

WEATHER.
North and South Carolina: Fair tonight and Friday except probably rain Friday extreme portion.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 28, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

SECOND WEEK OF GREAT BATTLE OPENS

THE MOST COLOSSAL ATTACK IN HISTORY NOW IN PROGRESS

Eighth Day of the German Drive Marks Intense Fighting

BRITISH MAKING COUNTER ATTACKS

Enemy Checked at All Except Two Points — Submarines Took a Heavy Toll Last Week. Americans Vigilant

Striking with almost unexampled fury against the Allied front near the point where the French and British lines connect, the Germans yesterday and last night drove in a deep wedge to the west and forced the French out of Mont Didier.

This town, which lies 19 miles southeast of Amiens, one of the German objectives, is 10 miles west of Roye, which the Germans took on Tuesday.

The threat against Amiens in the north seems to be well held by the British along their front north of the Somme, where they have maintained their line firmly at all points and even, as indicated by today's official report, have advanced it in places.

In the Noyon and Lassigny regions and along the Oise to the east the French are likewise preventing the Germans from getting an opening. The force of their drive was thus diverted to the west of the Roye region and the forward push there developed probably the fiercest fighting of the present battle.

Paris characterizes the engagement as of "unheard of ferocity." The French regiments, however, fought with their accustomed bravery and made the Germans pay dearly for every bit of ground they covered in their desperate push for an outlet to the French finally retiring in good order to the heights to the west of Mont Didier. News dispatches from the front this morning reported the line in this sector to be holding well.

While this effort to drive in between the British and French armies was being carried out in the south, the Germans, apparently worried by the salient they were creating and wishing to protect their right wing from a flanking attack, have developed a threat in the extreme north of the present front in the region east of Arras. London reports the beginning this morning of a heavy bombardment of the British lines in this sector followed by the development of an attack.

The possibility is not lost sight of that this attack so far on the north front, may herald the extension of the active fighting front along the lines to the north in the development of a German push for the channel ports. A seemingly, however, the enemy has all the care of the day in the way of opposition in the present field of the offensive and the probability points to the Arras threat proving a protective rather than a new offensive measure. Meanwhile, the German line is being extended to an apparently dangerous extent on the Southern front, where a flanking operation has been pointed to as most likely to prove effective.

Checked all along the front of more than 50 miles, except at two points, the German drive is fast slowing up. The beginning of the second week of the great battle was opened with probably the most colossal attack in history and continues with the most intense fighting, finds the British and French holding tenaciously to the Western edge of the old Somme battlefield, while inflicting further losses upon the enemy.

FRENCH DRIVE GERMAN BACK.

London, March 28.—French troops this morning counter attacked with great dash and drove back the enemy on a front of 10 kilometres to a depth of three kilometres southward of Noyon.

MONT DIDIER CAPTURED.

Berlin, March 28.—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press) Troops of the German Crown Prince having penetrated to a depth of 60 kilometres (37 miles) from St. Quentin, across the Somme, have captured Mont Didier, says today's official report. The German losses have been kept within normal limits, says the communication, although they have been heavier at the vital points on the front. The slightly wounded are estimated at 60 to 70 per cent.

But One Gain.
London, March 28.—In the last 24 hours the Germans have made but one comparatively trifling gain as the result of numerous massed attacks along the whole front, says Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters. For the British there may be claimed several distinct local successes, either in completely repelling enemy blows or in wresting back ground won by counter attacks.

TURKISH ARMY CAPTURED.

London, March 28.—Five entire Turkish force in the Hitarea in Mesopotamia has been captured or destroyed by the British, the war office announces. Three thousand prisoners were taken.

MORE AMERICANS RECEIVE HONORS

Paris, March 28.—Three officers and 11 men of the United States Army Ambulance Corps have been decorated with the War Cross by the French government. The men to receive the honor are Lieutenant Joseph Greenwood, of section 633; Lieutenant Alan D. Kinsley, Lieutenant Otka F. Dober, Privates Louis E. Timson, Arthur U. Crosby, John F. Fitzpatrick, Robert E. Gar, C. V. Tompkins, J. T. Jones, John S. Wood, Richard Baker, Peter U. Muir, of section 516 and Privates Richard Y. Buel and George Repley Butler of Section 642.

