

Showers Sunday; Monday probably fair, little change in temperature.

BRITISH LINES PENETRATED BY GERMANS

GERMAN FORCES WITH EMPEROR WILLIAM IN COMMAND DRIVE FORWARD ON A 21-MILE FRONT

Penetrate British Lines to Depth of Four or Five Miles West of Cambrai

REACH THE CITY OF HAM

Haig's Men Heavily Engaging the Enemy, Although Retiring at Various Points

BOTH SIDES LOSE HEAVILY

Germans Plan to Drive Wedge Between British and French

Assaulting the British lines on the south the Germans have forced their way forward over a front approximately 21 miles in length, have penetrated to a depth of four or five miles west of Cambrai and have reached Ham, west of St. Quentin, a distance of about nine miles west of the British lines, as they stood before the inception of the Teutonic offensive on Thursday.

British Heavily Engaging Enemy. The German claim that the forces of the central empires are fighting on a line northeast of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham has not been substantiated by British, official dispatches, but the British reports show that there has been a retirement at various points, especially at St. Quentin, where Field Marshal Haig says his forces have taken up their new positions and are heavily engaged with the enemy.

According to a Berlin official dispatch a considerable part of the British army has been beaten, but this is not borne out by any facts so far known. That 25,000 men have possibly been captured by the Teutons may be considered as a natural result of the slow British withdrawal on various parts of the line. This number, however, is very small in comparison to the forces Haig has thrown into the fray.

The fruitless combat continued all day Saturday.

Effort to Split Lines. The great offensive has developed as its salient feature an apparent desperate effort to break into the southwest of St. Quentin, drive a wedge between the British and the French and push on across the Somme canal in the general direction of Compiègne and Paris.

Simultaneously Paris has been bombarded at quarter-hour intervals, beginning Saturday forenoon, with shells of about nine-inch calibre. The source of the bombardment has not been revealed. The nearest point on the front is 42 miles distant, more than twice as far as artillery fire has ever reached previously. One theory suggested is that the Germans have developed an aerial torpedo which can be fired from a long distance.

Compel British Retreat. There was an admitted break in the British line in the St. Quentin region late yesterday, the Germans forcing their way through the defensive system and compelling a British retreat to prepared positions within the area devastated by the Germans in their retreat in the spring of 1917.

Reports that the fighting already was heavy in the vicinity of Ham, which report this a penetration of some nine miles for the Germans. Ham is approximately 11 miles southwest of St. Quentin.

Effort to Cut Line. A supreme effort by the Germans to cut the line in this region is forecast in the dispatches. They have put cavalry in the field to follow up the infantry and evidently intend to throw the Germans into the fray when the infantry columns open the breach the German high command is counting upon.

Further north the British lines, while they have drawn back, are holding well in their new positions. The maximum British retrogression there seems to have been about four miles, at Morey, which has changed hands several times.

French Probably Involved. Reports that the French have been involved in the struggle seem credible, as the recession of the British front flank, which was resting approximately upon LeFere, at the river Oise, would inevitably carry with it the French left, which had rested upon the same.

The advance is being accompanied by a terrible slaughter of the Germans, who in their massed formations are being cut to pieces by British guns of all calibres. The British casualties, too, have been heavy, and Berlin claims the taking of 25,000 prisoners and 400 guns.

Keiser in Command. Emperor William himself is in command of the German armies fighting the battle which he had previously declared would be the decisive one of the war, and London commentators credit

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BATTLEFRONT TURNED INTO VERITABLE HELL

British Army Headquarters in France, March 23. (By the Associated Press)—The British, gallantly fighting, are still presenting a solid front to the ferociously attacking Germans, although the defensive troops have withdrawn their lines in certain places for strategic reasons. All day yesterday and much of last night the conflict continued to rage with increasing violence as fresh German divisions were hurled into the fray, in an attempt to smash through the British defense.

