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GEN. MARCH SEES NO CAUSE FOR ALARM TO AMERICANS

British Drive Attacking Troops to East Bank of Somme

HALF TOTAL HUN FORCES CONCENTRATED IN DRIVE

Military Attache of British Embassy at Washington Declares Line of Defense Only Bent, Not Broken—Retirement Voluntary—No Secret That Germany Stakes Everything.

Washington, March 25.—Maj.-Gen. McLachlan, military attache to the British embassy, made the following statement today to the Associated Press.

"This morning's news shows that our line of defense is not broken, but only bent. The battle appears, in fact, to be pursuing the course that might be expected in view of the tremendous weight of the attack. So far as can be gathered, the enemy has concentrated against us about half the total forces which he had on the western front; his concentration of artillery is on the same unprecedented scale. Even so our advanced lines were actually penetrated in a few places only.

"On by far the greater part of the sector attacked our retirement has been voluntary and in accordance with previous plans to stronger positions. Had our first line been nowhere penetrated this retirement would in all probability have taken place just the same. To have held on indefinitely would have meant virtually loss of life. As it is, our losses have been considerable but not excessive. The enemy, on the other hand, must have lost heavily. He has attacked constantly in dense masses, relying to break down our defense by sheer weight of numbers.

Wait With Equanimity.
"After gaining a few miles of war-swept territory, he is now approaching the first of our main defenses with

many of his best divisions already out of commission. It may well be that he will make a further advance if he pursues the reckless tactics of the last few days. The allies, however, can afford to wait with equanimity. Germany has made no secret that she is staking everything on this blow. She has promised her people and her allies that its successes will produce victory and peace.

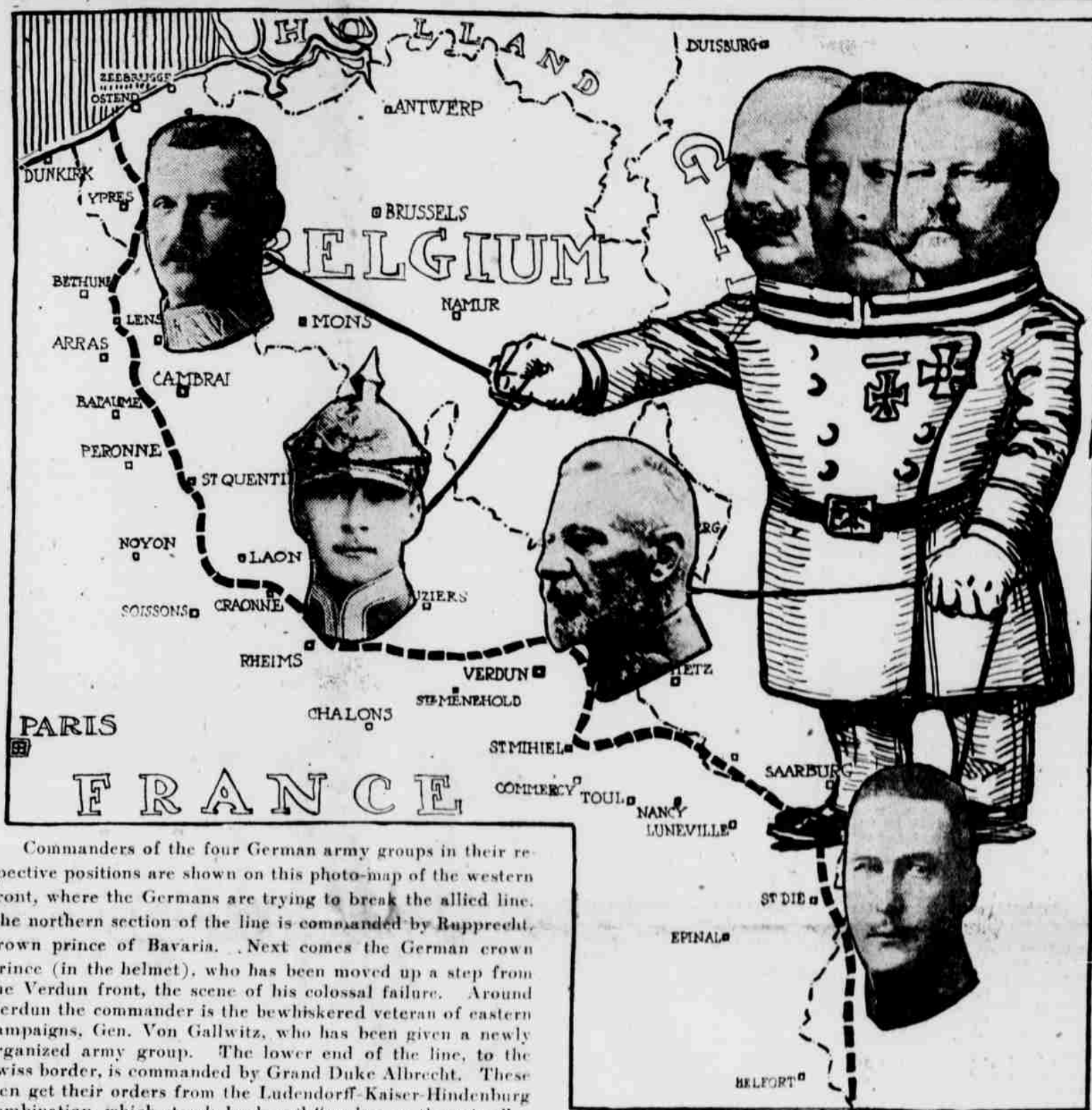
"So long as the battle ends, as there is every prospect that it will end, with our armies and those of our allies intact and in positions as strong as they have ever occupied, Germany will have failed and failed decisively. The opening of the fighting season of 1918 will find her with the flower of her army gone and with her people disheartened by the most spectacular and costly failure of the war.

