

BALLOON IN WAR DOES GREAT WORK

"ELEPHANTS" USED FOR OBSERVATION AND TO DIRECT FIRE OF BATTERIES.

PILOTS PARACHUTE JUMPERS

Thousand Community Labor Boards Have Been Organized—Gun Production for Army Grows Rapidly—Iron Rations Ordered.

(From Committee on Public Information) Washington.—Up to a few years ago, in the public mind, all balloons were associated with parachute jumpers, county fairs and circuses. They were used very much like their rival the old side show, full of freaks, solely to draw a crowd. Today Uncle Sam is making balloons and training their operators for distinctly another purpose. The ungainly old balloon of circus days is now a rival of its swifter and more modern brother, the airplane, in the job of being eyes for the army and navy. A dead industry was revived when the war balloon was originated.

Swinging far aloft at the end of a cable, these "elephants," as they are now called, support trained observers who, by means of powerful field glasses and telephones, give range and direction to batteries. These in turn, with well directed shots, put enemy batteries out of business and break up infantry formations for attack. A stationary balloon four or five thousand feet in the air is an ideal place for an observer.

So Uncle Sam's parachute jumpers are being instructed today, not as entertainers to draw and thrill crowds by "leaps from the clouds," but for their own personal safety and the safety of their records made at high elevations, when a shell or an enemy airplane rips their balloon and they have to jump. For although their balloon may be destroyed, the men in the basket usually come safely to earth and bring their maps and photographs with them. It is a life full of excitement these men of the balloon lead, and to be a member one has to have plenty of nerve, courage and daring in his makeup.

Aviators take off their hats to the balloon men. One recently returned American air pilot told of an adventure he had on a trial trip in a balloon; how interested he was becoming in the work of the observer as the latter explained the great panorama outstretched below him; when suddenly the balloon man interrupted his talk to see that his parachute straps were O. K., climbed to the edge of the basket, shouted: "Beat it; follow me," and disappeared over the side. The aviator said he took one look at the windlass pulling the balloon to earth below, another at the oncoming enemy plane and said to himself, "Not for mine." He said he did not have the courage to jump and did not. Fortunately the enemy plane was beaten off by allied planes before it could get any nearer.

Provost Marshal General Crowder was requested by the British embassy to give notice to the fact that British subjects, including declarants, who had registered before July 30, 1918, may enlist voluntarily in the British or Canadian army up to and including September 28, 1918. Those who registered on August 24, 1918, may so enlist up to and including September 23, 1918. Those who register on September 12, 1918, may so enlist up to and including October 12, 1918.

During the period so allowed for voluntary enlistment, British subjects may apply for exemption to the British ambassador.

At the end of the period allowed for voluntary enlistment, British subjects, in each of these classes, may no longer enlist in the British or Canadian army; but unless exempted by the British ambassador, they become liable to military service and may claim exemption under the United States Selective Service law.

Experiments in laundering shoes are being conducted at various camps by the conservation reclamation division of the quartermaster corps. The method used is the same employed by the American expeditionary forces.

A solution composed of one quart of strong disinfectant to 50 gallons of water was used to wash about 200 army shoes in a standard laundry machine. The solution used is germicide, antiseptic and deodorant. After 14 minutes' washing, the shoes were removed, dried for about an hour and then resoled. The results were found to be highly satisfactory. After the shoes are laundered and repaired they are greased with dubbing to make them more pliable and at the same time to preserve the leather.

Save a nutshell to help save a life! Nuts, the shells of nuts and seeds and pits of several varieties of fruits are needed in quantity supply to make carbon for use in gas masks or respirators for our soldiers.

Coconut shells have furnished the material for this carbon, but the supply of such shells is wholly inadequate.

The seed and pits of peaches, prunes, dates, apricots, plums, olives and cherries, and English or native walnuts, hickory nuts, butternuts and their shells, and Brazil nut shells, are the best substitutes for the coconut shells.

Recent reports show that approximately 1,000 community labor boards of the United States employment service have been organized or are in final process of organization. Between 700 and 800 of them are ready to function and some already have begun work.

Full and partial returns from 33 states and the District of Columbia give a total of 915 boards completed or in formation while four other states, two of them large industrial commonwealths, report the organization of boards but not the number. The five remaining states failed to report.

Each community labor board is composed of three members, one representing the community's employers, the second its employees and the third, who is chairman, the United States employment service. The employers' and employees' members are chosen by their respective local organizations, their appointment being approved by the director general of the employment service. It is the work of the community boards to generally supervise the recruitment and distribution of workers for war production, the actual recruiting and distributing being done by the local offices and agents of the employment service, including the agents of the public service reserve.

