

THE WEATHER

Cloudy Monday with rain in the morning; Tuesday fair and warmer.

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BRITONS APPARENTLY HOLD THEIR OWN

WITHDRAWALS OF TROOPS MADE TO NEW BATTLE FRONT ACCORD WITH LONG MATURED STRATEGY

Mastery Retirement of Main Army While Shock Troops Slaughtered Foes.

ALLIES ARE OPTIMISTIC

Germany Claims Large Gains and Captures of Men, Guns and Much Materials.

BOASTFUL OF SUCCESSES

More than a Million Huns Have Been in Action.

(Associated Press Summary)

The withdrawal of the British forces along the battle front in France was long ago planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the British front through the Associated Press correspondent, who describes the operation of the British army as a mastery withdrawal, made possible by gallant shock troops in the front lines, who checked the advance of the Germans, while artillery, machine gun and rifle worked appalling slaughter among the masses of German infantry as they were sent forward, thus enabling the main body of the British to fall back deliberately and without confusion.

Main Army Conserved. This army, it is declared, has been conserved and up to the present very few counter-attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the Germans' newly acquired positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to German front lines a more and more difficult, and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, safe from war, wear himself out against a powerful defense.

Both British and French forces, where their lines meet south of St. Quentin, are watching events with optimistic eyes.

Sanguinary Struggle Goes On. On the battle line in France the sanguinary struggle still is going on, with British troops on most of the sectors apparently holding their own, but with the Germans at salient points still pressing forward.

The town of Chauny, southeast of St. Quentin, which was brought to Compiègne, the gateway to Paris, has been occupied by the Germans and according to the Berlin official communications, everywhere between the Somme and the Oise rivers the Germans are pressing their advantage.

Battle All Day Sunday. Throughout Sunday along the entire 50-mile battle front the fighting never for a moment was brought to a halt. The British were unable to withstand the terrific onslaughts delivered by greatly superior forces, ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

More Than Million Germans. It now has been definitely ascertained that considerably more than a million Germans have been brought to the western front in an endeavor to crush the British army holding the line from the region of Arras to the south of St. Quentin, but it daily becomes increasingly evident that the enemy in his drive has met with opposition not counted upon and been unable to realize to the full his objective.

Germans Claim Peronne and Ham. In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of both Peronne and Ham, and to have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 20,000, in addition to 800 guns and large stores of war materials.

Defeat Franco-Americans? It is claimed also by the Germans that American and British troops which were brought up to reinforce the British have been defeated but no further information other than this mere statement has been vouchsafed.

Little Left to Eat. In their retreat, according to Berlin, the British are burning towns and villages behind them. This statement, however, seemingly is capable of being received with reserve, as the Germans themselves in their famous "strategic" retreat left little standing in the territory they evacuated, even reaching the country of trees.

Louis D'Amboise Mystery. One of the mysteries of the offensive which now has been solved is that the shifting of Paris is being done by a long-range German gun. This statement is contained in the Berlin official communication and a Paris dispatch says that one of the guns has been located near Laon, about 76 miles from the center of Paris. Throughout Sunday morning and into the mid-afternoon shells were dropped in Paris at intervals of from 12 to 20 minutes.

Already Front and Boastful. The confidence of the German army in the success of its offensive, as manifested by Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has complimented the German emperor on the "initial success" and the latest German official communication is loud in its plaudits of the German troops, declaring that "the attacking spirit of the infantry could not have been exceeded."

On the other battle fronts the fight— (Continued on Page Eight)

Washington Views Attack As a "Desperate Venture"

"By the Grace of God" Wilhelm Tells Empress, He Has Won the Battle

Amsterdam, March 24.—"Well, your majesty, I think we may be well pleased with the initial success."

Thus the Berlin Tageblatt quotes Field Marshal Von Hindenburg as saying to Emperor William when the field marshal received the first telegrams concerning the offensive on the western front.

