

WEATHER
North and South
Carolina: Cloudy and
continued cool tonight
and Sunday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

VOL. XXIV. NO. 94. WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 13, 1918. PRICE FIVE CENTS

FRANCO-AMERICAN TROOPS BREAK UP GERMAN ASSAULT

Foiled In Attack On Messines Ridge, Enemy Extends His Efforts

HAIG CALLS ON HIS MEN TO STAND FIRM

British Told to Die Rather
Than Retire—Struggle Is
At a Critical Stage—Heavy
Fighting to Come.

Pressing their attack against the British southwest of Armentieres, the Germans also have extended their efforts to other fronts and have clashed with French and American troops. In the north the Germans are advancing toward Baillieu; on the Picardy battlefield, they entered the village of Hangard, after heavy fighting, and east of St. Mihiel American and French troops have repulsed an enemy attack in the Apremont forest.

Repulsed in their efforts to gain the Messines-Wytschaete ridge, the Germans are putting most of their strength toward widening the salient south of Armentieres in an evident attempt to outflank the hill positions and gain important railroad centers. Baillieu is northwest of Armentieres and west of the southern end of the Messines ridge, while Hazebrouck and Aire, toward which the Germans are endeavoring to push home their attacks, are also important railway bases.

Field Marshal Haig, like Marshal Joffre at the Battle of the Marne, has called to his soldiers to stand firm and to rather than give up a position to the enemy. Military observers and War General Maurice, director of military operations of the British war office, agree that a crisis has been reached. "There must be no retirement," Field Marshal Haig says in his appeal. French forces are rapidly coming to the aid of the British and a gigantic and most sanguinary struggle probably will be enacted on the lowlands between Lille and St. Omer.

In heavy fighting the British are being forced back to Baillieu on the north and toward Aire on the south. Near the center the British and the German are hotly engaged around St. Vincent, which marks an approximate advance of 10 miles for the Germans since Tuesday.

On the extreme Northern and Southern end of the 25 mile front where the Germans have at least 400,000 men there has been little fighting. South of the Somme the Germans forced their way into Hangard, after several hours of sanguinary fighting in which the French and the enemy attacked and counter attacked. A French counter attack regained the Western part of the village and heavy fighting continues. Southward toward Hourges, the German attempts were repulsed.

The Apremont forest, where the Americans and French repulsed the enemy is where the American sector northwest of Toul joins the French line. The Germans gained advanced elements, but the Americans and French made a spirited counter attack and drove them out, the enemy leaving 22 prisoners in the hands of the Americans.

German aerial forces also have been busy. Paris and the east coast of England being raided Friday night. Two airplanes got through the Paris defenses and dropped seven bombs, 11 persons being killed and 50 wounded. One or two airplanes went inland from the English coast and dropped bombs, but apparently did not reach London. Allied armies have been very busy bombing military targets behind the German lines and in aerial fighting the British have brought down 35 German machines, 14 out of control. Reports received in Switzerland indicate that a German naval raid in

FORTY BOYS BURNED IN INSANE HOSPITAL

Oklahoma Hospital For Insane Had a Fatal Fire This Morning

Norman, Okla., April 13.—Between 30 and 37 boys, aged 10 to 15 years, all patients at the State Hospital for the Insane, here, were burned to death in a fire of unknown origin that completely destroyed three wards and the dining room of the institution. The blaze started at 3 o'clock this morning.

COTTON CONSUMPTION FOR MONTH OF MARCH

Number of Bales Was 571,202 Against 603,919 for a Year Ago

Washington, April 13.—Cotton consumed during March amounted to 571,202 running bales, exclusive of linters, the Census Bureau today announced for the eight-month period, it was 4,400,233 bales.

Last year March consumption was 603,919 bales, and for the eight-month period, 4,508,916 bales.

Cotton hand March 31, in consuming establishments was 1,721,311 bales, compared with 2,053,904 a year ago, and in public storage and at compresses 3,258,499 bales, compared with 2,914,946.

Cotton spindles active numbered 33,789,656 compared with 33,270,348 a year ago.

Imports for March were 13,565 aales compared with 47,679 a year ago.

