



BRITISH HURL BACK Foe

DROP AERIAL GAS BOMBS
ON SECTOR HELD BY U. S.;
HUN AIR MEN DRIVEN OFF

International News Service.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 24.—(6 p. m.)—American positions were under fire today from both German aircraft and German artillery.

Early in the morning a German airplane crossed the line at an altitude of 20,000 feet. The airman shut off his motor and volplaned low in the obscurity of the early morning darkness, dropping numerous new style bombs, which exploded before they reached ground, scattering clouds of mustard gas. As the gas in heavier than air, it slowly settled, spreading as it did so.

American gas officers immediately detected the presence of the toxic poison by a reddish blue glare and signalled for the men to put on their masks.

The enemy evidently tried to gas some of our artillery a little later in the day. A certain half of the ruined territory in an advanced American area was subjected to two bursts of fire from Krupp batteries.

Most Are Gas Shells.
Most of the projectiles sent over were gas shells, but there was some high explosive and shrapnel also.

A German airplane was detected hovering the sky and directing the German fire, but was driven off by our anti-aircraft guns.

American batteries shelled St. Baussant heavily and threw some shells into German communication trenches. A fluctuating and harassing fire was also kept up against the enemy's first lines.

Plane Squadron Broken.
A squadron of seven German airplanes tried to swoop across the American lines but the formation was broken up and the machines dis-

International News Service.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 25.—(9 a. m.)—American batteries on the front subjected the advanced positions of the Germans to an intense and destructive fire at intervals during the night. There was no infantry action.

German batteries replied with gas shells and high explosives, specializing in counter battery work.

At daybreak American observers in French aeroplanes penetrated over the enemy's lines, photographing the German positions that had been bombed.

American observers, piloted by French aviators, have been working hard to ascertain if there were any German troop movements opposite the American front, but little activity was noticed.

Pershing's Forces Are
Impatient For Chance

International News Service.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 25.—American army officers declared today that the present situation on the western front is the most critical confronting the allies since the battle of the Marne. They don't expect Verdun.

These officers pointed out the necessity for plain speaking now so that the people at home can realize that every effort is necessary on their part in order that the foe may be beaten.

Making Supreme Effort.
The German announcement of the capture of Peronne and Ham was received by the Americans yesterday afternoon. Coupled with the announcement that the enemy was again bombarding Paris, it was felt that the kaiser was making his supreme effort to end the conflict before the United States could actually get a huge force into the field.

American officers pointed out that the Germans are ready to sacrifice enormous numbers of troops in order to force a decision in the west. The enemy, they declared, is trying to batter down the morale of the populace in the rear of the battle line with his air raids and long range bombardments at the same time that he is trying to break

through the front.
American and French artillery experts are keenly interested in the official French report that Paris had been shelled by a long range German gun.

Critical Period at Hand.
The feeling is prevalent that a critical period is at hand and all the Americans are hoping to get into action.

The initial success of the Germans does not surprise Americans, who have been taught that either side can advance a certain distance and capture men and guns during the first few days of a drive. But the real fruits of the operations must result during the secondary phase of the offensive when efforts are made to follow up the first successes.

British Outnumbered.
The fact that the Germans heavily outnumbered the British is regarded as complimentary for the skill of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig as the indications were that the Germans intended to strike in the Cambrai sector in a possible effort to make the British reinforce that part of their line by withdrawing troops from the north, thus leaving the channel ports exposed. Instead the British maintain a careful balance of strength along their front, holding a strategic reserve force.

Chief Features of World's
Greatest Battle

This is the fifth day of the struggle, which opened with the German offensive between the Scarpe and Oise rivers on Thursday. American soldiers are reported to be taking part.

Now estimated that 2,000,000 men are engaged.

The Germans at the cost of terrible loss of life were able to extend their lines, occupying Peronne, Ham and Chauny.

The Germans have now recaptured about one-third of the district which they evacuated and devastated in their retreat in the spring of 1917.

