

GERMANS SMASH HAIG LINE

GERMANS SHELL PARIS FROM NEW FRONT

Ten Persons Killed and 15 Wounded in Continued Bombardment Directed at French Capital With Long-Range Guns.

Paris, March 23.—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long range guns. Since 8 o'clock this morning shells of 240-millimeters have been reaching the capital and suburbs at intervals of a quarter of an hour, killing 10 persons and wounding 15.

BRITISH DRIVE AT ENEMY.

London, March 23.—The Germans forced their way into Mory, but a dashing counter-attack drove them out, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters telegraphs.

FIFTY GERMAN DIVISIONS.

Mory is on the northern battle front, 15 miles below Arras. It is about four miles back of the line held by the British before the Germans began their offensive.

There is reason to believe 50 German divisions are flowing into the struggle, the correspondent states, and probably half as many more are in close reserve.

Under the tremendous onslaught the British troops are falling back very slowly and in excellent order. At many places they are withdrawing voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front.

The Germans this morning were pressing hard the British forces defending Hermies (about two and one-half miles back of the old line, in the region southwest of Cambrai).

ARTILLERY PREPARATION TERRIFIC.

The scenes of activity behind the battle front baffle description, but everywhere there is the same well ordered organization and quiet confidence.

The weather is wonderfully fine, although the visibility is handicapped by local mists.

The artillery preparation of the Germans in the drive against the British lines, which is now in progress, is described by those who took part in it as the most violent they ever endured, according to the Daily Mail's correspondent on the British front.

"The thing that stands out as characteristic of the fighting up to the present," says the correspondent, "is that we did so well under the terrific impact." Continuing, the correspondent says:

GUN EVERY 15 YARDS.

"Upon one corps front there was a gun every 15 yards. The strength of the mortars, which the enemy brought up in such great numbers, sent over such an overwhelming weight of iron and high explosives that in most parts of the front wire ceased to be an obstacle and trenches were obliterated.

"At the same time all of our known battery positions were drenched with gas, but their gas shells failed to reach all our batteries, nor did they succeed anywhere in breaking down our wire.

"At one point where the Germans found our wire unbroken they set to work with scissors until they had made a way through, an incident reminiscent of the methods of fighting inculcated by Frederick the Great. All of this was done under our machine gun fire.

IN NEW UNIFORMS.

"A curious fact reported by our army men was that the Germans composing the special assault divisions wore new uniforms. 'Got on their best clothes for a visit to Paris,' commented one of our generals.

"Our relieving corps did valuable work, despite adverse weather conditions.

"One of our men in the early morning reconnaissance spotted several thousand Germans moving westward south of Bullecourt and another reported 3,000 of the enemy in a sunken road in this area waiting to advance.

GUNNERS WEAR MASKS.

"This is the first battle where British gunners had to serve their guns in gas masks and it was a difficult task. Fortunately practices with gas masks have been taking place frequently for an hour daily.

TEUTONS SAY ENGLISH ARE NOW BEATEN

Kaiser in Command of Forces; Claim First Stages of Battle Over; Won by Germans.

Berlin (Via London), March 23.—The official statement from General headquarters this evening says:

"The first stage of the great battle in France is ended. We have won the engagements near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere. A considerable part of the English army is beaten."

"We are fighting approximately on a line northeast of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham."

"Under the command of the emperor and king, the battle of attack against the British front near Arras, Cambrai and St. Quentin has been proceeding two days. Yesterday, also, good progress was made."

"Divisions of Crown Prince Rupprecht stormed the heights north and northwest of Croisilles. Between Fontaine-Les-Croisilles and Moeuvres they penetrated into the second enemy position and captured the villages there of Vaulx-Vraucourt and Morchies. Strong British counter attacks failed.

"Between Gonnelleu and the Omignon stream the first two enemy positions were penetrated. The heights west of Gouzeaucourt, Heudecourt and Villers-Faucourt were captured and in the valley of the Cologne stream Roisel and Marquaix were stormed."

London, March 23.—Today's German official announcement received here states that Emperor William is in command on the western front.

