

WEATHER:  
North and South Caro-  
lina — Fair tonight  
and Saturday.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

10 PAGES  
TODAY

VOL. XXIV. No. 80 WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 29, 1918 PRICE FIVE CENTS

## PERSHING OFFERS SERVICES OF HIS ARMY

### Battle Is Now Raging Over A Front Of 70 Miles

#### TURNING POINT IN GREAT BATTLE NOW SEEMS TO BE NEAR

Counter Attacks Are Offsetting What Gains Enemy is Able to Make  
**FRENCH MAY OPEN COUNTER OFFENSIVE**  
London Hints at Possibility of General Foch Taking Command of Allied Armies in the Offensive

The southwardly thrust of the German wedge into the Allied lines has been stopped short at Montdidier. The enemy seems definitely held here, 37 miles from Paris, by the enclosure of the town within a pocket formed by a series of villages vainly captured and held by French troops. Despite continuous counter attacks last night, the Germans were not able to dislodge Petain's men from these hamlets on the hills about the town.

Between Montdidier and the Somme the Germans seem to have gained some ground since yesterday in their westward push toward Amiens, the great Allied supply base, but Paris declares the Anglo-French forces are holding the enemy firmly along a well defined line which at 20 points is less than 12 miles from this objective.

The German purpose, now that the thrust to the southwest has been checked, apparently is to close in within the angle formed by the rivers Aisne and Somme with its point at Amiens. It is in this triangle, therefore, that further fighting of the most intensive nature is to be looked for within the immediate future.

The Germans continue to sacrifice their men recklessly in their desperate attempts to break the Anglo-French barrier, is the reports from both the French and the British war offices.

North of the Somme the British front has not only been stiffly maintained, but has been advanced in places. Today's statement from the London war office emphasizes the success of the British in foiling the German effort to embarrass the Allied defense by establishing a moveable line in the Arras region through a great assault. The German reserve, thrown in after the penetration of outpost lines, were crumpled in the battle zone by the devastating fire of Field Marshal Haig's artillery and machine guns and thrown back with great losses.

#### PRESIDENT ASKS CLEMENCY FOR THOMAS MOONEY

Wires Governor of California in Behalf of Convicted Bomb Plotter

#### CASE HAS AROUSED WORLD WIDE INTEREST

While Officials Decline to Discuss the Appeal for Executive Clemency—Caused Much Trouble

Sacramento, Cal., March 29.—President Wilson has telegraphed Governor William D. Stephens, of California, asking executive clemency for Thomas J. Mooney, now under death sentence, it became known here today. Mooney was convicted in connection with a bomb explosion in San Francisco in a preparedness parade July 22, 1916, which caused the death of 10 persons and injured 40 others.

White House Says Nothing. Washington, March 29.—The only comment of White House officials today in President Wilson's telegram to Governor Stephens asking clemency for Mooney was that they would neither affirm nor deny such a telegram had been sent.

The President's action, which has few precedents in American judicial history, comes as the climax of much effort by the agencies of the Federal government to have the conviction of Mooney reversed and to get for him a new trial.

When President Wilson sent his labor mediation commission West several months ago to look into numerous labor disturbances which were threatening the government's war production program, it was specially charged to look into the Mooney case and make a report. The commission reported conclusions that the Mooney case had become so involved with the issues of the bitter contest between capital and labor in San Francisco that he should have a new trial.

Paris, March 29.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon.

#### AMERICANS TO AID ANGLO-FRENCH IN COUNTER ATTACKS

Official Washington Expects the Drive Back Movement at Any Moment

#### BELIEVE TURNING POINT IS AT HAND

General March Says There is No Cause for Alarm Because of German Gains. Confidence Prevails

Washington, March 29.—American military observers appeared confident today that the Allied counter offensive will not be long delayed and seemed equally satisfied that substantial American force will enter the battle when the signal for the Anglo-French stroke is given.

Still without word from General Pershing regarding reports that American troops already had taken part in the fighting Major General March, acting chief of staff, last night assured the American people that there was no cause for alarm in the German advance.

"What ever may be the present ground held by the Germans," General March said, "whatever sacrifice of men the situation may entail, the Allies will see it through and will win."

Belief that the turning point is near was strengthened by Field Marshal Haig's announcement that German attacks along the British front yesterday had been beaten off and news that the French south of Noyon had driven the enemy back two miles on a six mile front.