The operation is vast and is changing with kaleidoscopic rapidity. Forty-nine German divisions have been identified thus far on the battlefield. Some estimates place the number of German divisions engaged as high as 90, but it is impossible to say whether this is accurate.

Certainly the Germans are putting all their available strength into the assault and fresh troops are constantly appearing.

The fighting yesterday was of the most anguishing character and the enemy continued to lose great numbers of men through his system of massed attacks. That does not mean that the British have not suffered casualties. They necessarily have, but their losses are much smaller than those of their opponents.

The visibility became excellent late yesterday and the whole battlefield was turned into a veritable hell with the artillery action unprecedented as concentration of guns on both sides cut loose their freight of death.

Men who fought through the great battles of the Somme, Flanders and Arras say that they never before have seen anything to approach the awful gun fire of the present conflict. There is not even an infinitesimal space between the explosions as the thousands of guns of all calibres work to their fullest capacity.

The British air service has been doing valuable work with its machine guns against the advancing enemy.

German Lives Are Staked By the Hundred Thousand

Secretary of War Baker Arrives in London; Paid Visit to Belgian King

London, March 23.—Newton Baker, the American secretary of war, visited King Albert of Belgium and the Belgian royal yesterday. Secretary Baker arrived here at 5 p. m., and was met by Ambassador Page, whose guest he will be during his stay in London.

British First Lines of Defense are Smashed by Man-Power and Not Gun-Power

WASHINGTON IS CONFIDENT Officers, Privately, Still Believe That Germans Will Eventually be Repulsed

BRITISH ARMY IS INTACT Pershing Asked to Forward Information Immediately

Washington March 23.—The war department cabled General Pershing tonight to forward immediately definite information of the exact situation on the battle front where the British troops are under the German onslaught.

The only official word at hand was contained in the official statement issued from London and Berlin.

American army officers would hazard no opinions, lacking definite and comprehensive advice. Privately, however, their confidence in the eventual repulse of the German thrust remained unshaken in the face of all reports received.

Both American officers and those attached to the British and French military missions looked with confidence on the story unfolded from hour to hour as the German effort progressed.

A review of the day's events as told in Associated Press dispatches, they said, gave no ground for assuming that allied resisting power would prove unequal to its task.

All reports were taken to prove that the Germans had staked lives by the hundred thousand upon a quick blow, designed to be overpowering both because of the masses of men used and also because of the absolute disregard of losses which marked its delivery.

There was evidence that seemed to bear out predictions that Germany was prepared to sacrifice 800,000 men in the effort. It was with man-power in great masses and not gun-power that the first lines of the British defense were penetrated.

British Organization Intact. The greatest shock ever hurled at any army appeared to observers here to have been met by the British with great skill. It appeared that the British had stopped the rush where they could; withdrawn slowly before it where they could not. Their orderly retirement, American officers believe, means defeat for the Germans in the end. There has been no loss or British organization. It was pointed out, and every foot of ground surrendered has been bought with blood.

Military experts say such an effort as the Germans are making cannot be continued long. Every foot gained means added difficulties of transportation and the consequent slowing up of the forward movement. A day or two more of bitter resistance, even including further British retirement, it was thought, would see the impetus of the German thrust lost, and its power diminished. Then would come opportunities for counter blows on a major scale.

In seeking the strategic purpose of the German drive, officials here, notes

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URGED TO REDUCE BREAD RATION BY FIFTY PER CENT

Food Administration Appeals to Public to Further Curtail Wheat Consumption

FLOUR SALES CUT DOWN

Farmers Holding Back Wheat in Anticipation of Higher Prices Fixed by Congress

Washington, March 23.—Further reduction in the consumption of wheat was asked of the public tonight by the food administration, that the scant supplies available before the next harvest may be stretched to meet the needs of the army, domestic consumers and the allies.

Every American is urged to cut his average ration of wheat by 50 per cent, which would reduce the total normal consumption of 42,000,000 bushels a month to 21,000,000. That gives a ration of not more than 1 1/2 pounds of wheat products weekly for each person. Flour to be cut to one-eighth of a barrel for a town customer, that retailers' stocks may be distributed to as great a number as possible.