French have retired slightly toward Mont Didier, being overwhelmed by superior numbers.

The notes of pessimism in the published statements of German leaders since they failed to break through and roll up one side of the British line are added to by the recent German official statement, the latest one of which says that the German attack is "slowly progressing."

The German casualties are estimated to be between 300,000 and 500,000 and it is reported that long hospital trains are pouring into Belgium and Germany over all available railroad lines.

With the Allied lines holding against the enemy onslaughts, a counter blow may be in preparation. Premier Clemenceau has declared that the moment is near when the Germans would not be able to hold the gains they have made at such great loss.

On the seas as well as on the land, the German offensive last week was very strong. Enemy submarines and mines accounted for 28 British ships, 16 of more than 1,600 tons. The total is greater than that for any week since last September 16. In the previous week 17 steamers, including 11 of the larger tonnage, were sunk. French and Italian losses also increased somewhat and the aggregate for these three merchant marines was 37.

Heavy artillery fighting continues on the American sector northwest of Toul but no infantry actions have developed. What was believed to be German preparation for an attack was checked by a heavy American bombardment, the German troops not leaving their trenches. There is much activity behind the German lines, but so far the enemy has not shown what this portends. There has been no change on the Luneville sector.

GENERAL MAURICE DISCOUNTS CLAIMS BY GERMAN OFFICE

Says Probably 600 Guns Have Been Lost and 100 Tanks

DOUBTS CLAIMS OF PRISONERS CAPTURED

Says Germany's Powers of Exaggeration Are Too Well Known to Believe Her Statements

London, March 2.—England is considering her losses in the fighting in France must take into consideration the "usual German exaggeration," Major Gen. Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, said today. "In the past," he declared, "the Germans have usually given the captures of prisoners and guns in round numbers, not as actually counted, but as anticipated from the general situation. It is reasonable to assume that the same thing is being done now."

"Our total loss of guns, either from falling into the hands of the enemy or by being knocked out, is about 600, according to our best information. This compares with the German claim of 950.

"Probably the same ratio holds good regarding German claims of prisoners, and it must be remembered that the German count of prisoners include many of our wounded whom we were unable to take with us."

"We have lost probably about 100 tanks, which we used extensively in the counter-attacks."

General Maurice said the war office was giving out the news as quickly and as fully as it was received and he urged the public to be patient. "In these critical times," he said, "I want to emphasize that it is every one's duty to avoid making them more critical and to avoid being mournful. During the last few days some newspapers have raised the old cry that we are concealing part of the news because it is too serious for it to be made public. This charge not only is untrue but has had a bad effect because it has tended to create panic. It has tended to make the people believe that things were worse than they really are."

ATLANTA MAN GETS A GOLD CROSS

Washington, March 28.—Dr. St. J. B. Graham, of Atlanta, Ga., today was awarded the gold cross of honor by the American Cross of Honor for rescuing in 1894 the crew of the British bark Mary E. Chapman, stranded on Stone Horse reef, Tybee Island, Georgia. Congress previously had awarded Dr. Graham the gold medal of honor of the United States government and he had received a gold medal from the Canadian government in recognition of his heroism.

Forty-Fifth Death
Port Worth, Texas, March 28.—A cadet of the Royal Flying Corps was killed at noon today at Benbrook, a British aviation field. He is the forty-fifth aviator to meet death since the fields were opened here in October.

THE ENEMY RENEWS HIS ONSLAUGHTS

Paris, March 28.—Blocked on the Lassigny and Noyon fronts and on the left bank of the Oise, the Germans last night threw forward important forces in the region of Mont Didier, the war office announced today. Here the fighting rapidly took on extraordinary ferocity.

French regiments fought hand-to-hand with the enemy and inflicted heavy losses.

Finally the French fell back to the heights immediately to the west of Mont Didier.

