

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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TODAY

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## GERMANS ATTACK BRITISH AND FRENCH

### ALLIES AWAITING AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR COUNTER BLOW

Big Events Expected to Develop Favorably to Allies in Few Hours

GERMAN GAINS MADE AT HEAVY EXPENSE

In Five Days Germans Have Covered About Two-thirds of Ground From Which They Retired a Year Ago

Although still giving ground at points before the desperate German drive, the British and French armies engaged in the great battle in Northern France are preserving their unit front intact and apparently awaiting the opportune moment for the delivery of a counter blow to dispel the German dream of world domination.

Big events are impending in the immediate future, at any rate, and the advice from the front indicates that these are expected to develop favorably to the Allies, probably within the next few hours.

All accounts agree that Germany is paying heavily for every foot of ground she has wrested from the Allied armies. Her casualties are shown by the British official statement to have mounted so high that every part of the Western front has had to be drawn upon to provide badly needed reinforcements for the battle area.

Field Marshal Haig's report reveals that more than 70 divisions or between 800,000 and 900,000 men, have already been engaged in the battle on the German side, and the widespread call for fresh troops makes it plain that the fighting forces are being rapidly used up in the terrific and costly onslaught.

Forty divisions of the German reserve are reported to have been thrown into the line as early as the second day of the battle. The rearward movement in the face of the Teutonic attack has now brought the Allied armies well toward the edge of their former battle lines in the Somme area and in the devastated region to the southeast.

Field Marshal Haig reports the new British line drawn somewhat to the east of Albert and Roy. Paris indicates the French fighting front as extending southward from Chaules, past Noyon, which has been evacuated by the French, and then running eastward along the southern bank of the river Oise.

The German troops have been reported as rapidly tiring from their breathless plunge into the Entente lines and they were evidently forced to take a breathing spell last night opposite the British front, as the London Monday statement reports the fighting to have died down. This morning, however, fresh forces probably had been brought up and the attack was being resumed south of the Somme in the Roye and Chaules areas.

It is in this sector and in the Noyon region that the German wedge is being driven in hardest and it is here, or on the line to the east, should the Germans further expose their left wing, that the weight of the expected counter blow may fall.

The French on their line are holding the line of the Oise strongly. Their artillery is cutting huge swaths in the German columns and the French infantry is making frequent counter attacks, inflicting heavy losses upon the Germans and retarding their advance.

The British evidently are maintaining their marked superiority in the air on the battle front and are throwing the German supply stations and lines of communications in the rear into confusion by air attacks at close range.

As the battle line now stands it is not much greater in length than the line which the Germans attacked, but the enemy now has exposed his front to flank attacks both from the north and south.

In five days the Germans have advanced over approximately two-thirds of the territory devastated and made almost a barren waste in the retirement to the Hindenburg line a year ago.

### ALLIES CONFIDENT THAT THEY HOLD THE HIGH TRUMP

When Germany Plays Her Trump, Allies Expect to Overturn

KNEW THAT ENEMY WOULD ADVANCE

That German Troops Would Make Some Progress in Supreme Effort Was Realized in Advance

French Front in France, Monday, March 25.—Entire confidence reigns that the German's last trump in the world battle will be over-trumped when the proper moment comes. The Allied militaries were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check the irruption into the Allied positions.

As always the attackers possessed the advantage of knowing exactly where they would launch their onslaught while the defenders were compelled to await developments of the battle before meeting the onrush with counter measures.

There is every sign in today's situation that the terrific attack in which apparently somewhere in the neighborhood of one million Germans, of all arms are engaged, is being slackened. The resistance of the Allies seems firmer and the arrival on the scene of French reserves sent up to the Southern flank, brought welcome support to the British who sustained the first powerful rush.

The German divisions which began what evidently was intended to be an irresistible forward movement, were so cut up that they were replaced by fresh formations.

The ground over which the fighting has taken place possesses small tactical value but it permitted the Allies to retire in perfect order. It had been devastated by the Germans before they retreated last year and the inhabitants had not had time or means to build it up again. While retreating across what was almost desert land, the British inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, who threw away thousands of lives in an effort to overcome the resistance he encountered. When the retreating British reached the Somme and the canal they turned about and gave battle, meeting repeated and long sustained endeavors of both infantry and cavalry.

The initial rush of the enemy seems to have been stopped. Military opinion generally is that this first phase of the great battle, in which even more troops were employed than in the battle of the Marne, gives no indication what the result will be. Nevertheless developments are awaited by the Allies without anxiety.

### LYNCHING REPORTED IN BERTIE COUNTY

Norfolk, Va., March 26.—News has reached the city that a negro, named Peter Bazemore, 19 years old, was lynched Saturday night by an infuriated mob, one mile from Lewiston, Bertie county, North Carolina. The negro was charged, and it is claimed, confessed to the criminal assault on the wife of a well-to-do farmer. The crime, it is said, occurred early Saturday afternoon. The negro caught the woman alone in the house and when she attempted to attract the attention of her husband, working in a nearby field because of the advances of the negro, he knocked her down with a piece of stove wood. In less than an hour a posse had been formed and trailed Bazemore for more than ten hours before he was finally captured. The crowd, infuriated by the negro's deed, having received a message that the woman's condition was precarious, strung him up to a tree about 30 minutes after he was captured.