This announcement is regarded as further evidence that the emperor has staked his all on an offensive, hoping to win and go down in history as the victor in this great and decisive world conflict.

Dispatches from Amsterdam picture the emperor at Spa, Belgium, which is being kept isolated on a radius of 15 kilometers.

The German crown prince, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, Generals Ludendorff and other prominent Germans also are reported there with him.

Kansas City Labor Leaders Say All to Strike Monday

Kansas City, Mo., March 23.—Labor leaders today asserted that the threatened general sympathetic strike for the laundry workers would be effective Monday morning.

Mayor Edwards said that every means necessary for the protection of the city water plant would be taken.

Roumania Said to Seek Alliance With Teutons

Amsterdam, March 23.—Vienna newspapers state that the new Roumanian premier, Alexander Marghiloman, is striving for an alliance between Roumania and the central powers.

Jassy, Rumania, March 23.—The newspapers announce that the Roumanian Parliament is to be dissolved and that new elections have been ordered.

Clemenceau Says British War News Is Favorable

Paris, Friday, March 22.—Premier Clemenceau appeared for a few minutes in the lobby of the chamber of deputies tonight and told the deputies that the news he had received from British headquarters gave him a most satisfactory impression.

Iowa Congressman Will Not Seek Re-Election

Sioux City, Ia., March 23.—George C. Scott, representative of the Eleventh Iowa district in congress, will not seek re-election.

Take 25,000 Men is Germans' Claim

Berlin, March 23.—Between Fontaine les Croisilles and Moeuvres, German forces penetrated into the second enemy position and captured two villages, army headquarters announced today.

So far, the statement announces, 25,000 prisoners, 400 guns and 300 machine guns have been taken.

The two villages taken on the Fontaine-Moeuvres front were Vaulx-Vraucourt and Morchies.

The announcement says the Germans are standing before the third enemy position. It reports that the British evacuated their positions in the bend south of Cambrai and were pursued by the Germans through Denicourt, Flesquiers and Ribecourt.

TEUTONS RUSH 9 MILES THROUGH BRITISH FRONT

Drive Wedge Between English and French; Attempting to Cross Somme in Direction of Compeigne and Paris; Cavalry Appears

(By Associated Press.)

The great German offensive on the western front has developed as its salient feature an apparent desperate effort to break into the southwest of St. Quentin, drive a wedge between the British and the French, and push on across the Somme canal in the general direction of Compeigne and Paris.

Simultaneously Paris has been bombarded at quarter hour intervals, beginning Saturday forenoon, with shells of about 9-inch calibre. The source of the bombardment has not been revealed.

USE AERIAL TORPEDO.

The nearest point on the front is 62 miles distant, more than twice as far as artillery fire has ever reached previously. One theory suggested is that the Germans have developed an aerial torpedo which can be fired from a long distance.

There was an admitted break in the British line in the St. Quentin region late yesterday, the Germans forcing their way through the defensive system and compelling a British retreat to prepared positions within the area devastated by the Germans in their retreat in the spring of 1917.

ADVANCE NINE MILES.

This new line also is now being attacked by the Germans, and news dispatches filed from there late in the day indicate that the fighting already was heavy in the vicinity of Ham, which represents a penetration of some nine miles for the Germans.

A supreme effort by the Germans to cut the line in this region is forecast in the dispatches. They have put cavalry in the field to follow up the infantry and evidently intend to throw the British into the fray when the infantry columns open the breach the German high command is counting upon.

Further north the British line, while they have drawn back, are holding well in their new positions. The maximum British retrogression there seems to have been about four miles, at Mory, which has changed hands several times.

FRENCH JOIN BATTLE.

Reports the French have become involved in the struggle seem credible as the recession of the British right flank, which was resting approximately upon La Fere, at the River Oise, would inevitably carry with it the French left, which had rested upon the Oise.

The advance is being accompanied by a terrible slaughter of the Germans, who in their massed formations are being cut to pieces by British guns of all calibres. The British casualties, too, have been heavy, and Berlin claims the taking of 25,000 British prisoners and 400 guns.

EMPEROR IN COMMAND.