HOUSE DEFEATED IRISH PROPOSAL TO OMIT DRAFT

The Vote Was Preceded By a Most Remarkable Debate

BONAR-LAW DEFENDS CONSCRIPTION BILL

His Promise of Home Rule Was Greeted With Laughter—Debate Attended By Uproars

London, April 13.—A proposal by Irish Nationalists to omit the conscription of Ireland clause from the government man-power bill was rejected by a majority of 172 in the House of Commons last night. The total vote shows that a large section of the House abstained from voting.

The debate in the House yesterday and last night was remarkable for the speech for former Premier Asquith who, while strongly objecting to the conscription of Ireland, frankly declined to take the responsibility at the moment the nation is facing a grave military crisis of pushing that opposition to the extent of forming a change in the government. Henry E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, attempted to conciliate the Irish members.

FINLAND INVITED GERMAN TROOPS

Washington, April 13.—A message reaching the State Department today from Stockholm, reported the Finnish official news bureau had given out a statement declaring that all German troops landed in Finland had been sent at the request of the Finnish government.

When the Germans landed on the Aland islands, Sweden protested. Further Reorganization.

Washington, April 13.—At their weekly conference with War Department officials today Senate military committee members said they were advised that further and important reorganization was planned and that Brigadier General Williams will be appointed chief of ordnance, probably through retirement of Major General Crozier, now serving on the Super-War Council.

Investigate Size of Carloads. Washington, April 13.—Investigation into various railroads on the rules of minimum carload shipments of lumber, which materially affects rates, was instituted today by the Interstate Commerce Commission on its own initiative as a result of complaints by lumber producers and shippers of discriminated effected by the rules.

STUPID AND CHILDISH SAYS THOMAS' WIFE

But She Invited the Professor's Affinity to Stay At Home With Her

Chicago, April 13.—The case of Prof. William S. Thomas, of the University of Chicago, detained in a downtown hotel by government agents, after registering as "C. Roland" and wife, Gary, in the hands of the Federal officials, was in the news today. They were released on their own recognizance. What action the city authorities would take, if any, had not been indicated.

Mrs. Granger, 24 years old, mother of a 3-year old child, and wife of an army officer, with the American forces in France, spent last night at the southside home of the University of Chicago professor of sociology. She is there by invitation of the professor's wife, who is prominent as a pacifist and an advocate of woman suffrage.

Mrs. Thomas has on several occasions rallied to the defense of her husband, when criticized for some of his writings and utterances on sex questions. She is the daughter of the late Rev. James Park, a Presbyterian minister, of Knoxville, Tenn.; is president of the Chicago Peace Society and accompanied the Henry Ford Peace Party to Stockholm.

Dean Albion Small, head of the Department of Sociology of the University of Chicago, of which Prof. Thomas is a member, said some action probably would be taken by the university authorities.

MOTOR TRUCK WRECK COST LIVES OF TWO

Spartanburg, S. C., April 13.—Two soldiers were killed and six were injured today in a motor truck accident here. The troops were from Camp Wadsworth.

LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS PASS HALF BILLION

Washington, April 13.—Subscriptions to the Third Liberty Loan reported to Federal Reserve banks today as the first quarter of the drive was passed, totalled \$539,426,100, or slightly more than one-sixth of the minimum amount sought by Secretary McAdoo.

Senator Stone Worse. Washington, April 13.—Senator Stone, of Missouri, who suffered a stroke of paralysis last Wednesday, became worse today, after spending a restless night, and is in a serious condition, according to an announcement by his physicians.

BONDS THAT BLESS

By GOVERNOR T. W. BICKETT

Liberty Bonds, like mercy, are twice blest. They bless the folks who stay at home and the men who are going to the front.

They test and declare the physical and spiritual dynamics of this Republic.

They appeal to the commonest kind of sense, and to the rarest sort of sentiment.

In them will be found more of strength than in the lordly head of the herd, and more of warmth than in the fleece of the leader of the flocks.

They will carry one farther than a "Ford" and faster than the fleetest descendant of "Nancy Hanks."

They will yield more solid comfort for the inner man than possum and potatoes, and more juicy sweetness than the apples for which our first ancestors threw Paradise away.