"Finally, it must be remembered that the battle is still only in its first stage. Behind our armies engaged is the great French army and also our strategic reserves which have not been used."

Sees No Cause for Alarm.
"The war department sees no cause for alarm on the part of the people of the United States," said Maj.-Gen. Peyton C. March, acting chief of staff, commenting today on the situation in France. "Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. That announcement is to be accepted."

Gen. March stated specifically that the war department still was without information which would confirm the report that American units had taken part in the great battle.

THE DRIVE AND THE DRIVERS



Commanders of the four German army groups in their respective positions are shown on this photo-map of the western front, where the Germans are trying to break the allied line. The northern section of the line is commanded by Rupprecht, crown prince of Bavaria. Next comes the German crown prince (in the helmet), who has been moved up a step from the Verdun front, the scene of his colossal failure. Around Verdun the commander is the bewhiskered veteran of eastern campaigns, Gen. Von Gallwitz, who has been given a newly organized army group. The lower end of the line, to the Swiss border, is commanded by Grand Duke Albrecht. These men get their orders from the Ludendorff-Kaiser-Hindenburg combination, which stands back and "pushes on the reins."

BOMBARDMENT PARIS RESUMED; TWICE HALTED

Four Shots From Long-Range Guns Fired at Early Hour at Brief Intervals.

LITTLE CONCERN SHOWN

Alarm Fails to Cause Any Scurry to Shelter.

New Battle Sole Topic of Conversation—Compared With Struggle at Verdun.

Paris, March 25.—The long-range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6:30 o'clock this morning, but was interrupted after the second shot. After a brief interval two more shots were fired. The bombardment was again suspended at 9:10 o'clock.

As was the case yesterday, the people did not take to shelter. Cellars which were filled on Saturday remained empty this morning. Little interest was shown in the bombardment.

Different Kind of Alarm.

Soon after they were awakened by the first shot the people were brought to their windows by the rattling of drums. Policemen circulated through each quarter of the city introducing the new system of alarm, which is distinguished from the alarm in the case of air raids.

Work was resumed under normal conditions. All the transportation lines were running. The streets were full of people, whose sole subject of conversation was the new battle of the Somme, which is generally compared with Verdun.

Twenty-four shells reached Paris on Saturday and twenty-seven yesterday. The interval between shots was reduced from fifteen or twenty minutes on Saturday to an average of nine minutes yesterday. On two occasions there was an interval of only one or two minutes. Shells fell at 9:15 and 9:16 o'clock and at 9:42 and 9:47. This was accepted as confirming the theory that at least two guns were firing. The time of flight of the shells is estimated at ten minutes at the least; the curve traversed at 120 miles, and the maximum height attained at fifteen miles.

Air Raid Alarm Sounded.
Paris, March 25.—Another air raid alarm was sounded shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. After three-quarters of an hour firemen's bugles and church bells announced that all was clear and the Parisians were able to return to their beds.

Invest Five Million in Thrift Stamps in State

Saturday's war savings stamp sale topped over \$5,000,000 in Tennessee, although complete returns are not yet in. This puts Tennessee far ahead of any state except Texas and Oklahoma. Of this amount Memphis led with \$200,000 and Nashville was runner-up.

This good showing is the result of a Tennessee-wide campaign. Over a hundred speakers made 117 addresses to 700,000 people. Parades were staged in many cities and towns. Stamps were sold in 6,000 places, at stations, agencies, postoffices and banks. Of this number, 1,100 were post-offices.

CRITTENTON HOME CHIEF EXECUTIVE COMING

Important Meetings Planned. Open New Home First of April.