The federal directors of employment for the states have been notified by the director general to rush the organization of the boards for their states and their functioning as quickly as possible in order to provide relief for short-handed war industries.

Some facts about guns and munitions told by the secretary of war:

We are constructing a big gun plant at Neville Island. We signed a contract with United States Steel corporation to build and operate without profit this plant for guns of the larger calibers. This is the biggest plant of this kind ever conceived and will build guns of not less than 14 inch. The site is just below Pittsburgh and covers about 1,000 acres. The housing will be on the hills south of the island. The amount of money involved is \$150,000,000 which is being supplied by the United States government. This plant will handle a tremendous amount of material, and will be retained by the government after the war.

We have shipped two hundred and fifty 155-mm. howitzers to France.

We are producing between 25,000 and 30,000 machine guns per month. Of Browning heavy 6,000 to 7,000; Browning light automatic rifle from 8,000 to 9,000 per month.

We are making about 1,200 motor tractors per month.

We are turning out all the smokeless powder we need now.

The production of rifles has been about 200,000 per month.

We produce more than 50,000 pistols and revolvers per month.

Orders have been given for the supply of one million emergency rations by the subsistence division of the quartermaster corps. The emergency ration corresponds to the iron ration of the British troops. It is carried in an air-tight, gas-proof container and is sufficient to maintain a man for one day, sustaining his full strength and vigor. It is strapped in the pack of the soldier going over the top and may be used only according to the instructions given when the emergency ration is issued.

The emergency ration is composed of ground meat and wheat compressed into a cake. There is also a block of sweet chocolate. The bread and wheat component may be eaten dry or, if possible, stirred into cold water. The cake, when boiled for five minutes in three pints of water, results in a very palatable soup, or when boiled in one pint of water for five minutes it makes porridge which may be eaten hot or cold. When cold, it may be fried and fried, if bacon or other fat is available. The chocolate component of the emergency ration may be eaten dry or made into hot chocolate.

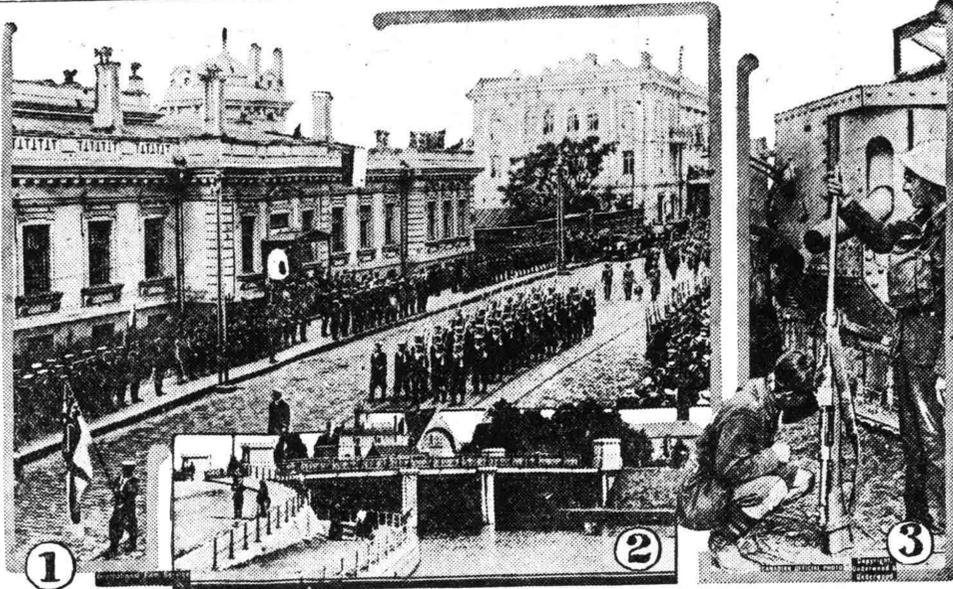
The quartermaster corps has just completed purchases of large quantities of foodstuffs for distribution by the American Red Cross. The food will be shipped to France, Switzerland and Denmark and used for civilian relief and at prison camps.

The order includes more than 2,500,000 pounds of hard bread; 250,000 pounds of oatmeal; 333,333 pounds of fresh beef and more than 500,000 cans of baked beans. Purchases also have been made for the Red Cross of 205,000 cans of fish flakes. These flakes are a combination of haddock and shad. About 350 pounds of fresh fish are required to make 100 pounds of fish flakes.