They are absolutely free from the uncertainty that racks the nerves of men, and from the taxes that make the grasshopper a burden and mourners go about the streets.

They will add to the glory of youth and to the grandeur of age.

In them one may hear ten thousand cannon roar to save a little child, and see ten million men leap forward to die that others may truly live.

They are preferred stock in The Gem of the Ocean.

They are Star dust from Old Glory.

They are the soul of the Red, White and Blue.

They are messengers of hope to our friends, and missiles of terror to our foes.

They are harbingers of peace to all lands, safety to all seas, and freedom to all of the children of men.

They are badges of chivalry, certificates of nobility, memorials of love.

Buy one! Buy today, and live forever in your own esteem and in the gratitude of a world you help to save.

ANOTHER DULL WEEK ON STOCK EXCHANGE

Anxiety Over the Western Front Fighting Was Felt By Trades

New York, April 13.—Greater interest not unmixed with anxiety in the outcome of the terrific battle still raging on the Franco-Belgian front was reflected in another dull week on the Stock Exchange. Prices of standard issues were well maintained as a rule, those pressures were at times effective. The scarcity of stocks due largely to the abstention of public participation had automatically created a technical condition which tends to stabilize values.

The Liberty Loan drive engrossed the attention of banking and bond interests, investment demand for the bonds being gratifyingly large. Outstanding Liberty issues were again subject to variable quotations, but international issues, notably Paris 6s and French Municipals, were active and firmer.

ANOTHER TRICK OF THE WILY GERMAN

London, April 13.—Still another trick of the wily Hun has been uncovered. From time to time during the war stories have been told of rural folks on both the Eastern and Western fronts being awed by apparitions in the heavens. One of the most notable instances of the kind occurred just before the assault at Przemysl, when numerous visions occurred to the country people living around, who fell on their knees and worshipped the holy picture of the Virgin and Child.

Apparatus found on some German aeroplanes captured recently on the Western front goes to prove that the superstitious country-folk were tricked and deceived by mere aerial photographs which they believed to come from a Divine source.

Alexander's Fate in the Balance. Lincoln, Neb., April 13.—Whether Grover Alexander, pitcher for the Chicago Nationals will have to quit baseball and go with this month's draft contingent to Camp Funston, Kas., will probably be definitely decided upon within the next few days, K. D. Bahensky, a member of the draft board at St. Paul, Neb., Alexander's home, said today.

GERMANS PLANNED FOR THREE GREAT DRIVES ON BRITISH

AN OPEN LETTER TO PERPLEXED CHRISTIANS

Question "Is War Contrary to Christianity?" Answered In Affirmative

(An open letter to a perplexed Christian, by Rev. B. W. Dodson, A. B., Presiding Elder Hamlin District, Northwest Texas Annual Conference.)

Mr. Dear Brother: I am sorry to see that you are distressed and perplexed concerning the question, "Is war contrary to the Bible and to Christianity?"

It seems clear to me that wars of conquest and oppression are abhorred and condemned by Christianity; but war (1) against tyranny and oppression, (2) in self defense, (3) to protect the weak from injustice, and (4) to punish and make possible the outrages of an outlaw—whether among men or nations—is unquestionably authorized by the Bible and Christianity.

The majority of the wars mentioned in the book of Judges—as also those of King David—were wars against tyranny and oppression, and the New Testament glorifies those Old Testament warriors, because "by faith they subdued kingdoms and put to flight the armies of aliens." (Heb. xi, 32-34.) Now, we are really fighting against the tyranny and oppression of a military autocracy, and for human liberty.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea, As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free!

In the fourth of Nehemiah this great leader exhorts Israel to "remember the Lord and fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses" (Neh. iv, 14), and this inspired Scripture (II Tim. iii, 16) clearly authorizes a war of self defense. Today all men ought to realize that we are fighting to defend our homes, as truly as if Germany were already deploping on our soil the atrocities suffered by little Belgium.

The Golden Rule, the law of brotherly love and every principle of justice and righteousness compel a Christian to use force—if necessary—to protect the weak from brutality, and these same principles apply to us as a nation, and compel the United States to continue this war until conquered or until Germany agrees to make a peace based upon righteousness and justice—for these divine ideals must finally control the conduct of nations.

