

WEATHER:  
North and South Caro-  
lina—Generally Fair  
tonight and Tuesday;  
cooler tonight in west  
portion.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS  
TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

VOL. XXIV. No. 83.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 1, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## HUN DRIVE VIRTUALLY AT A STANDSTILL

### THE TIDE OF BATTLE IS SLOWLY TURNING TOWARD THE ALLIES

German Efforts are Slackening While Allies Begin Offensive  
BATTLE IS BECOMING ONE OF THE NATIONS

Americans Troops to the Number of 100,000 are Being Brought Up to Aid the British and French Armies.

As Allied troops begin offensive movements on the Picardy battlefield, the German assaults show signs of slackening both in numbers and intensity and the Germans are digging themselves in feverishly around Lassigny on the outer line of the salient where French pressure has been heavy. South of the Somme the assaults were repulsed and the French made good gains.

The German peace drive toward Amiens, Paris and Channel ports is fast becoming a battle of the nations. The conflict opened with British and German soldiers the adversaries. Since then the French and American armies have joined with Field Marshal Haig's forces while Austrian and Bulgarian troops are aiding the enemy. Canadian cavalry and Australian infantry have been doing much of the fighting under the British flag in the last two days.

Over the roads to the battlefield in motor trucks and on foot 100,000 American soldiers are moving to join the fight against the invader and to drive him back. The American troops are now under control of General Foch, the generalissimo, but their destination in the fight area has not been disclosed. They are seasoned troops and are reported as anxious to get fight.

The most intense fighting is progressing south of the Somme where attempt after attempt is being made by the Germans to break the indomitable Franco-British defense and reach the Paris-Amiens railway line or Amiens itself. Unable to make gains astride the Somme, the enemy has made heavy attacks at other points but with no success. Moreuil, the center of the fight, south of the Somme is reported to have changed hands four times and is now held by the British, Canadian and French troops.

Around Montdidier, where the battle line curves northward, the French have reclaimed Aincourt and Monchel. Further east toward Lassigny, in the direction of Noyon, the Germans have been pressed back and a salient driven into the enemy lines. It is in this region that the Germans are now digging in. German attempts to force a passage of the Oise at Chauny were crushed by the French who wiped out an enemy force which tried to establish a bridgehead on the southern bank of the river.

North of the Somme, where the Germans were thrown back with severe losses by the British Sunday, the enemy made no further attempts Sunday and the fighting activity has been moderate.

If Field Marshal von Hindenburg intended to spend April in Paris he must have meant some other year than 1918. His troops are still more than 50 miles from the French capital and in 11 days of fighting, and under tremendous losses, they have not even reached the Paris-Amiens railway, the principal route from Northern France to Paris.

Indeed they are getting ready to defend themselves against the Anglo-Franco-American forces under General Foch. The boastful utterances of the German leaders much in evidence in the early days of the present campaign also have ceased. In Northern Italy the artillery firing is increasing in intensity and patrol actions are more numerous but there has been no infantry action a large scale.

American patrols continue active northwest of Toul. The German lines are under heavy bombardment. Marked activity behind the enemy lines show no sign of letting up, but the Germans have not attempted any attacks.

### WANTS TO CONSTRUCT CONCRETE SHIPS AT WILMINGTON YARD

(By George H. Manning.)  
Washington, D. C., April 1.—Mathew Hale, of Boston, who is building an experimental concrete merchant ship for the Emergency Fleet Corporation at Brunswick, Ga., is in Washington today conferring with officials in regard to establishing a big plant at Wilmington.

Mr. Hale has a contract with the government which provides that if the first ship, now being constructed of concrete at Brunswick, is a success he will build 49 other ships, making 50 in all.

Because he has encountered some difficulties at Brunswick it is understood Mr. Hale favors building the other 49 ships at Wilmington, and is trying to obtain the consent of the Emergency Fleet Corporation to make the change of location. He went to Wilmington about 10 days ago to look over the ground and found conditions for locating the yard, building the plant and obtaining a good quality of sand nearby, very good.

Officials are of the opinion that the concrete ship will be a success. This makes the prospect for building the other 49 ships at Wilmington appear quite favorable.

Concrete Evidence of This is Found in a Mississippi County

STARTLING REPORT MADE BY INSPECTOR

Negro Preacher Who Argued Against the Draft Law Has Built \$10,000 Church and \$25,000 Residence

Jackson, Miss., April 1.—The first concrete evidence that German money is being used to encourage Mississippi negroes to dodge the draft is furnished in a report filed at the Adjutant General's office from F. K. Ethridge, State inspector of local exemption boards.