Purchases also are being made by the subsistence division of the quartermaster corps of foodstuffs for use at American rest camps in England and France. Purchase for rest camps include more luxuries than are issued in the regular ration. Owing to the shortage of tonnage, canned corn and peas and other fancy staples are not now being sent overseas for general use, but sufficient quantities are available for men in rest camps and for the wounded in the hospitals.

More than 400 colleges have responded to the war department's call for co-operation in training the new branch of the army, the students' army training corps. Plans are being made to convert fraternity houses and dormitories into barracks for the period of the war.

The S. A. T. C. has two branches, the collegiate, to which men qualified by high school graduation are eligible; and the vocational section, to which grammar school graduates are eligible. Recruits will be procured by voluntary induction.



1—First photograph received showing American troops in Vladivostok; they are following a band of British marines. 2—The bridge near St. Quentin, a hotly contested point. 3—Members of a tank crew examining a captured anti-tank rifle, one of the latest devices of the Hun.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

American First Army Makes Attack on Both Sides of St. Mihiel Salient.

HUN ARMY MAY BE TRAPPED

Many Towns and Prisoners Taken—Foch May Be Aiming at Metz—Germans in Picardy Trying to Halt Retreat Approximately at Hindenburg Line.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.
The American First army, General Pershing commanding, started the first great wholly American offensive Thursday, attacking on both sides of the St. Mihiel salient southeast of Verdun. The French assisted by attacking on the point of the salient, but the operation was planned by the American staff and executed by American officers and troops.

After a terrific artillery preparation which for four hours smothered the entire region within the German lines with shells, the Yanks went over the top exactly at five o'clock, following a rolling barrage timed for an advance of 100 meters every 40 minutes. Great numbers of tanks supported them and cleared the way by crushing numerous concrete machine gun shelters and breaking down the elaborate wire defenses. American aviators in flocks quickly drove away the few Hun airplanes in sight and thereafter deluged the enemy supply centers, munition dumps and hangars with bombs, while the observation planes directed the work of the artillery. Everything moved like clockwork and the troops speedily gained their objectives and went on to the next ones. Village after village was taken and by Friday the cavalry had advanced far into the center of the salient and occupied strong positions. At the time of writing the drive was progressing steadily and the Germans were in danger of finding their retreat from the big wedge entirely cut off. Hundreds of prisoners were taken. The St. Mihiel salient had been held by the Huns ever since 1914 and was very strongly fortified. Its base is toward the German stronghold of Metz and it may be that the drive is directed against that city. However, Marshal Foch's strategy had not been revealed when this was written.

Having given up all the ground they won in their great spring drive, and finding themselves back on the old Hindenburg line, and in some places well behind it, the Germans decided to stop their retreat for a while. Marshal Foch did not fully assent to this decision, but powerful concentrations of Hun artillery and reserves in strong positions, coupled with torrential rains throughout Picardy, brought the allied offensive almost to a temporary standstill. Not that the fighting by any means ceased, for the French and British kept pressing forward, though more slowly, and the Germans delivered desperate counter-attacks, which in almost every instance resulted only in severe losses for them.

It is the opinion of expert observers that the halt of the Huns approximately on the Hindenburg line will be only temporary. Indeed, it is believed they cannot stay there long if they would. For many weeks they have been hastily building new lines of defense farther east, and Marcel Hutin in the Echo de Paris says they are now constructing a supreme line from Antwerp to Metz and are putting the Antwerp forts in defensive condition. Their present line depends on Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin and Laon, and farther to the southeast, on the Chemin des Dames. Douai already was being evacuated last week and the air-drome moles east of it were being dismantled. The British, fighting fiercely and repulsing heavy counter-attacks, were advancing steadily through Havrincourt, Pezieres and Gouzeaucourt and forced a crossing of the Canal du Nord, thus taking the main defense of Cambrai on the southwest. St. Quentin

was the goal of a race between the British and the French, the former winning Vermand, Attily and Vendelles and closing in on the important city from the northwest, while the French southwest of the objective crossed the Crozat canal and took a number of villages. A little farther south the French forces captured Tracy on the Oise, just north of La Fere, and from its heights were able to dominate the latter town, which was reported to have been burned by the Germans. This operation, together with the French advance eastward from Coucy-le-Chateau, threatened to flank on both sides the forest and massif of St. Gobain, the chief defense of Laon. Withdrawal of the enemy from that forest, which is full of guns in strong defensive positions, might thus be compelled without direct attack, which would be expensive and difficult.