The text reads: "The battle was fought with sustained violence yesterday evening and last night. The Germans, blocked by the valiant French troops and cruelly punished before the Lassigny and Noyon fronts and the left bank of the river Oise, concentrated all their efforts on the French left, and threw forward important forces in the region of Mont Didier."

"At this point the engagements soon developed an unheard of ferocity. French regiments, fighting hand-to-hand, inflicted heavy losses upon the assailants and did not falter. Finally they withdrew in order to the heights immediately to the west of Mont Didier.

"There has been intermittent cannonading on the remainder of the front."

Fighting Furiously.
London, March 28.—Prisoners and machine guns have been captured by the British, the war office announces. The fighting continues fiercely on both banks of the Somme.

This morning the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the British defenses east of Arras. An attack is developing in this sector.

Repeated attacks were made by the enemy along the valley of the Somme in the neighborhood of Beaumont-Hamel, Puisieux and Moyenneville. They were repulsed.

FOOD PRICES MAKE ANOTHER BIG JUMP

Increase of One Per Cent. Recorded for Month Ending February 15

Washington, March 28.—Food prices took another jump of 1 per cent of January 15 to February 15, making a total of 21 per cent, for the year ending on the latter date, the bureau of labor statistics announced today.

Only three of 16 standard articles failed to advance while eight increased and five did not change. Sugar showed the greatest increase of 12 per cent; hens 10, round steak 3, sirloin steak, chuck roast, and butter 2, ham 1, lard less than one per cent.

Eggs took the sharpest decline of 9 per cent, pork chops 2, and bacon 1 per cent. Milk, bread, flour, corn meal and potatoes remained stationary.

RECAPTURE OF ODESSA HAS BEEN CONFIRMED

City Was First Bombarded by Cruisers Coming From Sebastopol

Petrograd, Wednesday, March 27.—Official dispatches published here confirm the report that Odessa has been recaptured by the Bolshevik troops.

Odessa was first bombarded by cruisers which came from Sebastopol. There was desperate fighting for three days in the vicinity of Sebastopol, between the Bolshevik and Austro-German detachments.

The latest war bulletins report Austro-Germans to be within 40 miles of Yekaterinoslav, a commercial and industrial town about 250 miles north-east of Odessa.

LICHNOWSKY LAYS BLAME OF WAR AT DOORS OF BERLIN

LICHNOWSKY TELLS OF ANGLO-GERMAN PRE-WAR DISPUTE
Former Ambassador to Great Britain Reveals German Diplomacy HIS STORY AROUSES A BITTER HATRED
Fixed Gilt on Germany—Revelation Comes at Time When World is Horrified by Greatest Battle

Former Ambassador's Personal Memorandum Was Not Intended for Public
LATEST REVELATION SHOWS JEALOUSIES
Negotiations Concerning Berlin-Bagdad Railway. Germany Was Jealous of England's Power

Stockholm, March 28.—Anglo-German negotiations concerning the Berlin-Bagdad railway and German naval and commercial jealousy of Great Britain are touched upon in further sections of the personal memorandum written by Prince Lichnowsky, German ambassador at London at the outbreak of the war. Excerpt from the memorandum are being published by the Politiken and already have brought the Prince into disfavor in German officialdom, because of his frank statements on German diplomacy, which he did not intend to be made public.

Prince Lichnowsky, after describing efforts to secure a better understanding between Germany and England and the negotiations over the Anglo-German treaty refers to the so-called Bagdad railway treaty. This aimed in fact at a division at Asia-Minor into spheres of interest although the Prince writes, this expression was carefully avoided in consideration of the rights of the Sultan of Turkey.

Referring to the difficult question of German naval activity, Prince Lichnowsky says it was never judged a mighty fleet on the other shore of the North sea and the simultaneous development of the continent's most important military power into a most important naval power, he declares, had at least to be recognized by Great Britain as uncomfortable.

To maintain the necessary lead and preserve the supremacy of the seas, the Prince adds, Great Britain had to undertake preparation and expenses which weighed heavily on the taxpayers. The threat against British world position was that the German policy permitted the possibility of a warlike development to appear. This possibility the Prince asserts, was obviously near during the Moroccan crisis and the Bosnian question.