In Romans xiii, 1-4, Paul teaches that an outlaw must be punished and suppressed, declaring that the officer bears the sword as a "minister of God" . . . "to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." Germany has outraged humanity and despised international law; she has shot and drowned the innocent; she has massacred Armenians; maimed and mutilated children; committed horrible outrages upon women and girls and proved herself to be an outlaw among the nations. Unless right is to give place to might, unless law and civilization are to perish, this outlaw must be punished and suppressed. Christian principles compel me to use my strength to save a child from outrage, and these same principles compelled the United States to enter this war that national outlawry might cease and that Christian ideals of justice and righteousness, liberty and brotherly love might become a guide and inspiration for the conduct of all nations.

No Less Than 28 Divisions Used In This Pretentious Program

HAVE NOT REACHED THEIR OBJECTIVES

But There Are No Indications That the Effort to Break British Will Be Abandoned At This Time

With the British in France, Friday, April 12.—With the exception of Merville the Germans thus far have not reached their objectives in part for the present drive north and south of Armentieres but today's developments indicate that the enemy had no intention of abandoning the assault immediately. A captured German document reveals that there were to be three smashes on the front north and south of Armentieres. One had Baillieu as its main objective, the other Merville and Aire and the third Bethune.

Not less than 28 divisions had been employed by the enemy in this pretentious program which has meant that at some places the British have been very heavily outnumbered. A German division aggregates 13,000 men including 7,500 rifles.

St. Vincent, between Merville and Aire was being heavily attacked today by strong forces of Germans after their success of last night which gave them possession of Merville. The enemy seems to desire reaching Aire a railway center, and were throwing large numbers of troops into the conflict. The German threat in this direction undoubtedly is of considerable importance.

The fighting today continued to be of the bitterest nature, not only in the Merville neighborhoods, where the main assault was made, but also northward from Givenchy.

Yesterday and last night the enemy continued his pressure from Wytschaete southward and gradually forced the British to fall back from Ploegsteert and Ploegsteert wood until the battle was being staged today near Neuve Eglise to the west.

Meanwhile steady pressure was maintained in the Estaires sector beyond which lay Merville and Aire. During the night the enemy pushed back the defenses at Destrem and captured Calonne-Sur-Lys southwest of Merville.

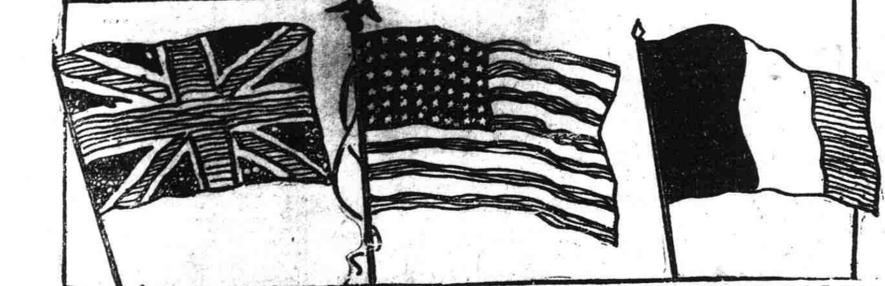
Through Neuf Berquin, a little above Merville, and these two covering forces hurled themselves on the town.

Giving way before greater numbers, the British fell back toward St. Venant, fighting doggedly all the way against the closely pressing Germans. A sanguinary battle was proceeding today west of St. Venant with the British making a determined stand. During the night the British counter attacked west of Steenwerck, west of Armentieres and re-occupied La Bacque after hard fighting.

The German attack about Givenchy, on the Southern end of the battle line was being pressed today by some nine divisions. There has been virtually no cessation in the fighting here since the beginning of the battle Tuesday.

Thus far the British have maintained a stone wall defense against which the Germans have flung themselves with heavy losses. Today the casualty list of the attacking troops was swelled appallingly as the British artillery and machine guns pounded concentration points and troops advancing in close formation.

FRANCE WELCOMES THIRD FLAG ON PLAINS OF PICARDY.



The American troops fight side by side with the British and French troops and the Star-Spangled Banner will float beside the French and English flags on the plains of Picardy.