#### AMERICAN CAVALRY BATTLES MEXICANS

Marfa, Texas, March 29.—Ten Mexicans and Private Theodore K. Albert, an American cavalryman, were killed yesterday in a fight between United States cavalry and Mexican bandits near Pilares, Mexico, southeast of Valentine, Texas, according to official advices today. The fight followed a pursuit of the Mexicans, who raided the Newill ranch, killing Glenn Newill.

#### AMERICANS TAKE PRISONERS.

With the American Army in France, March 29.—Four prisoners were captured by the Americans on the front northwest of Toul some time during last night or early this morning, according to reports filtering back from the line. It is not known whether the prisoners were engaged in an attempt to raid the American positions or whether they were brought in by an American raiding party.

Paris, March 29.—General Pershing called on General Foch at headquarters yesterday, according to L'Information and placed at his disposal the whole resources of the American Army for employment in the battle now in progress.

"I come," L'Information quotes General Pershing as saying, "to say to you that the American people would hold it a great honor for our troops to engage in the present battle. I ask it of you, in my name and in that of the American people."

"There is at this moment, no other question than that of the fighting. Infantry, artillery, aviation—all that we have, are yours to dispose of them as you will. Others are coming which are as numerous as will be necessary. I have come to say to you that the American people would be proud to be engaged in the greatest battle in history."

General Foch placed General Pershing's offer before the council at the front, L'Information says. The council includes Premier Clemenceau, Commander-in-Chief Petain and Louis Lochler, minister of munitions.

#### British Still Holding.

London, March 29.—On the Somme the British have maintained their positions and gained ground in places by successful counter attacks, the war office announces. After holding their line all day in the face of repeated assaults by numerically superior enemy forces, the British retired a short distance from their advanced position at some points.

The Germans again suffered exceedingly heavy losses. The British took prisoners.

#### French Holding Firmly.

Paris, March 29.—Violent fighting continued last evening and last night in the region of Mont Didier, the war office announced today. In spite of German counter attacks, French held onto the villages which they took yesterday in this region.

Monhel was taken by French troops. North of Mont Didier, French and British troops held up the German thrust. The German losses have been extremely heavy.

#### All Over Now.

Washington, March 29.—The British withdrawal before the German advance, was made according to pre-arranged plans and is "all over now," Major General J. Franklin Bell today told the Senate Military committee. He said the Allies have known of the German preparations for the present drive since soon after they were begun and made active preparations to face it. General Bell recently returned from the battle front.

#### GERMANS IN TWELVE MILES OF AMIENS OBTAIN ABLE SPEAKERS FOR COMING LUNCHEON

Advance Has Been Steady Despite a Most Vigorous Defense Keen Interest Manifested in Approaching Affair at the C. of C.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 29.—The Germans were able to penetrate Marcelcave, 12 miles east of Amiens, in the region south of the Somme, only by means of heavy massed works late yesterday, which gradually forced the British back.

It was in this district, south of the Somme, that the invaders continued to make their greatest efforts. The British here are battling stubbornly and brilliantly against an advance which, it must be admitted, has been steady.

The conflict in this region has been very sanguinary and at latest reports it was continuing along a line presented roughly by Hamel, Warfusse, Abancourt and Marcelcave. This point seemed to mark the bombardment advance against the British. The German attack in this region was made from Cerisy, on the Somme, supported by artillery from across the river.

Yesterday's assaults on the extreme end and Southern parts of the battle-front were in continuance of the Germans' scheme to swing their lines out so as to broaden the salient which they have driven in and thereby possibly enable them to make an attempt to envelop Amiens.

#### BATTLE VIRTUALLY LOST FOR GERMANY BEGINS FOR ALLIES

#### AMERICAN PATROL IN DAYLIGHT RAID ON ENEMY TRENCH

Two Officers and Four Men Spent Four Hours in German Position

#### RETURN UNSCATHED FROM DARING TRIP

Sammies Performed Unusual Feat of Crossing No Man's Land Through Bright Sunlight

With the American Army in France, March 28.—Two officers and four men went over the top today in broad daylight, a feat seldom accomplished. Although the sun was shining and the sky was clear the Americans decided not to defer any longer their determination to learn definitely whether Germans were present in great numbers in an enemy trench. When dawn came there were faint clouds showing back of the enemy's lines and the Americans delayed for a time, hoping for rain and fog, but when the clouds disappeared the two officers and the four men decided to make the daylight venture, although they would be under the eyes of a watchful enemy and were in a place where even pistol bullets might find their mark.