At the western end of the Chemin des Dames the Germans were fighting furiously in the region of Laffaux, where they were trying to regain possession of the dominating ridge which the French and Americans had taken from them. Many fresh troops were used in these attacks, but their efforts were all in vain.

Although the stupendous German retreat of the past eight weeks has been conducted skillfully and the enemy line has not been broken through, his armies maintaining contact with one another, it has been in every way a most expensive operation for the Huns. In addition to the loss of great numbers of guns and immense quantities of material, captured or destroyed, they have lost more than 300,000 men, the majority of whom, fortunately, were killed. The morale of the army is being gradually broken by relentless, continuous and successful blows delivered by the allies, the supply of fighting effectiveness is getting low, and the people at home are becoming daily more dissatisfied and restless. Captured orders reveal that the wounded men are put back in the ranks before they are cured, and prisoners released by Russia are not given time to recover their strength and health. Austria has reluctantly responded to the call for aid and in the quieter sectors Austrian divisions are placed between German divisions, or Austrian soldiers are used to fill out depleted German regiments. This is taken to mean that there will be no renewal of the Teutonic offensive in Italy this year, if ever.

A considerable advance made last week by the Belgians in the sector north of Ypres was significant, inasmuch as some military critics expect that Marshal Foch will strike there in force before long.

The war department announced that Americans have been landed at Archangel to take part with the other allied forces there in fighting the bolshevik and re-establishing order in northern Russia. These troops are from some of our northern states and many of them speak Russian. Hitherto the only Americans there were marines and sailors.

In Petrogr 1, Moscow and other cities of Russia proper the bolshevik government is struggling desperately against the ever-increasing counter-revolutionaries, slaughtering the latter mercilessly whenever they fall into their hands. Petrograd is reported to be given over to massacres and flames and to have been captured by revolting peasants; Yaroslavl and Volgda have been burned by the soviet troops, and Moscow is threatened with the same fate by Trotsky. Two attempts were made on the life of Doctor Helfferich, the new German ambassador to Moscow, but he fled back to Berlin.

The soviet rulers, persistent shouters for peace without annexations and indemnities, have just paid to Germany 250,000,000 rubles, the first installment of the indemnity exacted from the unhappy country by the Huns.

In Siberia the allies, with the Czecho-Slovaks, Cosacks and loyal Russians, have been making satisfactory progress, but the Austro-German ex-prisoners and the bolsheviks are putting up so obstinate a resistance that Japan is contemplating sending a much stronger force in order to insure the safe of the expedition and its allies before the winter sets in. The Japanese government is convinced that the American government will

abandon its opposition to such a course.

The London Express says it has unquestionable information that the former empress of Russia and all her children have been murdered by bolsheviks. If this is true, the entire immediate family of Nicholas has now been exterminated. The dowager empress and her daughter and son-in-law were attacked by bolsheviks at Yalta, but were saved by men from the Black sea fleet after two weeks of fighting.

The progress of the Czecho-Slovaks of Austria-Hungary toward the independence recognized by Great Britain and America is encouraging. The existence of the Czecho-Slovak state was declared by all the Czech deputies in the Austrian parliament and has now been endorsed by all of the clergy of the Bohemian dioceses.

Baron Burian, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, who still is at odds with Berlin because he insists on an Austrian solution of the Polish problem, nevertheless was employed once more last week to start a Teutonic peace offensive. This, aimed directly at President Wilson, was a suggestion that the central powers and the entente get together for an exchange of views and to consider all the things which are keeping the belligerents apart. He intimated this might make further fighting unnecessary. Though President Wilson is not quoted in reply, Washington dispatches make it clear that he holds unwaveringly the position that the only tolerable peace will be, not negotiated, but dictated to the central powers by the allies, and that that is the kind of peace which the allies will achieve. In this, it is needless to say, he is backed up by the entire nation. No one in a position to predict presumes to believe that such a peace can be attained this year, but no one intends that any other kind of peace shall be accepted by America. We have gone into the war to the finish, and we propose that the finish shall be in accordance with our high aims for the future safety of civilization and freedom, no matter what the cost.