The newspaper adds that the time for the offensive was fixed long ago and that it began at exactly the time set for its commencement, even to the hour.

Another dispatch from Berlin says the German empress has received the following telegram from Emperor William:

"I am pleased to be able to tell you that, by the grace of God, the battle of Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won. The Lord has gloriously aided. May he further help."

NO AMERICANS IN THE BIG FIGHTING

German Claim That They Were Has Not Been Confirmed by Any Reports to U. S.

EAGER INTEREST IN NEWS

President Wilson and All American Officials Intensely Absorbed in Reports of Battle—Paris Gun Did Little Damage.

Washington, March 24.—No confirmation of German reports that American troops have participated in the fight on the British front had reached the war department up to a late hour tonight. Major General March, acting chief of staff, who remained at his office much of the day and night, said that no advices to the effect had been received.

It was recalled that American railway engineers, in training at the British front, were involved in the German counter-attack on the Cambrai front some time ago, but there has been nothing to indicate that any other than engineer or other special units have been employed at any time with the British forces.

Officials generally displayed the most eager interest in every item of news as to the German drive. It was pointed out that any information as to British or French operations must be made public by the officials of those two countries.

President Intensely Interested. Intense interest in press reports displayed by President Wilson himself that official information was meagre. The Associated Press dispatches were transmitted to him during the evening.

The official British and German reports were taken here as showing that a second phase of the war explanation was continued throughout the day with no decisive results. It was evident that the British second defensive system was being severely tested by German attacks. It appeared, however, that the British line in general was still intact at the close of the day.

The announcement from Berlin that Paris had been bombarded by long range guns seemed to settle any doubt there has been as to what transpired in the French capital yesterday and today. The range of the new weapon—76 miles—exceeds anything ever dreamed of by ordnance experts here so far as known.

Little Damage at Paris. Whatever the Germans may have discovered in the way of new explosives or new gun metal that permits the use of heavier charges of powder without destruction of the weapon itself, it is noted with satisfaction here that the first employment they have given in no military advantage whatever. The damage of a whole battery of such guns similarly fired also would be insignificant. If the Germans counted upon the terrorizing of the populace, there has been, not a line from Paris to indicate that they had attained success.

Left to his own choice, a citizen of Paris probably would prefer the new gun to airplane bombs.

It is recalled the Dunkirk has been bombarded a number of times at the range of twenty miles or more. Ordinary occupations continued and the bombardment without cessation and no important damage was done by the German guns.

Says It Proves the Germans Have Been Forced to Attempt Gigantic Feat of Arms.

ENEMY CASUALTIES HEAVY

American Troops in Lorraine and Toul Sectors Are Found Doing Their Share.

FRENCH FRONT QUITE BUSY

Weekly Official War Resume Gives American Viewpoint.

Washington, March 24.—The German offensive, says the war department's weekly communication issued today, proves that the German militarists have been forced to attempt a gigantic feat of arms.

While the great attack has been able to make headway, no definite enveloping movement has been outlined, the communication says, and it would be premature to express opinions on the tactical phases with a combat situation inevitably changing in a battle of such magnitude.

Desperate Military Venture. "The assault launched by the Germans against the British front has reopened the fighting season in the west," says the communication. "This operation confirms to us that the German command and the German forces are engaged in a desperate military venture in order to maintain its dominion over the pedicel of the central empire and force a victorious peace by the fortunes of arms."

"The German attack began with a brief but overwhelming artillery bombardment.

"From Oiselles south to Vendoul, a distance of 47 miles, the Germans concentrated this preliminary barrage in which a number of Austrian batteries participated."

"The German infantry divisions thereupon advanced to the attack along the flanks of the salient in front of Cambrai. Furious fighting continued. While the Germans have been able to make headway no definite enveloping movement is as yet outlined."

"It would be premature to express an opinion regarding the tactical phases of the operation behind these places. We must expect further changes in the combat situation, which are inevitable in a battle of such magnitude."