The opposing commanders-in-chief are: British, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. German, the kaiser.

The struggle continues to rage along a 50-mile front.

INDIANA BOY
WINS FRENCH
CROSS OF WAR

Sub Lieut. Walter France of
Oakland City, Helps Cap-
ture Crew of Ger-
man Airplane.

BY HENRY G. WALES.

International News Service.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 24.—(6 p. m.)—Capt. Herbert Hartwell, of Springfield, Mass., and Sub-Lieut. Walter France of Oakland City, Ind., have been decorated with the French war cross by the French general command.

The French general commanding the Chemin des Dames sector, for capturing the three members of the crew of a German airplane, which had taken part in an air raid over Paris about a fortnight ago.

Capt. Wolf, a Prussian, and the pilot of the German machine, and Lieut. Kammerer, the bomb dropper, were captured by Sub-Lieut. France, while the mechanic of the airplane, Sergt. Fisher, was captured by Capt. Hartwell.

Raiders' Engine Falls.
"We were stationed near Clamecy when we heard that raiders were on their way towards Paris and later we heard them returning towards their own lines," said Sub-Lieut. France today.

His motor was falling and soon saw the German machine descending.

"The captain and I ran towards the Germans as their machine struck the earth. It landed against a shell crater and the men were catapulted from the airplane. They then set fire to it.

Capture Officer.
"The Prussian captain was chased into an old disused trench where he was taken prisoner. Then the German lieutenant was pursued, but I refused to accept it. After the German machine had been set afire an undropped bomb exploded but did no damage.

"Wolf told me he was a former daylight flyer and said he had brought down numerous allied machines. He added that he disliked night bombing but was forced into the service.

Get Signal Honor.
"Later French troops took charge of the prisoners."

The French citation accompanying the war crosses asserted that Capt. Hartwell and Sub-Lieut. France were the first Americans to capture enemy officers alone, entirely unassisted by the French.

Clamecy, near which the Americans made their captures, lies north of the Aisne river and between three and four miles northeast of Soissons.

U. S. LIEUTENANT WINS
10-DAY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

International News Service.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 25.—A lone lieutenant from Charleston, S. C., who distinguished himself by raiding a German listening post, bringing in an unwounded German prisoner, has just been granted 10 days' leave of absence in recognition.

The lieutenant was armed with an automatic pistol. He crept through the barbed wire and across "No Man's Land" to the edge of a German sap, pouncing upon an enemy listener, silently capturing him and bringing him back to the American lines, despite German machine gun fire.

CRACKSMEN GET \$2,000
BUT MISS \$60,000 LOOT

International News Service.
CHICAGO, March 25.—After blinding the night watchman with slender strands of wire that cut into his flesh when he struggled to free himself, three cracksmen, armed with a total of six revolvers, blew open a safe in the plant of the K. & S. Sales Co. today and got away with about \$2,000 in checks and currency.

The robbers failed to get between \$10,000 and \$50,000 worth of jewelry in two vaults in another room.

TRUCKS FOR POSTOFFICE.
International News Service.
WASHINGTON, March 25.—Postmaster Gen. Burleson today issued a call for sealed proposals to be opened April 23, for furnishing the postal service with three sizes of motor trucks during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1918.

MAN 86 IS CANDIDATE.
International News Service.
KOKOMO, Ind., March 25.—Capt. Milton Garrigus, 86 years old, former state commander of the G. A. R. is a candidate for representative for Howard county on the republican ticket, he has announced.

French Official
Statement

Relieve British Forces in No-
yon Sector and Repulse
Surprise Attacks.

International News Service.

PARIS, March 25.—French forces have relieved the British on part of the battle front in the Noyon sector, the war office stated today.

The text of the statement follows: "French troops began to intervene in the battle on the British front since last Friday (the day after the opening of the offensive.) They have relieved part of the English forces.

"At present the French are engaged in hard fighting in the Noyon sector, disputing possession of the heights on the right side of the Oise against important German forces.

