN MAY BE TO INVADE ENGLAND

BY KENNETH W. PAYNE
(United Press Leased Wire.)
LONDON, March 25.—Is the most stupendous scheme of conquest in history about to be attempted by the kaiser? Is the invasion of England—an age-old dream of every great continental military power—the real German surprise for 1918?

It is no exaggeration to say that a Teutonic onslaught upon the island fortress has been since the war began a recognized and menacing possibility.

There is no disputing the fact that now or never is the kaiser's chance.

A knock-out of the entente in 1918, or complete disaster—Germany unquestionably recognizes that this is her alternative. "World-power or downfall" has become now in fact the desperate gambler's choice before the kaiser. In 1919 America's strength will begin irresistibly to turn the tide against him.

How can the entente be smashed in 1918? By a blow in the solar plexus, by an invasion of England, AND BY THAT ALONE.

The ruthless conquests in the east are netting the Huns no advantage that they can keep unless England is crushed. Capture of Paris would not smash the entente so long as the power of England stood.

Experts Expect Blow.
Lieut.-Col. Charles Repington, Great Britain's leading military critic, in his analysis of the possibilities of the German blow in 1918, mentions first of all "an overseas attack upon England."

Sir Auckland Geddes, British minister of national service, arrested the attention of the world when he declared: "I have no doubt Germany will strike not only at our forces in France, but also, if she can, at the heart of England."

The German passion for a huge war indemnity, in order that she may recover quickly after the

TALK O' THE TIMES



Greetings, have you inspected Victory Hall?

Somebody writes in to the Chibune asking:

"Are you in any way interested in knowing that a certain Biggs Tinker is visiting his parents in Tacoma, Wash."

And the Trib heads the item: "YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT WE DON'T CARE A TINKER'S DOUGH WALL."

Yes, it would be quite well.

Dear Talko: In view of the seeming yellow peril in Siberia would it not be well to call the attention of our gifted congressmen to the fact that Mr. Teagarden and Mr. Rice have attained positions on the food production committee of California?

C. B.

"Hosiery for Easter," declares an enraptured ad writer in the Houston Post, "reaches new heights of loveliness."

AN OLD SLANDER
An advertising circular reads, "Travelling men wait a considerable part of their time." We refuse to believe it.

SEATTLE SEND 179 MEN
(United Press Leased Wire.)
SEATTLE, March 25.—Seattle will bid farewell to the 179 men of the first quota of the second draft who will leave next Friday for Camp Lewis.

WHEAT EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY DOWN
(United Press Leased Wire.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 25.—Wheat exports during February were 1,048,488 bushels, against 10,383,524 bushels in February last year according to figures made public by the department of commerce today.

FIRST POSTER IS EXHIBITED

The Times today posted in its office windows the first Third Liberty loan posters to appear in Tacoma. They show a striking drawing by Sa'terfield headed "They're Just Begun to Fight!"

CALL OFF GENERAL STRIKE 48 HOURS

(United Press Leased Wire.)
KANSAS CITY, March 25.—The threatened general strike of organized labor here, growing out of the refusal of laundry owners to mediate the wage demands of employees, was postponed today for 48 hours.

FRENCH TAKING PART OF LOAD!

(United Press Leased Wire.)
PARIS, March 25.—French troops relieved part of the allied forces Saturday, the war office communique stated today.

Hard fighting was reported in the Noyon region. French forces held the heights on the right bank of the Oise against important enemy attacks.

Northwest of Rheims, there was violent artillerying in the Courcy and Lohve regions.

East of Suippes, in the Champagne region (where American troops are located, two enemy raids fell down.

Active artillerying occurred between Arracourt and the Vosges region.

East of Badonvillers (where American troops are in the line) the enemy attacked at dawn, but was thrown back with heavy losses.