More Bread Substitutes. The wheat content of bakers' bread will be reduced to 75 per cent. April 14, which increases by five per cent the amount of substitutes that must be used.

Sacrifice in the wheat ration will entail no hardship, in the opinion of food administration officials, because the supply of potatoes, corn, oats and milk is ample to maintain health.

When farmers are in the wheat situation, and some of the difficulties with which the food administration has had to contend in warding off famine in the United States and England, it is not to be expected that the United States could not meet even minimum demands because of transportation handicaps. The breakdown in the railroads upset the corn exportation schedule so that on March 1 there had been sent abroad only 14,000,000 bushels, the 64,000,000 bushels of last year and the 100,000,000 bushels which it was hoped to send. Accordingly, the foreign populations have been dependent on wheat. Their need of wheat is growing, for after April 1 the shipment of corn is attended with great risk of loss owing to the possibility of germination.

Supplies Have Divided. As the demand for wheat has grown, the surplus in storage has been hoarded. Too the usual flow of grain to market has decreased in the last month from 8,000,000 bushels weekly to 3,000,000, due, it is declared, to the desire of farmers to hold out their grain for the higher price proposed in legislation before congress. Corn growers have added to the confusion by threatening that if the corn price is not raised and fixed as the price of wheat has been fixed, they would plant wheat instead of corn, which officials declare would work untold loss in the meat supply.

Private Hoarding. The price of flour would be increased to \$15 a barrel if the \$2.50 a bushel for wheat becomes a law, according to food administration officials. They say that the refusal of many persons to co-operate in food conservation. One German-American in New Mexico was discovered to have raised 100 bushels of wheat which he had purchased an additional 100,000 bushels, all of which he stored and refused to sell. The grain was requisitioned. Several similar cases in Minnesota are under investigation and the full power of the law will be invoked to punish hoarding.

No Ration Cards. Regulations for the enforcement of wheat conservation are being worked out by the food administration. As the new regulations probably will be necessary only until the harvest, a matter of three months, the administration has abandoned the idea of ration cards and will impose restrictions on mills, wholesalers and retailers which can be established inexpensively and don away with quickly. Control of wheat at the mill probably will be tightened, so that its distribution throughout the country will be based on an equitable scale and no dealer will have more flour than he can sell other than by strict apportionment if he desires to take care of his trade.

HEGGES' TRIAL SATURDAY. Body of Victim Taken to Marianna, Ark., for Interment.

Lexington, S. C., March 23.—J. Graham Hogg, who on Tuesday last shot and killed J. Franklin Deaderick in the former's home here, will be arraigned next Saturday, March 30. The preliminary hearing will be held before Recorder John E. Moyer of Lexington. The body of the dead bank cashier was taken last night to Marianna, Ark., for interment.

Trinity Won Debate. Durham, March 23.—Trinity won a two to one decision in the debate with Swathmore College here tonight.

AMERICAN PATROL SLIPS UP ON HUN LISTENING POST

German is Taken by Surprise, Throttled to Prevent Outcry, and Made a Prisoner

RETALIATE FOR ATTACK

Germans Who Dropped Gas Shells in Town Within American Lines Heavily Shelled

With the American Army in France, March 23. (By The Associated Press).—A patrol of four Americans early this morning crawled nearly a mile, approached a German listening post from the rear and jumped on the German there, throttling him ere he had a chance to make an outcry. They returned to their line as quietly as they went, bringing their prisoner with them. He was put through an examination by the intelligence office.

AMERICAN GUNS RETALIATE FOR GERMAN GAS ATTACK. With the American Army in France, March 23. (By The Associated Press).—The American guns retaliated heavily against the Germans, who again last night dropped more than 500 mustard gas shells into a certain town within the American lines. There was no wind and the gas remained for hours. The American artillery work was very accurate.