The board of directors of the Florence Crittenton League of Meigs will meet Tuesday at 11 o'clock at the chambers of commerce. The board of directors is composed of one man from the Kiwanis club, Rotary club, county and city governments. Mrs. Barrett, president of the National Florence Crittenton Home of America, will arrive here tonight as the guest of Mrs. Jo Brown, and will attend the meeting. Mrs. Barrett is said to be the best informed woman on this kind of work in America.

At 1 o'clock Wednesday the women members will meet at luncheon at the Patten hotel, and Mrs. Barrett will speak to them on rescue work. At 2:30 Wednesday she will address men and women on rescue work in the courtroom. Mrs. Jo Brown stated Monday that the Johnson home recently purchased, would be occupied by the Crittenton home about April 1.

ENEMY REPULSED NORTH BAPAUME; BATTLE VIOLENT

Fresh Attacks Develop at Points With Conflict Raging Along Whole Front.

ADVANCES ARE REPORTED

British Headquarters Tells of Gains by Germans.

Hun Infantry Meets Defeat. Immense Losses Sustained When Efforts Fail.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—A further advance late yesterday by the Germans at some points along the battle front is recorded.

American engineers have again been in the throes of fierce conflict, in which they have done excellent work in transportation. The presence of the American engineers on the battle front has long been known. They are praised highly for their gallantry in the battle of Cambrai, last fall.

London, March 25.—Fresh attacks by the Germans have developed northward and southward of Bapaume, the war office announces.

The British repulsed powerful attacks yesterday afternoon northward of Bapaume.

The British drove back to the eastern bank of the Somme bodies of German troops which had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne.

Official Report Follows:

"The battle continues with great violence on the whole front. Powerful attacks, delivered by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening, north of Bapaume, were heavily repulsed. Only at one point did the German infantry reach our trenches whence they were immediately thrown out. Elsewhere the enemy's attacks were stopped by rifle, machine gun and artillery fire in front of our positions and his troops were driven back with great loss and this morning fresh hostile attacks have again developed in this neighborhood and also to the south of Bapaume.

"South of Peronne bodies of German troops, who had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie, were

BERLIN CLAIMS CAPTURE OF 45,000 AND MUCH BOOTY

Guns Taken Largely in Excess of 600, With Quantities of Munitions and Implements of War.

Berlin, March 25.—(British admiral's wireless press.)—The Germans are now standing to the north of the Somme in the middle of the former Somme battle field, says today's official statement. Bapaume was captured in night fighting.

In the evening Neale was taken by storm, the statement adds. British Americans and French were thrown back through a pathless wooded country, by way of Villequier-Aumont and La Nouville.

More than 45,000 prisoners and more than 600 guns have been captured, the statement says.

Guisard and Chauny were captured in the evening.

Violent fighting developed for possession of Comblis and the heights west of the town. The enemy was defeated, the statement says.

Bapaume is on the northern part of the battle front, where the British line for the most part has been held. It is one of the larger towns on the fighting front, from which a number of roads radiate. The official German statement on Sunday night said a gigantic struggle was taking place for the town. It is thirteen miles below Arras.

Nesle, Guisard, Chauny, Villequier-Aumont and La Neuville are all in the sector west of the Somme, southwest of St. Quentin, where the Germans have been making the greatest headway in the last twenty-four hours. It is there that the French troops were thrown back on Chauny.

Comblis is six miles northwest of Peronne. "The losses of the enemy in killed and wounded are unusually heavy," the statement reads. "The booty, which has fallen into our hands since March 21, the amount of which is tremendous, cannot yet be estimated. It has been ascertained that more than 45,000 prisoners have been taken. The number of guns captured is largely in excess of 600. We have taken thousands of machine guns, tremendous quantities of munitions and implements of war, and great stocks of supplies and other equipment.

"In the evening we bombarded the fortress of Paris with long range guns."

BRITISH POSITIONS IN PALESTINE EXTENDED

London, March 25.—The British positions on the left bank of the Jordan, in Palestine, was extended on Friday night, it is announced officially.

The statement follows: "During the night of March 22 and on March 23 our positions on the left bank of the Jordan were extended and some prisoners and machine guns were captured. An enemy formation of five airplanes was attacked by one of our patrolling machines, which shot down three of them out of control."

"Information has been received of a successful action by Arab troops by the king of the Hedjaz, near Jeddah, on the Hedjaz railway, seventy-eight miles northward of Medina, on March 16. Under cover of a sandstorm a company of a Turkish camel corps was surprised and destroyed."

AMERICANS SUPERIOR Swiss Officer Has High Praise for U. S. Troops in France.

Geneva, Sunday, March 24.—The impressions of a Swiss officer, Capt. Obersteg, regarding the Americans at the front are published in the Democratic. Capt. Obersteg, who has just returned from visits to zones where the Americans and the British are operating, says that the Americans seem to be picked men who physically surpass those in the European armies except perhaps the British troops.