The report shows it has been practically impossible to get negro registrants to respond to the notices to report sent out by the local board of Holmes county, and Inspector Ethridge made an investigation which disclosed that C. H. Mason, pastor of a negro church known as the "Church of God in Christ," has been preaching pro-German sermons and advising negroes to resist the draft.

Three weeks ago, according to the inspector's report, a foreigner named Dimitrios Giannoulou conducted a meeting for a period of one week at this church. While in the town of Lexington this foreigner received a message in code which Mr. Ethridge attached to his report. No translation is available.

An investigation made of "the Church of God in Christ," shows that it has headquarters at Los Angeles, and seems to be well supplied with money, for in August of last year a \$10,000 brick church was built at Lexington, for which local negroes furnished only a small part of the building fund. It also shows that the pastor, hitherto an obscure negro preacher, recently erected a \$25,000 brick and stone residence on a valuable lot in Memphis.

That the draft dodging propaganda is having the desired effect is shown by the figures from Holmes county, where 123 registrants were called for entrainment on March 5 and only 39 reported, four of the latter number deserting before they were entrained. To fill the deficiency the local board then called 63 negro registrants and only 31 reported. Call was next issued for 43 registrants and only six reported.

Adjutant General Scales has published a list of 70 persons in Holmes county who have dodged the selective draft after being called for service.

PARIS BOMBARDED.  
Paris, April 1.—The bombardment of Paris by long range German guns was resumed this afternoon.

BRITISH REPULSE ENEMY.  
London, April 1.—The Germans made two attacks on British positions on the western outskirts of Albert last evening and in both cases were repulsed, the war office announces.

South of the Somme the enemy persisted in his attempts to advance along the Luce and Avre valleys, but made little progress.

The number of machine guns taken by the British in their attack near Serre, on Saturday, was 109.

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BRITISH HOLDING LINE IN FACE OF VIOLENT ATTACKS

Numerous Enemy Smashes Have Been More Than Met By Allies

GERMANS ARE BEING PUT TO DEFENSIVE

Besides Withstanding Heavy Assaults, British are Beginning to Strike Back With Effect.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 31.—(Sunday)—The last 24 hours continued unfavorable to the aggressive Germans along the British section of the new battle front and was a strikingly good period for the defenders. This morning the British were holding their entire line with strength and they had smashed numerous heavy German attacks at various points and had taken the initiative at several places successfully.

The most intense fighting continued south of the Somme, in the zone where the French have been making such a gallant stand. The outstanding feature of the conflict on the northern end of the front is that the British again have killed a great number of the enemy which, despite its harsh sound, is what will end the war.

Today the British initiated a forward movement about Feuchy (Opse, east of Arras. They launched a local attack at 3 o'clock this morning and pressed it so vigorously that they reclaimed a stretch of territory 1,500 yards long and averaging about 200 yards in depth. This success had tactical advantages, but they were small compared with the fact that the British were able after the past 10 days of gruelling work, to undertake an offensive operation.

South of the Somme, where there has been so much hard fighting, the British appear to have the situation well in hand and the towns of Moreuil, about which sanguinary battles have been waging, was at last taken by the British flag despite the most costly attacks the enemy attempted yesterday was between Morlancourt and the Somme where a heavy assault was made against the Australians shortly after midday. The attackers came forward in masses and the British threw themselves against the advancing lines so fiercely that the Germans were hurled back, leaving 3,000 dead.

Continued on Page Seven.

Dispatch readers are the best followers of the real estate market. Tell them of your desire to buy or sell. The result will please you.

### BATTLE CONTINUES.

Paris, April 1.—The battle continued with extreme violence last night in the sector north of Montdidier, large bodies of troops being thrown in by the Germans, the war office announces. The French and British troops broke up the assaulting waves.

Further south the fighting was no less violent, the Germans making incessant attacks in an effort to capture Briques. The French retained possession of the town and inflicted heavy losses on the Germans.

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### GERMANS ANXIOUS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICANS

Orders Issued to Learn Every Detail About "the New Enemy."

REASON NOW CLEAR AS WHY THE CENSOR

Much of Information Sought by Germans Would be Considered Trivial by Civilians. What They Want.

