

WEATHER.  
North and South Carolina, continued warm tonight; Wednesday unsettled, probably local rains.

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## PREPARING FOR A GREAT BATTLE ON FIELD OF PICARDY

Infantry Operations Have Died Down While Armies Get Their Breath

GERMANS WAIT FOR GUNS TO COME UP  
Seventy-seven Divisions Are Waiting for Artillery to Open Road for Further Assaults

Infantry operations on a large scale on the Picardy battlefield have died down, while both sides are preparing for the great conflict.

Various fighting has occurred between Albert and Montdidier, but the Germans have been checked in all attempts to advance toward Amiens, while the Franco-British troops have made small gains between the Somme and Dinan.

In the days of desperate and sanguinary fighting since they launched their attacks on the line before Cambrai, St. Quentin and LaFere, the German command apparently has learned that massed infantry attacks without great artillery preparations are fruitless and most costly. The German artillery fire is reported to be weak, indicating that the enemy has not yet been able to move his big guns across the barren region between St. Quentin and Albert.

Seventy-seven German divisions are on the battle line waiting for the guns attempting another gigantic effort to reach Amiens. North of the Somme there are 40 divisions, while 37 are on the line between the Somme and Caumy Chauny. It is known that the German guns have not all been moved forward.

Meanwhile the Allied armies under General Foch are making ready not only to counter another German blow which the enemy must make or concede defeat, but probably also for a counter offensive. American troops not unlikely will participate in the approaching renewal of heavy fighting along most of the line as more than 100,000 are moving toward the battle lines. Some unseasoned American units will be placed side by side with hardened British and French veterans, according to a decision announced in London.

The Germans are reported to be massing troops before Albert, where their attacks were beaten back by the British Monday. The British command looks for heavy German efforts north of the Somme, where it is believed the enemy has most of his fighting force, but where there has been no marked activity since the repulse at Arras Thursday.

Except for the activity at Albert the fighting has been confined to the line between the Somme and Montdidier. The Allied troops have reclaimed some ground between the Somme and Demuin, while between Hangard and Moresul heavy German attacks were beaten off with loss. German attempts against Grivesnes, Northwest of Montdidier, were repulsed singularly by the French.

Artillery exchanges continue on the rest of the front in France, including the American sector near Toul and on the Italian front. The Austro-German artillery fire against the Italian lines is moderate and there are yet no indications that the enemy is ready to launch his attack with the many thousands of troops reported to have been brought from the Eastern theatre.

In the three Caucasus districts ceded to Turkey by Russia in the peace treaty with the Central powers heavy fighting has broken out. The Armenian and Georgian inhabitants of this territory are defending themselves against the Turks who are attempting military occupation.

### WOMEN CHAUFFERS ON LONG JOURNEY

Lansing, Mich., April 2.—To demonstrate what women are doing to help prosecute the war, nine young women chauffeurs attired in military uniforms, were to leave here today, each driving an army truck with government supplies for Atlanta. Six of the young women are members of a motor truck company of the Georgia State Guard, and three are from New York. All are members of the National League for Women Service. The group is in command of Captain K. T. Harrington, of Atlanta.

### Mexican Congress Meets

Mexico City, April 2.—The extraordinary session of the Mexican Congress, called by President Carranza, opened formally yesterday. It will enact laws for the election of deputies in September and for the next presidential election.

### THE ORDER OF BATTLE OF GERMAN DIVISIONS

Carefully Arranged. Plans for Advancing and Capturing Positions

Ottawa, April 2.—A German order captured on the battlefield, says Reuter's correspondent, telegraphing from French headquarters in France, describes the order of battle of a German division in the present offensive as follows:

"The division advances in two regimental groups progressing side by side. The first line of each group consists first of one regiment of three battalions of infantry whose task is to advance straight upon their objectives, regardless of losses, leaving the work of reducing our centers of resistance to specialists detachments of following them. These consist, first of one company of storm troops, one and one half machine gun company, a half company of sappers, one detachment of liquid flame throwers, half a heavy trench mortar company, one battery light trench mortars, and two batteries of what is called infantry guns. In reserve come the third infantry regiment and a division of five tanks of British origin and an independent group consisting of two cyclist companies and one company of storm troops.