"The German artillery fire has been very violent in the Courcy-Loivre region.

"Two surprise attacks were delivered by the Germans east of Soissons, both of which were repulsed.

"There has been great artillery activity between Avocourt and the Vosges mountains.

"East of Badonvillers and near Blimevey the enemy began attacking at dawn, but was repulsed with heavy losses."

German Navy May
Try Dash to Sea;
U. S. Fleet Ready

International News Service.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Whether the navy will play any part in the situation resulting from the German offensive now in progress on the west front was a topic of general discussion in military and naval circles today. The majority of officials believe that it will. They believe that the German high seas fleet is about ready to try a dash to the open sea. To attain that end it will be necessary to outfit or check the British grand fleet. Whether this is possible is something which naval men here will not discuss.

Americans Ready.
However, should the German fleet get to sea it will find the American navy prepared to defend the American coast. Sec'y Daniels has made it plain that the fleet is ready for action.

The dispositions which have been made are believed to be sufficient to meet any emergency which may arise. It is not possible to touch on the dispositions which have been made but they are considered sufficient by Admiral William S. Benson, chief of operations, to deal with any developments.

It is fully realized here that the German navy is considered in the light of a division of the German army.

First Call of this Nature.
This is the first call Gen. Crowder has issued to induct young men of draft age with certain educational qualifications into the service and send them to universities, colleges, and technical schools to be instructed in technical art until they have acquired such proficiency as will justify their assignment to the special units that are being organized. It is proposed to train nearly 200,000 young men in this way during the coming months.

SUBMARINE SINKS
AMERICAN SHIP

Crew of 80 Aboard Chatta-
hoochee Saved When Ves-
sel is Struck.

International News Service.
LONDON, March 25.—A German U-boat has sunk the American steamship Chattahoochee off the English coast, according to an admiralty announcement today.

The crew, number about 80 men, was saved. The Chattahoochee, according to the vessel's commander, was struck by four torpedoes.

The Chattahoochee was of German construction and formerly was owned by the Hamburg-American line. She was formerly the Sachsen and registered 8,960 tons. The vessel was taken over by the American government when war was declared against Germany.

INDIANAPOLIS GROCER IS
HELD FOR VIOLATION

International News Service.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 25.—Affidavits against the first Indianapolis grocer charged with violation of the fifty-fifty order in connection with the sale of flour today are in the hands of the state food administration. County Administrator Wyckoff cited Isaac Prince to the state director for the alleged sale of flour without the disposal of a similar amount of wheat substitutes.

KOKOMO BOY DEAD.
International News Service.
KOKOMO, Ind., March 25.—Announcement of the death of James DeArmond Golliday in France, has been received by Mrs. J. W. Hankins Golliday, his mother. He is the first Kokomo boy in the service to die on French soil.

CROWDER CALLS
4,500 MEN FOR
SPECIAL WORK

Selected Men Will be Given
Courses in Automotive En-
gineers to Enter Aero
Service As Mechanics.

International News Service.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Orders issued today by Provost Marshal Gen. Crowder calling upon local boards in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota to furnish 4,500 selective service men for training in 14 technical schools. The men will entrain beginning April 5, and ending April 28, and the requirements are for young, quick thinking and intelligent men who will be trained as automotive engineers. When they have finished their course they will be assigned to the signal corps as expert airplane mechanics.

Schools to Give Courses.
The schools to which these men will be assigned are as follows: Carnegie School of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa.; 300 Minnesota men; University of Chicago, 100 Illinois men; University of Cincinnati, 500 Minnesota men; University of Minnesota, 200 Illinois men; University of Minnesota, 200 Minnesota men; University of Wisconsin, 400 Iowa men; Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., 100 Illinois men; Rahe Auto and Tractor School, Kansas City, Mo., 500 Iowa men; Sweeney Automobile school, Kansas City, Mo., 500 Iowa men; Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind., 500 Indiana men; Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Ill., 500 Illinois men.