Capt. Obersteg said he found the organization behind the front lines "truly American," in every sector where the Americans are located the whole army is supplied with food from America and asks little from France. The Americans, he says, have only one great desire, and that is to be allowed to fight against the Germans as soon as possible. They dislike delay, "even the privates realizing that they are fighting against injustice." The Swiss officer concludes: "America is following the same line as its predecessors in the fight for liberty."

NEW VARIETY OF BOMBS EMPLOYED

With Bluish-Red Flash German Device Explodes in Midair, Giving Off Mustard Gas.

With the American Army in France, March 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—On the Toul front there was considerable artillery activity during the night. American guns heavily shelled the German front line positions. Enemy batteries replied, using many gas shells. Later photographs were taken from airplanes of the damage inflicted by the Americans.

OHIO MAN INVENTED LONG-RANGE GUN

Anonymous Letter in Cleveland News Claims Credit for Big Machine Used by Huns.

Cleveland, O., March 25.—The big gun being used by the Germans in bombarding Paris is the invention of a Toledo, O. man named Whelan, according to an anonymous letter published in the Cleveland News. The writer declares the same gun for rather the same idea of gun fired a shot thirty-six miles on Lake Erie when tested three years ago.

He declares the gun was purchased by Dr. Bernard Dernburg, the German financial representative in this country, and that the inventor and his wife were taken to Germany on the same vessel Dr. Dernburg sailed on.

During the tests on Lake Erie the gun was operated from an old mud boat, thus doing away with the "inch-a-mile" and concrete base problems of other days.

In connection with the mysterious letter-writer's revelations, it is significant that Dr. Dernburg actually was in Cleveland the day the Lusitania was sunk—May 9, 1915.

Washington, March 25.—Army ordnance experts say they never heard of such a gun as described in the foregoing dispatch and were much inclined to discredit the story.

Frost, Says Billy 'Possum

Old March has put one ever-camouflaging, so to speak—it came in like a lamb and now it eats itself and meekly, we hear no lion roaring, doing capers, as it were—but to change the subject quickly, German, please don't come too far!

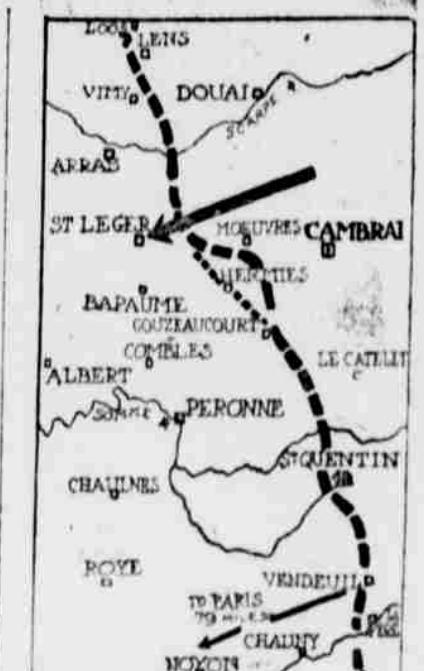
"The weather" Fair and moderately cool tonight with probable light frost in low places. Tuesday fair and warmer,

MARQUIS DE CASTILLOT SENTENCED TO TWO TERMS

New York, March 25.—Edmond Rousset, the young Frenchman who, in the role of the "Marquis de Castillot," is alleged to have tried to negotiate a \$50,000,000 loan from J. P. Morgan & Co. on behalf of the king of Spain, was sentenced today to two terms, to run concurrently, in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, of one year and eight months each. The first penalty was for theft of government stationery and the second for forging passes to docks, arsenals and warships.

NEW ORLEANS COTTON FUTURES CLOSING

New Orleans, March 25.—Cotton futures closed steady, 1 point down to 1 point up, at 27 1/2c, December, 27 1/2c; October, 27 1/2c; November, 27 1/2c.



BERLIN DESCRIBES LOSS 'COMPARATIVELY HEAVY'

London, March 25.—Emperor William and Field Marshal Von Hindenburg visited Peronne on Sunday evening, according to Berlin advices forwarded from Amsterdam by Exchange Telegraph.

MEDALS FOR ATTACK ON SUPERIOR FORCE

Five Americans Receive Distinguished Service Cross for Routing Enemy Patrol.

With the American Army in France, Sunday, March 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—Five of the men whose names have been announced as recipients of the distinguished service cross earned that distinction by their bravery in attacking a superior force on patrol. These men, Sergeants Marcel Hall and James G. West, and Corporals Edgar H. Freeman, Amos Teske and Homer Whitely, all of the same infantry regiment, formed the patrol which encountered an enemy patrol of ten men in No Man's Land on March 4. The Americans attacked the patrol and routed it and took two of the Germans prisoner.

(Continued on Page Eleven)