HEAVY GAS ATTACK MADE ON TOWN WITHIN LINES. With the American Army in France, Friday, March 22. (By The Associated Press).—The Germans launched a heavy gas attack against a certain town within our lines northwest of Toul last night. No wind was blowing and the fumes of mustard gas from the shells hung low over the lines for several hours. The batteries firing the shells were located to the right of Richecourt and our artillery was busy all morning with a retaliatory shelling.

TWO AMERICAN FLIERS EACH BRING DOWN HUN MACHINE. Washington, March 23.—Two American fliers are named in official dispatches from France today as bringing down a German airplane. Lieutenant A. Darner downed an airplane in the Champagne region and Corporal Vayles brought down one near Courcourt.

AMERICAN NAVAL FLIER COMMENDED BY BRITISH. Ensign Henry N. Fallon Distinguished Himself While Flying Over the North Sea.

London, March 23.—Ensign Henry N. Fallon, of the United States navy, distinguished himself in two air fights over the North Sea on March 12 and has been commended to the admiralty. Ensign Fallon was flying in a British machine, the wireless operator of which was shot in the neck. Fallon left his seat, climbed to the wounded man, administered first aid and then returned to his place at the gun.

Ensign Fallon was on November 24, 1917, recommended for the award of the distinguished service cross for gallant conduct during an encounter with a German submarine. An order from Secretary of the Navy Daniels declined the decoration for Ensign Fallon because the laws of this country prevented soldiers and sailors receiving decorations from foreign governments.

Die of Other Causes. Lieutenant Colonel William S. Wells, Sergeant Charles E. Hill, and Bugler Charles E. Dubois, Private Arthur Knochenhauer.

Wounded Slightly. Captain Arthur S. Gow, Lieutenant Arthur Booth, Sergeants James J. Buchanan, William Rogers, Corporals John M. Hunt, Earl R. Stouffer, Private Charles F. Bowers, Peter F. Brian, Bernard Gola, Ray G. Herring, Ewart G. Nelson, John Walczyk.

WILL NOT EXTEND TIME FOR FILING INCOME TAX RETURNS. Washington, March 23.—The time for filing income tax returns will not be extended beyond April 1. Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper tonight issued this statement: "It will not be practicable to extend the time further for filing income tax returns after April 1st. The time for assessing the tax has been compressed from three months to two months by the extension from March 1 to April 1, and it will very greatly tax the bureau to make these assessments and get the notices back to the tax payers by June 1 so as to enable them to comply with the law in paying their taxes by June 15."

Keystone Case Appealed. Washington, March 23.—The government's anti-trust suit against the Keystone Watch Case Company, in which a decree was issued, holding the company to be a combination in violation of the anti-trust law and injunctions were granted against officials of the company, was appealed to the supreme court today.

NUMEROUS GAS SHELLS FIRED BY AMERICANS

Hurled Into Village Within the German Lines

Enemy Observation Balloon Breaks From Its Moorings and is Brought Down by the Americans and Destroyed.

With the American Army in France, March 23.—(By The Associated Press).—Hundreds of gas shells were fired by the American artillery on the Toul sector into the village of St. Bausant. The American observer reported that the work of the artillery was effective.

At the same time high explosive shells were fired into the town, against batteries in the rear of its cemetery and into Sonnard wood where there were other enemy guns. An enemy observation balloon near Montsec broke from its moorings this morning and floated toward the American lines. The artillery brought it down in No Man's Land and then completely destroyed it.

SHELLS FROM GUNS 74 MILES DISTANT FALLING ON PARIS

Paris Experiences First Daylight Air Raid by Huns; Cannon Shells Mystifying

240 Millimeter Missiles Reach Capital and Suburbs at Fifteen Minute Intervals

10 KILLED AND 15 WOUNDED

American Ordnance Officers Are Dumbfounded by the Announcement from Paris

22 MILES FORMER RECORD

Gun With Range of More Than 30 Miles Never Dreamed of

Paris, March 23.—The first daylight air raid on Paris came today, which was one of perfect sunshine. The people of Paris refused to immerse themselves in cellars and other subterranean shelters, and the streets always had a great number of people in them watching for an aerial battle.