Emperor William himself is in command of the German armies, fighting this battle, which he had previously declared would be the decisive one of the war, and London commentators credit him with assuming this post with the aim of going down in history as the victor in the greatest conflict in the world's history, should the Germans win, as their leaders have boasted they would.

Despite the advances made by the Germans no loss of confidence on the allied side in the ultimate outcome is apparent. "Serious, but not alarming," is the view London takes of the situation. Attention is largely centered now on the St. Quentin thrust, and the next big developments are looked for to come from that sector.

FIRST DAYLIGHT RAID.

The great battle in the west has caused all other news to become of minor importance by comparison, but considerable interest attaches to the announcement of a further British success in Palestine, where General Allenby's troops have forced a crossing of the River Jordan, and are fighting their way eastward after successfully bridging the stream.

Besides the mysterious bombardment of Paris the city was subjected to its first daylight air raid, carried out shortly after 8 o'clock Saturday morning. Bombs were dropped at several points by the few machines, flying at an extremely high altitude, which succeeded in penetrating over the city. A number of casualties resulted.

SENATOR DECIDES BEST STAY AWAY FROM LEGISLATURE

Plan to Come Home Is Suddenly Changed as a Result of Premature Publicity.

Plans for Senator Hitchcock's return to Omaha to look after his political fences seem to have been suddenly changed as the result of premature publicity in The Bee. A member of the senator's newspaper that Mr. Hitchcock would be home by the end of the week by inquiries at the office yesterday brought the answer that the senator is still in Washington, is not expected here very soon and would not be back for at least three or four weeks, if then.

The talk persists, that the subject of Senator Hitchcock's pro-German activities will be brought up in the legislature in the form of a resolution of censure. A group including well-known democrats from out in the state, as well as from Omaha were discussing the matter at the Paxton hotel two evenings ago and speculated on whether the senatorial influence exercised through his part of the federal brigade would succeed in heading off the threatened uprising. They seem to think it was up to Boss Mullen to protect the senator.

"The democratic majority in the legislature last winter took orders from King Arthur without a whimper," said one of them. "They just ate out of his hand and did what he told them to do. That late assault on Bryan in the senator's paper, though, may make it hard for King Arthur to handle the situation for the friends of Bryan are bound to resent it. Arthur's shrewdness, and resourcefulness outwitted that bunch before and in my opinion ought to do so again in this connection."

"The rumor that opposition is to be made to the senatorial resolution," (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

U. S. WAR HEADS RUSH WORD TO PERSHING TO HASTEN NEWS

Officials Believe Germans Have Staked Lives of 300,000 Soldiers to Gain Objective by Literally Smothering Allies With Manpower; Expect End to Conflict Within Few Days.

Washington, March 23.—The War department cabled General Pershing tonight to forward immediately definite information of the exact situation on the battle front where the British troops are under the German onslaught.

The only official word at hand was contained in the official statements issued from London and Berlin.

OFFICIALS STILL CONFIDENT. American army officers would hazard no opinions lacking definite and comprehensive advices. Privately, however, their confidence in the eventual repulse of the German thrust remained unshaken in the face of all reports received.

Both American officers and those attached to the British and French military missions looked with confidence on the story unfolded from hour to hour as the German effort progressed. A review of the day's events as told in Associated Press dispatches, they said, gave no ground for assuming that allied resistance would prove unequal to its task.

EVERYTHING AT STAKE. All reports were taken to prove that the Germans had staked lives by the hundred thousand upon a quick blow, designed to be overpowering both because of the masses of men used and also because of the absolute disregard of losses which marked its delivery.

There was evidence that seemed to bear out predictions that Germany was prepared to sacrifice 300,000 men in the effort. It was with man power in great masses, and not gun power that the first lines of the British defenses were penetrated.

The greatest shock ever hurled at an army appeared to observers here to have been met by the British with great skill. It appeared that the British had stopped the rush where they could; withdrawn slowly before it where they could not. Their orderly retirement, American officers believe, means defeat for the Germans in the end. There has been no loss of British organization, it was pointed out and every foot of ground surrendered has been bought with blood.