Wider Battlefield Possible. "Enemy casualties have been exceedingly heavy. The extension of the battle front is possible."

"Prior to the German attack the allied troops were successful in a number of raids into the enemy lines, proving their alertness and initiative."

"Our own forces in training in Lorraine are still holding on to the trenches which were captured last week. In this region our artillery continues to batter the German lines and a number of scouting parties which have penetrated the German positions report enemy works have been considerably damaged."

"In our sector north of Toul our artillery has successfully bombarded enemy works and billets behind the front lines. A raid one of our units reached the German second line and returned without suffering any casualties. In this area the enemy made a thrust against the French forces on our flank. Our own forces became engaged. The Germans were driven off."

American Put Down Raid. "A hostile raid was also attempted against our forces at another point. This operation was preceded by a strong barrage. Our infantry well supported by artillery, was able to stop the attacking column before our trenches were reached. Our troops raised hostile works east of Luneville. In the Laon area the enemy used a considerable number of gas shells, causing only slight casualties. Gas bombardments were noted in Lorraine."

"The French front has also been extremely active. Large raiding operations were undertaken. A brisk French attack against the hostile trenches in Malancourt was repulsed in the penetration of the enemy line. Another very successful French raid was conducted against the adjacent positions near Chesny wood. American officers who are training with French units, participated in these operations."

"The Germans temporarily were able to penetrate the French trenches. Hitherto, there has been no indication of an extension of the German offensive to the French front."

Belgian Units Engaged. "We also note that Belgian units have taken over the important North Sea segment of the western front, which has been held by the French."

"Simultaneously with the German offensive operations in the west, we note operations in the east, where the (Continued on Page Two.)

SWEEPING CLAIMS OF VICTORY MADE BY GERMAN OFFICE

Assert They Defeated Both British and Franco-American Reserve Troops With Losses.

"A FORMIDABLE SUCCESS"

Thirty Thousand Prisoners and 600 Guns and Other "Enormous Booty" Claimed.

Berlin, March 24.—(Via London, British Admiralty Per Wireless Press)—The Germans have captured Peronne and Ham and defeated British and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter-attack on Chauny, according to the war office statement today.

The statement adds that more than 30,000 prisoners have been captured and 600 guns have been taken by the Germans.

Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the German official press. The British Third and Fourth armies and parts of Franco-American reserves are declared to have been beaten with the heaviest losses on the line from Bapaume to Bouchevaesne and behind the Somme between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny. The text of the communication follows:

"Western theatre.—The battle near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won."

"The British Third and Fourth armies and portions of Franco-American reserves who had been brought up were beaten and on the line of Bapaume-Bouchevaesne and behind the Somme, between Peronne and Ham as well as at Chauny, were repulsed with the heaviest of losses."

"The army of General Von Below (Otto) took by storm Monchy height and south thereof carried forward the attack in a westerly direction beyond Vancourt and Menin. It now is engaged in a fight northwest of Bapaume for the third enemy positions. Strong British counter-attacks were repulsed."

"The central and northern groups of the army of General Von der Marwitz, following upon the heels of the vanquished army, pressed forward in close pursuit Friday night as far as the third enemy position in the Equancourt, Nurlu, Topleux, La Fosse, Berne line."

von der Marwitz and Bulow Join. "Early yesterday they renewed their attack and defeated the British and their reserves, and continual counter-attacks. A junction with the left wing of the attack of General Von Below was effected."

"Belou, Mancourt and Peronne the troops of Generals Von Kathan and Von Gotard have forced a crossing over the Tortille sector and on the Somme battlefields are fighting around Bouchavesne. Peronne has fallen. Other divisions have pressed forward to the south thereof as far as the Somme."

"Early on Friday evening the army of General Von Hutier, pressing closely forward, took by storm the third enemy position, broke through it and compelled the enemy to retire."