With the American Army in France, Sunday, March 31.—German army leaders are exceedingly anxious to obtain information concerning the most minute detail of the American army. This is disclosed by a captured German document which instructs every observer and patrol to do his or its best to bring information about the new enemy.

The captured document starts out by giving details that are known, such as those regarding the American uniform, and adds that the infantry is equipped partly with English rifles, and that the artillery probably has French guns. It says that American troops will continue training in France and adds: "Nothing is known as yet about the methods of fighting or leadership."

"From the preceding meagre details," it continues, "it is evident that sectors K and M have the honorable task of obtaining as much information as possible on particular features of American fighting and outpost tactics. This will then be used for extending the information bulletin. Any observation or identification, however insignificant, may be of the greatest value in connection with information already at hand."

Attention is drawn to 'self-evident questions' which observers, patrols and outposts are expected to find answers. Under the heading, "The enemy's security," the document says: "Are sentry posts sentry posts or stronger posts? Further advanced reconnoitering patrols? Manner of challenging? Behavior on post during day and night? Vigilance? Ambush tactics and cunning?"

"Do they shoot and signal on every occasion? Do the posts hold their ground on the approach of a patrol or do they fall back? Do they give barrage fire signals? When are the reliefs and what is the behavior during them? Have they any light signals other than French ones?"

Under "enemy patrols" the document asks details on "strength, method of advance, behavior on meeting and initiative."

These questions come under information on general behavior: "Are the Americans careful and cautious? And are they careful or noisy? What is their behavior during smoke screens? What is their behavior at meal times? When are these? Can concentration be served? Is there much reconnoitering? How is the behavior day and night? Is there much machine gun firing? Are there more or less transport of material than formerly?"

The Germans also want to know whether during reliefs there are more troops in the rear than is customary with the French and what are the times and sounds of reliefs. It is said that used infantry and machine gun bullets, unexploded shells and shell splinters are of special value. The Germans want to know whether the copper rotating bands have sharp incisions indicating new or worn out guns, the calibre of which can be determined by the curvature of the splinters, according to the indenture.

Information regarding the color and outward appearance of projectiles fired by the Americans also is desired. The German soldiers are ordered to keep fuses, splinters of shells and shell bases having factory initials and numbers.

Under the heading, "enemy shellings," they are asked the American peculiarities compared with the French, what objectives are preferred and whether dugouts are shelled. The document asks also that it be determined whether the Americans employ bursts of fire or single shots at fixed intervals and what is the normal firing rate when observation is good.

Many of the above items, while apparently trivial, it is pointed out by intelligence officers, indicate why the censorship has been obliged to delete certain matter from press dispatches. Since the captured document was issued the Germans naturally have found answers to many of the questions, but about the others the American expeditionary force believes it still has the enemy guessing.

A few slices of onion left in a pail of water for a few hours will absorb or counteract the smell of fresh paint.

### HUN NOT THROUGH WITH HIS PLAN TO FORCE A DECISION

A SECRET INFORMER KILLED IN NEW YORK

Shot Few Hours Before He Was to Give Evidence Against Gamblers

New York, April 1.—Seven hours before the district attorney's office was to have been informed by Harry Cohen, also known as "Harry The Yot," of the name of "Men Higher Up" in the prosecutor's anti-gambling crusade, Cohen was shot and killed at 6:30 o'clock this morning. District Attorney Swann immediately ordered the apprehension of Sam Scheppes, who was one of the prosecution's star witnesses against Charles Becker, the police lieutenant who was executed for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, gambler, in 1912.

Scheppes and two other men who were with him when the police visited Scheppes' jewelry shop in Sixth avenue, were taken into custody a few hours after the shooting.

They were hurried to the district attorney's office.

The police said that Scheppes' place, established after the Rosenthal shooting, and the convictions which resulted, has recently been under their observation.

Up to the time of his arrest, the district attorney withheld the reason for desiring Scheppes' appearance. It was not asserted that he was near when Cohen was shot, but the police declare that he is identified in the inquiry as a "friend of a woman who, with two men, was arrested last week upon information furnished by 'Harry The Yot.'"

Cohen, according to Assistant District Attorney James E. Smith, had for several weeks been a secret informer.

Against the advice of the assistant prosecutor, Cohen several times visited Smith's house openly with information which was considered valuable. At daylight this morning Cohen telephoned to Mr. Smith asking him to meet him at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-sixth street at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon. "Be ready to hit the mob," said "Harry The Yot," alluding to the gamblers. "I've got the goods on the main man."