May Volunteer for Service.
Young men within the draft age within the four states named may volunteer for this training and if a sufficient number of volunteers is not obtained, local boards will furnish enough to fill the quota of each state.

While the men are being trained they will be housed and maintained at government expense and they will also receive military training while pursuing their studies. Upon their graduation they will be especially well fitted to aid the government in its air program.

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Attention was directed today that the shells have practically no force when they strike the ground and that they seem to fall with slackening speed. At numerous places measurements showed that the shell holes on an average were only about four feet in diameter and two feet deep.

The Bourne resumed operations today in spite of the great German offensive and the activity of the Hun air forces.

There were several casualties as a result of yesterday's air raid. The German flyers succeeded in dropping several bombs before French aeroplanes drove them off.

SHARPE REPORTS
BOMBARDMENT MYSTERY.

International News Service.
WASHINGTON, March 25.—Ambassador Sharpe has transmitted to the state department the following dispatch made public in Paris on Saturday night, dealing with the mysterious long range bombardment:

"The enemy has fired on Paris with a long distance gun since 8 a. m. Every quarter of an hour and 40 of the shells have reached the capital and suburbs. There are 16 dead and about 15 wounded. Means to combat the enemy gun are in course of execution."

Another message reaching here said it was believed the German airplanes seen over Paris at a very great height were there to observe the result of the long range bombardment. Officials today were still puzzled over the conflicting reports about the gun, which was said to be again in use in Paris today and until official word clearing up all of the mystery surrounding the matter is received they are withholding comment.

G. O. P. CHAIRMAN HOLDS
CONFERENCE IN TENTH

International News Service.
WASHINGTON, March 25.—L. W. Henley, chairman of the republican state central committee, is here today for a conference with republicans of the 10th district preparatory to organizing the district for the forthcoming campaign. Tomorrow he will meet party leaders at Plymouth and will attend a meeting of the 11th district republicans at Peru Wednesday. On Thursday he will go to Fort Wayne for a conference.

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Drive Germans Back Across
Somme and Repulse Drive on
Bapaume; French Come to Aid

EXTRA—BULLETIN—EXTRA.
BERLIN, March 25.—Bapaume, which has been the storm center of fighting on the western front during the past 24 hours, has been captured by the Germans, it was claimed by the war office today.

The Germans had extended their lines almost to the eastern outskirts of Bapaume so that the capture of the place would not mean any great advance for them, but puts them in possession of ground of strategic military value.

International News Service.
LONDON, March 25.—Powerful counter attacks, delivered by British forces south of Peronne, have thrown back the Germans from the western to the eastern bank of the Somme river, the British war office announced today.

At the same time the Germans renewed their storm assaults against the British defensive positions in the Bapaume sector, but were driven back with severe losses, the official statement added.

The Bapaume fighting was resumed after a lull of a few hours during the night. It began yesterday afternoon with the Germans attacking north of the city, but today the assaults were concentrated against the British positions to the south of the city. At one point on Sunday evening, the Germans got a foothold in a British trench line, but were quickly thrown out.

It is officially announced in Paris that French troops have reinforced the British along the southern end of the 50-mile battle front, said a dispatch from that city.

PARIS IS STILL
UNDER FIRE OF
MYSTERY GUN

International News Service.

PARIS, March 25.—Paris was still under bombardment today by unseen forces. Shells began falling upon the city before 7 o'clock, but the people remained calm and went about their daily routine as usual.

Responsibility for the daily bombardment is still as much a mystery as ever. The report that a giant German cannon had been located 70 miles from the French capital has not been confirmed. Many French experts still believed that airmen flying at a high altitude were responsible.

Attention was directed today that the shells have practically no force when they strike the ground and that they seem to fall with slackening speed. At numerous places measurements showed that the shell holes on an average were only about four feet in diameter and two feet deep.