"This division is supported by 12 batteries of field guns and six of heavy artillery, including a battery of eight-inch Howitzers. "According to prisoners a number of enemy battalions have now got special light trench mortar detachments, known as infantry artillery, equipped with two light trench mortars of a new model mounted on specially high wheels, supposed to be capable of firing 20 rounds a minute against tanks or other obstacles. The personnel of each detachment comprises two officers and 40 men.

"It is apparent from the foregoing that the whole apparatus for destroying our centers of resistance has been relegated to the second line of the celebrated storm troops, sappers with explosives and light trench mortars instead being first to follow after the waves of infantry have swept over the position. The mission of these specialists remains the same. They clear the trenches, reduce strong points, bomb recalcitrants from dugouts, but while they are doing this the battle is sweeping further—at any rate, in anticipation."

British Took Prisoners.  
London, April 2.—In the sector between the Ayre and Luce rivers yesterday the British took 50 prisoners, the War Office announces. Thirteen machine guns were captured.

### COTTON SHIPMENTS.

Bryant Writes of Concrete Shipbuilding Locally.  
Writing in the Charlotte Observer, H. E. C. Bryant, of Washington, has the following to say concerning cotton shipments through Wilmington and concrete shipbuilding locally: "Director General McCaDoo has ordered 18,000 bales of cotton shipped through Wilmington. More will go through that port as soon as this lot is handled. "Matthew Hale is here again to see about contracts for ships at Wilmington. If his cement ship, now being constructed at Brunswick, Ga., proves a success he will construct others at Wilmington if it can be arranged."

### INJURED TUESDAY MORNING.

Slipped on Stairway and Fell to Bottom of Mill Race.  
Mr. Joseph Everett escaped serious injury in a miraculous manner Tuesday morning about 10:30 o'clock when he lost his footing in descending the stairs at Greenfield Mill and fell headlong to the bottom of the mill race. Unconscious, Mr. Everett was gathered up and removed to safety by friends, later being carried to the home of Mrs. Horn 510 Church street. But for the presence of friends, Mr. Everett would have met death by drowning, as his fall was of sufficient force to render him unconscious.

### General French Discharged.

Washington, April 2.—Major General Francis H. French commanding the 31st division, National Guard, at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga., is honorably discharged because of physical disability as a major general of the National Army, by orders issued today. He is ordered to remain temporarily in command of the 31st division, and when relieved his rank will return to that of Brigadier General in the regular army.

### MILWAUKEE, WIS., APRIL 2.—Early voting in the special senatorial election in Wisconsin which is to determine who shall fill the vacancy in Congress caused by the death of Senator Paul Hustung, was unusually heavy. In the cities the polls opened at 6 o'clock and it was in those centers where heaviest voting had been recorded.

### THE EIGHTH LONG RANGE BOMBARDMENT

Paris, April 2.—The eighth long range bombardment of Paris began at 10:10 o'clock today when a projectile exploded in the region of the city,

### HEAVY PENALTIES FOR DISLOYALTY.

Washington, April 2.—In favorably reporting a bill to impose drastic penalties on disloyal acts, the Senate Judiciary Committee today adopted an amendment by Senator Foiden of Washington, prescribing imprisonment for 20 years and \$10,000 fine for "whoever shall by word or act support or favor the cause of the German empire or its Allies in the present war or by word or act oppose the cause of the United States therein. The committee also approved the same penalties for persons obstructing government war bond issues and for wilfully "attempting," as well as actual attempts, to obstruct recruiting or enlistment in the army.

### A GROWING ACTIVITY AGAINST PRO-GERMANS

Volunteer Vigilance Committees Look After Ohio's Disloyal Citizens

Columbus, O., April 2.—Growing activity against pro-Germanism was marked in Ohio by work of volunteer vigilance committees in half a dozen cities last night.

At Fremont, Fred Kolbe, tailor, was rescued from a mob. Lynching was threatened when he refused to kiss the American flag, the police arriving in time to save him. Frederick Bolmen, debtor of a German paper, and numerous others were made to publicly show evidence of their patriotism. More than 100 steel mill employees took William Zerbe, one of their number, to the public square in Canton and ordered him to salute and kiss the colors, after alleged unpatriotic remarks.

Three hundred persons in 60 automobiles visited 30 homes of alleged pro-Germans in the Coshocton neighborhood and compelled heads of families to denounce the Kaiser and to salute and kiss the ag. Doors were broken in at several homes and a fire company was called to aid in getting one family out. A patrol car of police officers tried unsuccessfully to break up the mob. At a meeting last night, the Columbus Board of Education ordered teaching of German in all city schools to be stopped at once.