As the day passed and the "all clear" signal was not given, the feeling grew that something new in the way of a raid was expected. This was not explained until an official statement was issued, saying that the delay was due to the bombardment by long distance cannon. Pieces of the shells, on examination, were found to bear rifling marks, which proved that they had not been dropped but had been fired from a gun. This left a greater mystery than ever.

Another thing which turned the thoughts of the officials to the possibility that a cannon was being used was the regularity with which the bombs fell, one every 15 minutes.

Paris, March 23.—Paris received a third warning of an air attack within 24 hours with unshaken nerves tonight when an alarm was given at 9 o'clock. The "all clear" signal was given at 10:20 though the population could learn whether the warning was against an airplane raid or whether the long distance German cannon had resumed operations.

Paris, March 23.—According to the latest reports, the long distance cannon which bombarded Paris this afternoon was firing from a distance of 120 kilometers (approximately 74 1/2 miles) and was located about 12 kilometers behind the French front, (this undoubtedly means within the German lines.)

THREE OFFICERS AMONG THE DEAD

American Casualty List Issued Yesterday Contains Only Twenty-Eight Names

THE NUMBER OF DEAD 14

One Killed in Action, Three Died of Accident, Eight Died of Disease and Two From "Other Causes"—14 Wounded.

Washington, March 23.—Only 28 names, five of them of officers, were included in today's casualty list. Lieutenant Jefferson Feigl was killed in action, Lieutenant Eugene R. Wheatley and Captain Arthur S. Gow and Lieutenant Arthur Booth were among the slightly wounded.

Today's list was divided as follows: Killed in action, 1; died of accident, 3; died of disease, 8; died of "other causes," 2; wounded severely, 2; wounded slightly, 12.

Killed in Action. Lieutenant Jefferson Feigl. Died of Accident. Lieutenant Eugene R. Wheatley, Bugler James D. Galladay, Private Herbert J. Tucker.

Wounded Slightly. Corporal Reynold A. Braeder, peritonitis; Private Charles E. Barrow, Jacob Orton, Eugene Heim, Alfred McCleod, Coy. Overstreet, William Eugene Parker, George H. Wilkins, Edward Wirth.

Died "Other Causes." Lieutenant Colonel William S. Wells, Sergeant Charles E. Hill, and Bugler Charles E. Dubois, Private Arthur Knochenhauer.

Wounded Slightly. Captain Arthur S. Gow, Lieutenant Arthur Booth, Sergeants James J. Buchanan, William Rogers, Corporals John M. Hunt, Earl R. Stouffer, Private Charles F. Bowers, Peter F. Brian, Bernard Gola, Ray G. Herring, Ewart G. Nelson, John Walczyk.

It might be, some officers thought, that a continuous dropping of medium calibre shells on the city was part of a hope for breaking the spirit of France by some mysterious visitation.

Another theory advanced was that the shells might have been fired from a French or English gun seized by traitors or mutineers and turned upon the French capital. It would not be at all impossible, according to those who suggested the explanation, for a squad of mutineers to have secured a single gun, employed in some isolated spot. It was recalled that some months ago well substantiated reports were received in Washington of a revolt of a Russian regiment on the west front. It was quickly put down, however. The possibility that today's mysterious bombardment might be traced to some officers here is highly unlikely, but not unreasonable to some officials.

LICENSES FOR FOUR COTTON CARGOES TO SPAIN GRANTED. Washington, March 23.—Export licenses for the shipment of four cargoes of cotton to Spain were granted today by the war trade board in pursuance of the recent commercial agreements concluded between the American and Spanish governments.

"This action," said an announcement by the board, "will provide the cotton necessary to fulfil the normal requirements of the Spanish mills and should relieve fears that have existed in Spain as to the possibility of a shortage."