Machine guns were posted, and the Americans, with grenades swinging at their waists and with rifles in hand, clambered up from the fire-step and out over the parapet. They slid head-first into the nearest shell hole and the journey was on. Moving from shell hole to shell hole, taking advantage of the slightest rise in the terrain, the patrol proceeded. In the trenches behind them, their comrades stood with fingers on their rifles ready to fire the instant any Germans might show themselves.

From the American lines, the patrol members were seen to force their way through enemy wire and, one by one, disappear into the German front trench.

During the next four hours the men in the trenches waited anxiously, hearing nothing from the patrol, who during that time were inspecting 600 yards of the German trenches.

Prepared for instant battle, the six Americans made their way from one trench section to another, going into each dugout with the muzzles of their pistols and rifles preceding them, and travelled 300 yards. Returning to the point from which they had started on their inspection they searched the trenches 300 yards in the other direction. While four hours may seem a long time for this work, it must be kept in mind that every bend and every dugout may contain an overwhelming group and there was no assurance that the Germans had not concealed men in places, prepared to meet the invaders.

It was noon when first the head of an American was observed above an enemy parapet. The watchers in the American lines breathed easier, but at this moment the Germans discovered the patrol, and rifle bullets began to smask against the trench sides and bottom.

Discovered, the Americans lost no time in moving out. Unscathed, they returned to our lines, bringing all the information they sought. At the other end of the trench, American patrols sought to go through the enemy wire. They penetrated the first belt successfully but when they reached the second a sergeant, who is from Texas, put his hand on a wire and received an electrical shock and was burned.

#### Extension of Line to Over 70 Miles Using Germany's Reserves

#### PLAN TO BREAK LINE CONSIDERED A FAILURE

German Object Was to Drive a Wedge Between British and French — French Reserves Now in Line

Paris, March 29.—The great battle is now raging over a front of more than 70 miles, his extension of the line has increased the number of German reserves engaged. Although thus far no decisive success has been obtained anywhere, there is increased confidence here. The impression in semi-official circles is that the Allies have not only held off the Germans but now are no longer compelled to permit the enemy by his maneuvers to shape the course which the battle shall take.

The general feeling is that for Germany the battle is virtually lost, that for the Allies the battle is about to begin.

The operations thus far as accepted as confirming the theory that Paris was not the main objective of the German offensive, but that the plan of the enemy was to break the connection between the French and British armies, in which he has failed. His main direct attack was westward toward the sea. The Germans seek Amiens because this town is an important railway center of communication with England. The loss of Amiens would be inconvenient, but not vital.

Marcel Sembat, former minister of public works in L'Heure, writes: "The situation is improving for us, and improving rapidly. The German attack in the Montdidier region is likely to prove a formidable failure."

"Towards Amiens, which is the real objective of the Germans, the attacks are meeting with a stubborn defense. They must have Amiens cut off the British. They must reach the sea to attempt an enveloping movement. Nothing will be spared to defend Amiens to the last."

The eighth day of the battle brought a change in the weather, if conditions at the front are the same as in Paris. The wind shifted from the northwest to the southwest, which will prevent the Germans from using gas.

Rain is falling, which will make it difficult for the Germans to bring up their artillery over the ground they have acquired.

It may now be said that the French armies in reserve have come into position and the numerical superiority which the Germans enjoyed in their first rush is decreasing.

#### CHANGED A SPARK PLUG IN FLIGHT

Miami, Fla., March 29.—Aviators Joseph Bennett, of Garden City, L. I., and Paul Dickey, of New York, pilots at the Curtiss Air School here, are believed to have performed a feat rare in aeronautics yesterday when they stalled the motor of their airplane at 8,000 feet and changed a spark plug, resuming their flight in less than four minutes. Aviators here declare they have no record of such a feat having been accomplished.

#### WILSON CONGRATULATES FOCHS.

Washington, March 29.—The first official reference to General Fochs as being in supreme command of the Allied forces on the Western front is contained in a cablegram President Wilson sent to the General today congratulating him on his "new authority."