### Baseball Club House Burned.

Nashville, Tenn., April 2.—The clubhouse of the Nashville Southern Association baseball team burned last night. With the club house were destroyed 20 uniforms, balls, bats, gloves and other paraphernalia. The value of the equipment is estimated at \$2,000. The fire is supposed to have originated from a stove used to heat water for the shower baths.

### WISCONSIN VOTERS AT POLLS EARLY TODAY

Heated Senatorial Contest Between Lenroot, Davies and Berger

Milwaukee, Wis., April 2.—Early voting in the special senatorial election in Wisconsin which is to determine who shall fill the vacancy in Congress caused by the death of Senator Paul Hustung, was unusually heavy. In the cities the polls opened at 6 o'clock and it was in those centers where heaviest voting had been recorded.

Unsettled weather and possible showers were the forecast for the day. The Senatorial candidates are Congressman Irvine L. Lenroot, Republican; Joseph E. Davies, Democrat and Victor L. Berger, Socialist.

Democratic leaders claim that the cities will go heavily Democratic and overcome Lenroot's strength in the country. Berger predicted a Socialist landslide in Milwaukee and said he would pick up enough votes in the Lake Michigan to elect him.

### JAPAN TURNS OVER SHIPS TO AMERICA

Tokio, Wednesday, March 27.—The amount of tonnage to be turned over to the United States by Japan under the arrangement made by the Japanese shipping commission is estimated by the press at about 250,000. Of this 150,000 tons will be provided by the government and the remainder by shipbuilders in exchange for American steel. An official announcement will be made soon.

### AMBITIOUS PLAN OF GERMANS TO CAPTURE ARRAS

Units of Eleven Divisions Were Used in the Desperate Attack

### ONLY RESULT WAS HEAVY CASUALTIES

Attack Made in Full Marching Order Each Man Carrying Rations for Six Days and Extra Clothing

British Headquarters in France, Monday, April 1.—The German attack along the Scarpe river on March 28 had as its objective the city of Arras and the formidable Vimy Ridge. Careful plans were laid to carry out this ambition and the attack was supported by a very heavy assault south and southwest of Arras, units of at least 11 German divisions being employed here.

It may be seen therefore, that the German plans were far-reaching, but the main result they achieved was to swell the already great number of casualties.

At about 3 o'clock on the morning of the 28th, German artillery of all calibre opened a terrific bombardment against the British positions. It was obvious the enemy intended to attack and at 6:40 o'clock the British gunners unleashed an avalanche of steel against every known place of assembly the Germans might be using.

Shortly after 7 o'clock the enemy advanced. They came forward slowly and deliberately in full marching order. Each infantryman carried rations for six days, two blankets and an extra pair of boots, indicating that the attack was in deadly earnest. The company commanders were mounted and the infantry was followed closely by the artillery.

On the extreme North the storm center lay between Gavrelle and Oppy. The Germans lost terribly in the heavy fighting which lasted all day, during which the British fell back to a line between Baillou and Willerval. The German attacks against the positions were futile. Elsewhere north of the river the British stood their ground and pushed forward slightly Friday and Saturday.

South of the Scarpe, the Germans were held up for a time by a division which had been engaged against them for the previous week. After the first day the division retired somewhat and later was compelled to fall back behind Neuville-Vitasse on account of pressure to the south.

### ROYALIST AGENTS WERE PUT TO DEATH

Athens, Saturday, March 30.—Lieutenants Calamara and Hodojopoulos, who came to Greece, recently, on a German submarine as agents of former King Constantine, were condemned to death by a courtmartial and the sentence was carried out today. Their lawyer, Mr. Conopus, also received their sentences.

Two officers, after receiving instructions at Zurich, Berlin and Vienna, came to Greece in an enemy submarine from Pola with a letter from former King Constantine and plans to arrange a system of espionage and to establish a naval base. Conopus was intermediary in the matter. A sister of Lieutenant Calamara was sentenced to life imprisonment and a peasant was given 15 years for harboring the lieutenants.

A royal courtmartial has been directed to prosecute Captain Paparriopoulos, former aide de camp to King Constantine, who is said to have arranged for the visit of the lieutenants, and Kolidyas Capchierst, who also aided in their plans.