The powers had become reconciled to the German fleet in its definite strength. Obviously it was not welcome to Great Britain, and the Prince declares, constituted one of the motives for England's joining hands with Russia and France.

On account of the German fleet alone Prince Lichnowsky says Great Britain would have drawn the sword as little as on account of German trade "which it is pretended call forth her jealousy and finally brought about war." From the beginning Prince Lichnowsky says he adopted the standpoint that in spite of the fleet, it would be possible to come to a friendly understanding and approach if the Germans did not propose new votes of credit and above all, if the Germans did carry out an indisputable peace policy.

Former Ambassador to Great Britain Reveals German Diplomacy HIS STORY AROUSES A BITTER HATRED

Fixed Gilt on Germany—Revelation Comes at Time When World is Horrified by Greatest Battle

London, March 28.—The personal memorandum of Prince Lichnowsky, revealing the inner workings of German diplomacy which has caused much feeling in Germany against the former ambassador to Great Britain, leaked out last summer through the German general staff after the fall of Chancellor von Hollweg.

This statement is made by the Socialist Vorwaerts of Berlin and is published by the Times which also reprints from the Vorwaerts the most important points of the memorandum. In an editorial on the disclosure of the Prince, the Times says:

"By a coincidence as strange as it is opportune, passages in the memorandum in which the former German ambassador fixed the guilt for the war upon his own government reach up as the fiercest and the bloodiest conflict of the long struggle is at its height. At the moment when mankind is filled with horror and anguish at the carnage on the great battlefield, all eyes will turn to this account of the policy which brought this dread visitation upon the world."

"He has not a shadow of a doubt about the responsibility for the war, without hesitation he fastens it upon Germany. The German military were inexorable. They would not suffer Count Berchtold to give way. When he flinched from plunging Europe into war, they forced his hand. They delivered an ultimatum to Russia on the next day declared war upon her, although the Russian Emperor had pledged his word that while the negotiations continued no man should march."

"We deliberately destroyed the possibility of a peaceful settlement' is the former ambassador's considered judgment. He cannot feel surprised that the 'whole civilized world outside Germany attributes to us sole guilt for the world war.' The whole story which he records corroborates this judgment and cannot be reconciled with any other."

"The first hint of coming trouble which reached him seemed to have been Von Bethman-Hollweg's refusal to share his optimism when he visited Wilhelmstrasse early in July, 1914. The Chancellor and the under-secretary for foreign affairs complained of Russian armament and the latter declared that Russia was everywhere in Germany's way. At the same time he learned that Von Tschirsky, the German ambassador at Vienna had been rebuked because he had counseled mediation toward Serbia. But these were mere straw showing the direction of the current."

"It was not until later that he heard of the decisive conversation at Potsdam, on July 5 and of the absolute assent which 'all personages in authority there' gave to Austria's inquiry that he knew that General von Moltke, then chief of the general staff, 'was pressing for war or that he was informed of the statement in the protocol of the Potsdam meeting sent to Count Mensdorff that these personages had agreed there would be no harm if a war with Russia were to result.'"

"Herr von Jagow met his warnings about the probable effects of the Potsdam policy upon British opinion by assuring him Russia was not ready and Germany 'must simply risk it.' This belief as to Russian readiness 'caused us to stimulate Count Berchtold to the greatest possible energy.'"

"Meanwhile the attitude of England was absolutely pacific and the English press protested against the political exploitations of the Sarajevo murders, but it steadily reproved the crime. It at one understood that the unprecedented ultimatum which 'under stimulation' from Berlin Count Berchtold had launched at Serbia meant war. Still Sir Edward Grey, as he then was, did not despair and the former German ambassador bears the strongest testimony to the sincerity of unwearied efforts to avert this war which the Germans calamitously assert he provoked."

"The Prince declares that it would have been easy to find an acceptable solution for the relatively small points left in dispute between Vienna (Continued on Page Nine).