The next Mr. Smith heard, Cohen was dead with three bullets in his body. Hurrying to the scene of the shooting, a hall lobby in the West 92nd street apartment where Cohen lived with his wife, Mr. Smith was informed that Cohen was killed by a man as yet unidentified. A negro hall boy furnished the police with a description of the lawyer, whom he had pursued as far as Central Park, where the man made his escape by boarding a car.

Another figure in the Rosenthal case is being sought—"Bridgy" Webber, who was a principal witness for the State in three Rosenthal trials. It was at Webber's gambling place that the gunman assembled prior to their departure for the Hotel Metropole where Rosenthal was killed.

"Harry The Yot," according to the police, had something of a career of crime before he met his fate today as a "squealer." He was classified as a night burglar, porch climber, pick-pocket and safe burglar, had been arrested nine times, and had served one prison sentence.

Atlantic City, N. J., April 1.—Fire originating in the Oliver H. Guttridge four-story brick building in the center of the business block bounded by South Carolina avenue and Tennessee avenue, on Atlantic avenue, the resort's main street, early today, swept a half block to Tennessee avenue gutting eight business buildings and inflicting \$300,000 damage. The fire originated from crossed wires in the rear of the Guttridge building.

State your ambition in a Dispatch ad. There is somebody somewhere who wants your services. Do it today.

Washington Officials Believe Germans Will Continue Until Whipped

AMERICAN TROOPS ARE MORE ACTIVE

Besides Sending Trained Men to the Battle, Other Sammies are Taking Over More of French Trenches.

Washington, April 1.—Germany has staked its fortunes on the spring campaign, says the War Department's weekly review of the military situation today, and the Allies and the United States must be prepared for fresh attacks at new points if the Teutons fail to achieve victory in the present fighting.

"As the German higher command is apparently determined to force a decision or prove to its own satisfaction that it is unable to do so," continues the statement, "we must be prepared in case of his failure to obtain major results in the present theatre of operation, that he will attempt further offensive assaults in adjacent areas."

But despite the successes gained by the Germans, says the review, "the enemy has been unable to force a decision," and so long as the Allies are able to maneuver "with the consistent unity and flexibility" which they have shown during the engagements of the past week, "the enemy's victory elude the enemy."

The placing of American resources unreservedly at the disposal of the Allies is noted and the statement announced that "such of our troops as have received sufficient training will assume a share of the burden now so valiantly borne by the French and British armies."

The review also mentions that American troops are taking their places in other parts of the line, thus relieving veteran French units for emergency service. The department's statement follows:

"The period under review has naturally been one of anxiety for the Allies. Under the pressure exerted by the enemy who has put into action picked shock-units, long and carefully trained in mobile warfare, for the particular tasks they were to undertake, the British have been compelled to give ground.

"Field Marshal Haig, in the face of grave difficulties, has been able to maintain his basic order of battle, at the same time withdrawing his troops to more secure positions.

"In spite of the successes gained, the large area of terrain overrun and the great number of prisoners and war material captured, the enemy has been unable to force a decision.

"Though the Allies have been compelled to retire and the enemy has occupied some points of primary strategic importance, so long as the allied armies are able to maneuver with the consistent unity and flexibility which they have shown during the engagements of the past week, so long will victory elude the enemy.

However, as the German general command has staked its fortunes on the success of the spring campaign of 1918 and is apparently determined to force a decision or prove to its own satisfaction that it is unable to do so, we must be prepared in case of his failure to obtain major results in the present theatre of operations, that he will attempt further offensive assaults in adjacent areas.

"From a battle standpoint the most important event of the week has been French participation in the battle. French reserves have been hurried to the scene of action and are arrayed along the southern flank of the new salient, which the enemy has pushed out, stretching from Barisis to Montdidier.

"Fierce fighting continues in the Montdidier area where a successful French counter offensive is already outlined in the vicinity of Lassigny.

"North of the Somme the British are holding the enemy on the line running from Feuchy through Boyelles, Bucquoy, Beaumont-Hamel, Albert and Sully Le Sec.

"To the South of the river the Germans are still forging ahead. The thrust towards Amiens is being carried through with great vigor along the line at Hamel-Nezereles. Strong hostile assaults have also been directed against the point of junction of the Franco-British forces in the hope of being able to strike a decisive blow here and roll back either the French or British.

"Our own resources have been placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Allies.

(Continued on Page Six.)