Military experts say such an effort as the Germans are making cannot be continued long. Every foot gained means added difficulties of transportation, and the consequent slowing up of the forward movement. A day or two more of bitter resistance, even including further British retirement, it was thought would see the impetus of the German thrust lost, and its power diminished. Then would come the counter-attack. (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

Wheat Receipts Fall Off Tremendously During Week

Washington, March 23.—Wheat receipts at mills have fallen from 8,000,000 bushels to 3,000,000 bushels a week within the last month, according to figures received by government agencies. The decline is ascribed to the desire to hold wheat for higher prices obtainable if congress increases the price of wheat to \$2.50 a bushel.

Corn owners have written the food administration threatening to abandon the planting of corn for the sowing of wheat, unless the corn price also is raised and fixed. Food administration officials regard the situation as serious, since a great decline in the corn acreage possibly might result in a tremendous decrease in hogs and other meat animals.

Woman Spy Suspect Under Arrest at Willow Springs

Kansas City, Mo., March 23.—Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes of New York was arrested this morning at Willow Springs, Mo., by federal officers, on a charge of violation of the espionage act, it was announced here by Francis M. Wilson, United States district attorney for Missouri. Mrs. Stokes will be brought here tomorrow morning.

Trans-Siberian Road Gets Its First Train Through

Harbin, Tuesday, March 19.—Passengers arriving here on the first express train over the Trans-Siberian railroad in three weeks report that conditions along the route are much improved. The train left Petrograd carrying the American, Japanese, Chinese and Siamese embassies. All but the Japanese got off at Volodga.

Ping Feels Relieved.

Ping Soile was a pretty sore pastimer when he read that Connie Mack had disposed of all his stars. But that was before Ping had been transferred from the Athletics to the Yankees.

LONG RANGE OF GERMAN GUNS IS CAUSE TO MARVEL

American Officers at Washington Astounded by Report That Teuton Cannon Reach Paris.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 23.—News that Paris was being bombarded by German guns at a range of about sixty-two miles astonished American ordnance officers beyond belief.

No such range of guns had ever been dreamed of, they said. The world's record for long distance bombardment was established by the Germans some time ago when at a range of 20 to 22 miles they dropped occasional shells into Dunkirk.

The greatest long range American gun yet developed is the 16-inch rifle, which at the greatest possible elevation, it is estimated, would throw a shell about 19 miles.

World-Surprising Weapon. Evidently, ordnance officers said, the German artillery had developed some new world-surprising weapon, although it was thought possible they might be using some sort of aerial torpedo.

Entente allies' ordnance experts said they could think of no gun which might be employed at such long range unless it was a development of the Skoda rifle made in Austria. That is a tremendous enlargement on the plan of the usual high-power rifle. These experts, however, have no knowledge that the Skoda has been developed to such an enormous range.

Another possibility discussed by the experts is the development of a great long range shell-thrower operating by centrifugal force. Theoretically, they say, such a device could be geared up to throw a shell across the ocean, but they have no knowledge of its ever being practically applied.

Ordnance officers were first inclined to believe the Germans were conducting their long range bombardment from some nearer point to which they had broken through, but (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

BAKER VISITS KING ALBERT ON WESTERN FRONT

London, March 23.—Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, visited King Albert of Belgium and the Belgian front yesterday.

Mr. Baker has arrived at a British port.

Gilbert Eldredge Leaves for Training Camp at Fort Riley

Gilbert Eldredge, son of D. C. Eldredge, vice president of the Harding Creamery company and president of Benson & Thorne, leaves Omaha today for Fort Riley, Kan., where he will enter the medical officers' training school.

He has just completed a five-year law course at the University of Nebraska, where he was prominent in many school activities. He won many honors in debating contests.

Eldredge is 24 years old and has lived in Omaha practically all of his life.

George Mickel is Elected Head of Seymour Lake Club

George Mickel was elected president of the Seymour Lake Country club at the annual election Friday night. George Francis was elected vice president and John Bekins secretary.

The finance committee reported a gratifying balance in the club treasury and the golf committee reported work on the new links was progressing rapidly and that fourteen holes would be available by July.



Gilbert Eldredge.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair and warmer. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Table with weather data for Omaha, including temperatures at various times and comparative local records for 1918, 1917, 1916, and 1915.