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Bapaume is Chief
Prize For Which
Germans Struggle

The shell-wrecked city of Bapaume, midway along the 50-mile battle front in France, is the chief prize for which the Germans have been struggling during the past 24 hours.

The fifth day of the gigantic German offensive found British resistance stiffened all along the line and the Germans concentrating their pressure in the Bapaume sector amidst the greatest carnage of the war.

With the arrival of the counter attack stage of the stupendous battle, the German advance was not only slowed up, but south of Peronne the German forces that had succeeded in gaining a lodgment on the western bank of the Somme were hurled back to the eastern side by the powerful British counter thrusts.

French and British.
On the southern end of the battle zone, French troops have reinforced the British, taking over a part of the fighting front.

The British success on the Somme river may imperil the Germans' hold on Peronne if the British are able to follow it up by extending their gains on the eastern side of the stream.

In the fighting around Bapaume the Germans resorted to their usual strategy of attacking the British from two sides, in an effort to compel a retreatment by pressure upon their flanks. The initial assaults, launched on Sunday were delivered southward from the direction of Croisilles and tremendous pressure was exerted against the British defensive system north of the city.

After their repulse in that district, the Germans gave up the effort up today when they suddenly switched their pressure to the British lines south of Bapaume.

Drive at Salient.
A small British salient juts into the German front southeast of Bapaume and the Germans evidently hoped to flatten this projection, meanwhile driving in the British defenses to the south of Bapaume.

The Germans continue to pour fresh troops into the battle and the bombardments which accompany the infantry operations are of such violence that they can be heard on the British coast.

The allied lines are being greatly strengthened at menaced points and according to authentic information received today, the mixed reserve force of British, French and Americans, which was formed by the Versailles war council, is being held for a counter thrust against the Germans when the proper moment arrives.

Given up in 1917.
The battle-blasted city of Bapaume, which is now the scene of the heaviest fighting was one of the cities given up by the Germans when they made their great retreat in the spring of 1917, from the Somme to the Hindenburg line, it is 15 miles west of Cambrai and about 15 miles north of Peronne. It

BERLIN CLAIMS
45,000 MEN
ARE PRISONERS

International News Service.
BERLIN, March 25.—Bapaume and Nesle which have been storm centers of terrific fighting on the western battle front for 24 hours, have been captured by the Germans, the war office claimed today.

The official statement claims further that the number of allied prisoners has been increased to 45,000 in the first five days of the German offensive.

The war office again made mention of the American troops, saying that British, French and American forces were "thrown back through a pathless wooded country by way of Nesle and Calmont."

Desperate fighting for possession of Comblès developed. The German crown prince's army forced a passage of the Somme river below Ham and scaled height positions to the west of the Somme, the official report added.

Claim Capture of Bapaume.
"We broke through British positions northwest and southwest of Bapaume capturing Bapaume itself in night fighting," the announcement said. "Hot fighting developed for the possessions of Comblès and the heights to the west, the enemy being defeated."

A counter attack by British cavalry was repulsed.

"The crown prince forced a passage of the Somme south of Ham and scaled heights in that district."

"We stormed Nesle, also positions west of the Crozat and canal. English, French and American troops were thrown back through a dense forest by way of Nesle and Calmont."

Bombard Paris Again.
"We captured Guise and Chauny."

"Our booty now includes 45,000 prisoners, 600 guns and thousands of machine guns."

"We again bombarded Paris with long range guns."

In the official report issued by the British war office at noon, it was stated that German attacks north of Bapaume on Sunday afternoon and night had been repulsed, but that south of Bapaume the assaults were renewed this morning.

This indicated that Bapaume was still in British hands, although the Germans claimed to have taken it during the night.

JESS FINALLY SIGNS.
International News Service.
CHICAGO, March 25.—Final articles of agreement for the heavyweight championship battle to be promoted by Col. J. C. Miller "somewhere in America" July 4, were signed here today by Jess Willard and Fred Fulton.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN.)