### NEW RECORD IN MILK PRODUCTION

Sacramento, Cal., April 2.—Raphaela Johanna Aaggie, a Holstein at the Napa State Hospital, has broken the world's record for milk production in 30 days. It was announced here today by the State board of control. Her record was 3,794 pounds, or 1,897 quarts, in a month. The previous high figure for 30 days is said to have been 3,767 pounds. The production of the cow at current prices would total \$208 for the month.

### ANOTHER POWERFUL GUN.

Lisbon, Portugal, April 2.—Benito Cairo, a Portuguese engineer, is said by the Seculo to have invented a gun which will throw a shell 90 miles.

## AMERICAN TROOPS ARE TO BE RUSHED TO BATTLE FRONT

### THE ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN UNITS WARMLY GREETED

Placing of American Brigades on Battle Front an Historic Action

### LONDON NEWSPAPERS GROW ENTHUSIASTIC

Decision of President Wilson Will Not Be Forgotten by French and British, Say Morning Papers

London, April 2.—The decision to place American units in brigades with French and British battalions for immediate participation in the fighting on the Western front is greeted by the morning newspapers as a historic action. The Daily Telegraph says: "The part played by President Wilson in the deliberations which ended in the decision will not be forgotten by those peoples of Europe which already owe so much to his strong and resourceful statesmanship."

The Daily Chronicle says: "The fine spirit shown by the United States throughout this crisis has been the source of utmost encouragement and moral support to her allies in Europe. Nowhere has the lesson of Brest-Litovsk been more clearly read than in America and nowhere is the absolute need for defeating imperial Germany more distinctly realized."

"It proves," says the Daily Express, "that America is in the war for victory and it is additional evidence of President Wilson's idealistic statesmanship."

"The spirit in which this measure has been taken by America," declares the Morning Post, "deserves, as it received, the fullest recognition both in France and this country and that it will have its weight in Germany too we cannot doubt."

The Times says: "It seals the bond of brotherhood which unites the European Allies with the United States in the common cause of civilization. . . . "This distribution of a portion of its units, even though expedient, will be only temporary and implies a spirit of chivalrous sacrifice in the face of staring necessity. It is no mere paper decision because American units already are mingling with our armies in the battle line and we are confident that the experiment will produce the happiest results."

### SECRETARY BAKER NOW IN ITALY

Rome, April 1.—(Monday)—Secretary Baker is expected here tomorrow from the Italian front. He will be accompanied by Ambassador Page. Mr. Baker will see Premier Orlando, Finance Minister Nitti, and General Zupelli, minister of war, while here. Ambassador Page will give an official dinner in honor of the Secretary who will leave Rome Tuesday night for Paris.

### NEW INDICTMENTS AGAINST CRENSHAW

Charlottesville, Va., April 2.—A new indictment against S. Dabney Crenshaw IV, of Richmond, charging him with the theft of \$2,000 worth of platinum and other articles from the University of Virginia laboratory, which building was destroyed by an incendiary fire January, 1917, has just been returned by a special grand jury. Judge John J. Fishburne set April 29 as the date for the trial. When Crenshaw was halted to court last month for his second trial it was reported that the indictment charging him with setting fire to the university laboratory to hide the theft had been lost. A certified copy of the indictment was supplied yesterday afternoon by Commonwealth's Attorney Duke.

### PLANNING TO MERGE EXPRESS COMPANIES

All Put Under One New Corporation Operated as a Unit

Washington, April 2.—Merging of the express companies under a new corporation to operate them as a unit and work out a basis for distribution of profits is under consideration and representatives of the companies. Some announcement is expected within a week.

Conclusion of an agreement has been held up, it was learned today, by difficulties in developing a plan for apportioning the stock of the new company, which would have virtually a monopoly of express business in the United States. The railroad administration would make a contract with the single company for hauling express matter, taking approximately half of the transportation receipts.

The capitalization of the new company also is the subject of considerable difference of opinion. The four leading companies—Adams, American, Wells Fargo and Southern—claim a physical valuation of their transportation property of approximately \$30,000,000. In addition, several million dollars cash for operating would be required.

The express companies and some railroad administration advisors advocate higher capitalization with allowance for good will and other intangible assets.

### FIERCE FIGHTING IN THE CAUCASUS

Petrograd, Monday, April 1.—Fierce fighting has broken out in the districts of Batoum, Kars and Ardahan, in the Caucasus. The Armenians and Georgians have formed a large army for the defense of the territory against the Turks who have begun military occupation of the three districts by virtue of the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty.