The woman's condition is said still to be critical. Her skull was fractured by the blow.

### GERMAN WARSHIP CUT IN HALF BY A BRITISH BOAT

Details of the Naval Action Off Dunkirk Last Thursday

ENEMY CRAFT FARED BADLY IN THE FIGHT

German Destroyers Were Bombarding When British and French Ships Rushed Into Action

London, March 26.—In the engagement between Allied and enemy destroyer squadrons off Dunkirk last Thursday, the British destroyer Botha cut a German warship in half and took a leading part in the fight, although her main steam pipe had been severed by a stray shell. Early last Thursday morning the British destroyers Botha and Morris and the French destroyers Capitaine Mehl, Magon and Bouclier, were patrolling the eastern waters of the English channel when they heard enemy ships bombarding the coast of Dunkirk. They fired star shells, which had the effect of silencing the bombardment and scattering the enemy.

The destroyers started in pursuit of the Germans in a northwesterly direction and discovered eventually that the enemy ships were making for their base. A grim fight ensued, according to stories of eyewitnesses.

None of the German torpedoes found a mark, but the Morris, emerging from an enemy smoke screen, cut off a German destroyer of a large type and torpedoed her at a range of 500 yards. There was an explosion in the enemy vessel and she sank immediately.

Meanwhile the Botha had been crippled and she began to lose her way. The crew determined to do what damage they could and fired both their torpedoes at the two leading enemy boats. Then, her helm having been put hard over, the Botha rammed another boat clearly amidships, cutting the enemy vessel in half.

Swinging around the Botha attempted to repeat the ramming maneuver on the next German astern. The enemy craft, however, eluded the effort of the crippled Britisher, but only to fall a victim to the French destroyers. A blaze, the German boat lay disabled while the Frenchmen pounded her with torpedoes and gunfire.

The Morris lost the rest of the quarry in the mist and took the lame Botha in tow, while the French destroyers circled around, picking up prisoners. From the statements of prisoners it appears that 18 German craft participated in the raid and when they fled from the French coast, leaving three of their number behind, they were attacked by the British air squadron, which pelleted them with bombs and scattered them in disorder in all directions.

Two German destroyers and two German torpedo boats were believed to have been sunk in the action off Dunkirk, according to an announcement made by the British admiralty on March 21. It was said that no Allied vessels were sunk and that one damaged British destroyer had reached port.

### NEW YORK SHAKEN

New York, March 26.—The city was shaken and alarmed by three or four violent explosions at 3:06 o'clock this afternoon. The sounds came from the direction of New Jersey.

The explosions continued rapidly. A column of smoke was observable rising in Jersey City. Flames shot upward, the smoke high enough to be visible over the tops of buildings.

### ASSAULTS ON BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH

London, March 26.—The fighting died down during the night, the war office reports. The British established themselves in new positions east of Roye and Albert.

The Germans this morning began new attacks against the combined French and British forces south of the Somme. The German losses have been so great that the enemy has been obliged to bring up reinforcements from all parts of the Western front. The war office has established the fact that more than seventy German divisions, in the neighborhood of 840,000 men, have been engaged.

Violent Attacks on French.

Paris, March 26.—The battle continues with the greatest violence and the Germans are making still greater efforts along the whole front between Noyon and Chaules, the war office announces.

Noyon was evacuated by the French during the night. The left bank of the Oise is being held firmly by the French. "The battle continues with violence. During last evening and in the night the enemy multiplied his attacks on the whole front between Noyon and Chaules. The French artillery, well established in the region of Noyon and supported effectively by our infantry, is retarding the German thrust. Frequent counter attacks have been made and heavy losses inflicted upon the enemy.

"Noyon was evacuated during the night in perfect order. The French are holding the left bank of the Oise firmly."

Important Development Expected.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 26.—There is reason to believe important events will be recorded within the new few hours which may lead to a betterment of the position of the armies which are stemming the German onslaught.

The enemy is fighting desperately hard against time. On the first day his reserves were reduced to 52 divisions. At the end of the second day some 40 divisions from the reserves had been put in.

A heavy German attack yesterday about Ervillers was completely smashed by the British artillery fire.

The withdrawal was not due to pressure against this sector of the line. Reports from all along the front indicate that the German loss of life yesterday was heavy. The enemy advanced against allied gunners who were firing with open sights.

Retiring Slowly.

London, March 26.—Exacting the heaviest toll for every foot of ground, the British line continues to withdraw slowly before the pressure of the German masses, Reuters correspondent at British headquarters wires.

Over a large part of the battle zone the retirement is being made voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front. Prisoners say the advance of the Germans is behind their schedule.