At a most opportune time came the registration day for all Americans between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and thirty-one and forty-five years. Gladly, with patriotic exaltation, some 13,000,000 youths and older men enrolled themselves for military duty, and from their number 3,000,000 more trained soldiers will soon be ready to move forward to the battle lines. Millions of others, not so fit in one way or another for actual fighting, will be listed for other work directly connected with the carrying on of the war. In a few weeks the relative standing of the 13,000,000 will have been determined. According to Provost Marshal General Crowder, the first to be selected for the cantonments and camps will be those between nineteen and twenty-one and between thirty-one and thirty-six.

The matter of granting deferment to registrants because of the work in which they are engaged is of utmost importance, and the aid of all employers in this has been enlisted. The government is especially desirous that no essential industries shall be disturbed by the draft, but enough men must be selected to maintain a steady flow of registrants to the training camps.

As had been foreseen, here and abroad, the Germans have begun an intensified U-boat campaign directed especially against the transports carrying American troops and supplies. Up to date this has resulted in the torpedoing of the Mount Vernon, formerly the Kronprinzessin Cecelle, which was bringing home wounded and sick soldiers, and of the Persic, carrying 2,800 American troops to Europe. In the former case the casualties were confined to men in the engine rooms and the vessel put back to a French port under her own steam. All the men on the Persic were safely transferred to the conveying vessels, after which the steamship was beached on the English coast. The submarine which attacked it was destroyed by depth charges. In both instances the utmost bravery and coolness were exhibited by the crews and the soldiers aboard.

The British steamship Missanable also was torpedoed while on her way to America for troops and supplies.

STEADY ADVANCE OF PERSHING'S FORCES

ENEMY'S WITHDRAWAL MAY BE TO PROTECT HIS RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

AMERICAN PATROLS ADVANCING

Two New Divisions Broken Up by British—German Strength in Greatly Reduced.

London.—General Pershing's Army making fine progress. It has advanced from two to three miles on a front of the front and the four divisions have come into action against the enemy.

The enemy appears to be withdrawing to some farther line which will protect the railway communication in the vicinity of Metz, which at present are under the long range fire of the Americans.

American patrols are advancing at various points a couple of miles beyond the general advance.

The American line at noon ran through Norroy, on the Moselle, Harcourt, Doucourt and to Abancourt on the old line.

The advance by the French seems to have been in the nature of several local pushes and not a big general forward move. The situation is much the same as it was. The enemy has been reacting very violently on the French front. He made several counter-attacks, although he has not recovered any of his lost ground, he is holding up the French somewhat.

The British are reported to have captured the village of Malleser northwest of St. Quentin. It has been discovered that there were six German divisions operating in the St. Mihiel salient. That would give a total strength of 60,000 men or a strength of 36,000. The Germans had broken up for them, two more divisions in this action, thus reducing their strength in the west to 191 divisions plus four Austrian divisions and some dismounted cavalry.

PEACE DISCUSSION TO BE NO INTERRUPTION OF WAR

Amsterdam.—In extending an invitation to all the belligerent governments to a neutral meeting place, the Austro-Hungarian government states that the object of the conference would be to secure an exchange of views which would show "whether these proposals exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising."

The Austrian proposal, which is announced in an official communication telegraphed here from Vienna suggests that there be no interruption of the war, and that the "discussions would go only so far as considered by the participants to offer prospects of success."

LIVES OF LITTLE CHILDREN SNUFFED OUT BY SUBMARINE

London.—The British steamer Galway Castle of 7,988 tons gross was torpedoed and sunk. She had 960 persons on board, of whom more than 860 were reported saved.

The missing from the Galway Castle numbers 189. They include 130 passengers, 36 naval and military officers and men and 33 of the crew. Ninety third-class passengers had been without exception women and children.

The liner floated for two days in charge of the captain and volunteers.

The passenger list included 200 men and children. The bodies of three of the children who had died were brought ashore. The captain and several of the officers are reported to have been still on board the ship when she was last seen and sinking.

FORCE, FORCE TO THE UTMOST—FORCE WITHOUT STINT OR LIMIT

Washington.—Germany's latest peace feeler best finds its answer in President Wilson's Baltimore speech: "Force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit, the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world and cast every selfish domination down to the dust."

That was the President's answer then, and it was reiterated today. It is his answer now.

CONGRESS DISCUSSING MEANS FOR FURTHER FINANCING WAR

Washington.—Measures for the financing of the war will occupy the attention of Congress this week. In the house the war revenue bill was taken up for discussion of amendments under the five-minute debate rule with a view to a final vote, while in the senate, when it reconvenes, will begin consideration of the administration Liberty bond measure, designed to stimulate sale of bonds of the fourth issue.