The Georgians have seized most of the Russian warships in the harbor of Batoum and have taken them into the Black Sea. The entire population of Georgia has been mobilized to oppose the invaders.

### MYSTERIOUS EPIDEMIC AMONG FORD WORKERS

Detroit, Mich., April 2.—Officials of the Ford Motor Company this afternoon announced a report that more than 200 men have been affected daily by a mysterious epidemic resembling gripe, which has been prevalent in the plant. It was estimated that about 2,000 employes have been ill thus far.

### GOVERNMENT AGENTS MEET LABOR LEADERS

Trying to Adjust Strike Differences at Norfolk's War Plants

Norfolk, Va., April 2.—Government officials in charge of army and navy construction work in the Hampton Roads district, including Major H. B. Gitchell, representing the War Department, were this morning in conference with union labor leaders here on the action of the 4,000 carpenters and metal trades workers in laying down their tools and tying up important war operations at the Bush Bluff terminal, the army and navy bases, Lambert's Point, the navy yard, the St. Julien Ammunition depot and Langley Aviation field in Hampton.

Although government officials here declined to comment on their contemplated action in the conference, it was regarded as not improbable that the result would influence the men to return to their work. A number of the strikers returned to work this morning and others are expected to do so during the day. Officials of the local draft boards are awaiting instructions from Washington before taking any action as to changing the classification of strikers subject to draft. They explain that a majority of the strikers have been given deferred classification by boards in their home States and others in class A are subject to call whenever needed.

Local labor leaders are unanimous in denouncing the walkout of carpenters, electricians, plumbers and pleister engineers and claim that the strike was not authorized.

Men in Training Here to Be Sent Over Regardless of Proficiency

### ENGLAND TO PROVIDE ALL HER TRANSPORTS

Every Available Ship Will Be Put to Carrying Troops—Will Be Fed Into British and French Armies

Washington, April 2.—The announcement from London that American units are to be brigaded with British and French organizations was interpreted by army officers here today as indicating that the United States government is ready to thrust aside all questions of national pride in placing American power at the immediate disposal of the Allies.

The plan was decided on at conferences between Secretary Baker and Generals Bliss and Pershing and British and French officials. So far as known, the War Department had not been officially informed of it today. Details of the method to be followed are not available and presumably will be arranged by General Pershing. There was every indication, however, that American troops now in training here are to be rushed across regardless of their proficiency.

The British statement carefully notes that the national aspect of General Pershing's army is not to be impaired. The building up of that purely American war machine will proceed as rapidly as possible. To supplement that effort, however, other American units will be fed to the front through the French and British lines to meet the present emergency.

Arrangements for the transportation of these additional forces, the British statement said, "are now being completed."

This was regarded here as an indication that the full extent of British troop ship capacity is to be devoted to taking forward American units and insures, it is said, the early delivery in Europe of at least double the American man-power that could have been forwarded in the same time otherwise.

It was noted that the statement pointed out that the American forces merged with the British and French are to be withdrawn when their training is completed and "General Pershing wishes to withdraw them to build up the American army."

Many officers here, however, the pleasure presented after active operations is one of French-American and British-American units of the French and British armies in which the individual soldiers will be so intermingled that it will be impossible to withdraw them without disintegrating the divisions or brigades.

What efforts may be made to keep a purely American unit in a veteran division of one of the other armies, officers say, the exigencies of conflict and the problem of replacing losses will lead to the creation ultimately to composite battalions rather than of divisions, composed of French and American or British and American units. A complete merging of the men is, as certain, it is believed, as is the complete merging of regular army, national army and national guard units in the American army.

There is no practical way to avoid it, officers say, without impairing the efficiency of the entire force.

### THREE NEW YORKERS KILLED IN PARIS

Paris, April 2.—Further identifications show that three members of the Landon family of New York, who had been residing in Paris, were killed on Good Friday when a shell from the long range German gun struck a church. They were Mrs. Mary G. Landon, wife of Edward H. Landon, of New York and his daughters, Mrs. Lucy Landon Speed, wife of Captain Ralph Speed, of the British army service corps, and Miss Ruth Landon.

Family of New York Lawyer.  
New York, April 2.—Edward H. Landon, whose wife and two daughters were killed in Paris when a shell from a long range German gun struck a church there on Good Friday, was a retired New York attorney who has been in Paris most of the time since the war started. The family is prominent socially in New York and Paris.