### THOMAS WOMEN GIVEN CHOICE OF SENTENCE

Either Go to the Farm or Pay Fine and Quit the County

Jessie Thomas, white, who was arrested at her home in the Brooklyn section of the city Monday night on a charge of violating the prohibition law must either go to the county farm for three months or pay a fine of \$100 and get out of the county by Friday. The last judgment is only possible upon condition that she enter a plea of nolo contendere which is equivalent to pleading guilty in that it is an admission that she is unable to establish her innocence. She was offered either of the two judgments following the taking of evidence in the Tuesday morning session of Recorder's court. Neither had been accepted early this afternoon and judgment was still open. The trial of the Thomas woman was the feature case of the day, since the cases against Nellie Russell, Dorothy Lane and other young white women, were continued until tomorrow upon request of counsel for the defense. The woman's house was searched and her arrest effected by Officers Tom M. Hall, Leon Long and Williams. Joe Goldberg, white, was arraigned on a charge of vagrancy but was discharged as not guilty, the defendant showing the court that he was regularly employed. The case charging Bill Coleman, white, with violation of the prohibition law, was continued until Wednesday and \$100 bond required for his appearance in court. Judgment was left open in the case charging George Roderick with an assault with a deadly weapon and similar action was taken as regards the case charging Vergie Taylor, colored, with vagrancy. Solicitor Burton, in this instance was called upon to prosecute his cook and while the natural conclusion would be that the solicitor is Hooverizing to the extent that preparation of a meal could not be classed as work, the evidence disputed this, being to the effect that Taylor woman had only accepted employment in his home in the last day or so.

### MYSTERY GUN WAS MADE IN AUSTRIA DECLARES VIENNA

Gun Not New, But Novelty Comes From New Shell and Explosives

THE GUN PRODUCES SURPRISE OF WAR

British Expert Figures That Projectile Weighs About 380 Pounds — Enormous Strain on Gun

Geneva, Monday, March 25.—The range guns bombarding Paris, according to a Vienna dispatch received here, are of Austrian manufacture, having been built at the Skoda factory. The gun itself is not new, but its novelty comes from a new type of shell and the explosive gases used in the gun. There are said to be only two or three of the guns.

"The Mystery Gun."

London, March 25.—In the "mystery gun" the name generally given to the weapon with which the Germans are bombarding Paris from a distance estimated at 75 miles, it is frankly conceded by experts the enemy has sprung one of the greatest surprises of the war.

General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan, formerly president of the army ordnance committee, says of the German gun: "The projectiles must have been fired from longer and heavier guns and with a more powerful propellant than we have any knowledge of."

From Paris has come the suggestion that the extraordinary range of the gun is due to the projectile being provided with a second charge which explodes when the first stage of the flight is completed, giving it a fresh impetus. This theory is scouted by General O'Callaghan as is also the variant of it, that the projectile is fitted with a propeller enabling it to continue its journey when it is no longer driven by the projecting force from the gun.

"It would seem," says General O'Callaghan, "that a new departure in ballistics can alone explain the enormous range which is three times that of anything heretofore accomplished."

One expert estimates that the weight of the projectile is about 380 pounds and that it leaves the gun with a muzzle velocity of about 4,000 feet per second, the gun having an elevation of about 65 degrees, which "very quickly takes the projectile into a stratum of rarified air in which resistance is greatly minimized."

The strain upon the gun, he says, must be enormous and probably it would be unable to survive more than a hundred rounds at the most, the cost of each being nearly 1,000 pounds sterling.

All the experts agree that at such a tremendous range even approximate accuracy is out of the question and therefore the gun is only of use where a target is presented on a vast scale, like Paris. The object aimed at, they say, is rather more moral than material, but in both respects the gun is likely to prove less effective than airplane raiders.

A Skoda Gun, Says Washington. Washington, March 26.—The German mystery gun was first identified as probably being an Austrian Skoda, in Associated Press dispatches from Washington last Saturday.

Ordnance experts of the Allies missions here, on reading of the long range bombardment of Paris, declared that if the shells actually were being thrown by a gun, it undoubtedly was the Skoda, as that was the only gun they knew of, susceptible to such long range development. They did not consider, however, the possibility that the shells were being thrown such an unheard of distance by a new gas.

to any future issue. This announcement was made by Secretary McAdoo.

In connection with the loan, the Secretary plans to establish a sinking fund with which to purchase back any bonds of the third loan thrown upon the market, in order to aid in keeping the prices up to par. The maturity of the bonds is yet to be determined, but it was officially stated that they would be long term, probably between 20 and 30 years.

Financial observers were surprised at the comparatively small size of the loan and at the low interest rate. Reduction of government expenses and Allied loans below former estimates is responsible for the loan's size, Secretary McAdoo explained. He said the bonds were made non-convertible, indicating his purpose to maintain the 4 1/4 rate for future loans.

### THIRD LIBERTY LOAN IS \$3,000,000,000

Interest Rate Will Be 4 1/4 Per Cent, Says Announcement

Washington, March 26.—The Third Liberty Loan, to open April 6, will be for \$3,000,000,000 and all over-subscriptions at 4 1/4 per cent. interest. Bonds of the first loan bearing 3 1/2 per cent. interest and of the second loan at 4 per cent., may be converted into the new bonds, but those of the third loan will not be convertible in