"In consequence, the corps of General Von Lutwitz and Von Oettinge have reached the Somme."

English Reserves Defeated. "Ham fell after a desperate fight into the hands of our victorious troops. English reserves, thrown against them in a desperate attack, sustained sanguinary losses. Generals Von Hebrun, Von Conte and the troops of General Von Geyl, after a fierce battle, crossed the Crozat canal."

"French, English and American regiments which had been brought up from (Continued on Page Eight)

FIGHTING SO FAR HAS GIVEN ALIEN LITTLE ANXIETY

Strategy of British Commanders Has Been Deliberately Followed and Army Conserved.

50 HUN DIVISIONS USED

Officer Admits Offensive Is Last Act of Desperation On Part of the Kaiser.

With the British Army in France, March 24 (By The Associated Press).—The British and French, who cooperate at the junction of the two armies, were viewing the trend of the German offensive with optimistic eyes this morning. Hard fighting was in progress, but the latest reports showed little or no change in the situation in favor of the enemy while on the other hand the defenders had pushed the attacking forces back after a bitter struggle and were holding strongly along the whole new front to which they had withdrawn.

Continued Desperate Fighting. Fighting of a most desperate nature has been continuous since the initial attack, but so far the British have used few troops other than those which were holding the front lines. These shock troops have been making as gallant a defense as ever recorded in the annals of the British army and as a result they have enabled the main body of the forces to fall back deliberately and without confusion and occupy positions which had been prepared long before the German offensive began.

Hun Generals Prudential of Life. The Germans, on the other hand, operating under the eyes of the emperor and the crown prince, have been hurled into the abandoned positions getting farther and farther away from their supplies and finding that their communications increasingly difficult.

More than fifty German divisions already have been identified by actual contact and many of these men were sent over the top into the frightful maelstrom made by the allied artillery, machine guns and rifles. The slaughter of the enemy infantry as it advanced in close formation over the open has been appalling.

Losses No More Than Expected. The British losses have been within the bounds expected, due to the tactics of the German commanders. The British lost a considerable number of men in prisoners and a certain number of guns. But very few pieces of artillery have been taken by the German army. In fact the whole withdrawal has been executed in a masterly manner, showing how thoroughly the British had planned for the very events which have occurred.

It is permitted to say now that the British never intended to try to hold the forward positions if the Germans attacked in the force expected.

Worst Yet to Come. There is every reason to believe that harder fighting than has yet taken place will develop shortly. The Germans in the British view, cannot now hesitate in carrying on their attack, and it is a case of break through or admit defeat. In this circumstance it is interesting to note a statement made yesterday by a German officer, a prisoner, who declared that the German army was in an act of desperation, brought on by the fact that the fatherland must have peace.

The hardest fighting yesterday occurred east of Peronne and in the Bois de Gendry. The most important phase of the German drive has been (Continued on Page Two)

Pussy-Footed Americans Slip Up on "Listening" Hun

With the American Army in France, Saturday, March 23.—(By the Associated Press)—The experiences of a patrol of four Americans who, after crawling nearly a mile, surprised a German listening post and brought back a prisoner, were quite thrilling.

The patrol was in command of a lieutenant. The lieutenant jumped on the German, who was so deeply engrossed in his duties of listening that he had not heard the approach of the Americans while the others of the patrol went into the post.

The distinguished service cross has been awarded nine American soldiers, but three thus decorated are dead and the crosses with appropriate letters will be forwarded to the next of kin.

The decorations have been conferred on Second Lieutenant A. W. Terrell, Medical Sergeant Thomas Peterson (dead), Privates Herman Gentry and Lenni Fillmore (both dead) and Sergeants Varner Hall and James H. West and Corporals Edgar H. Freeman, Amos Teske and Homer Whitted, all of the same infantry regiment.

Some of these men had already been (Continued on Page Two)

"MONSTER CANNON" DOES NOT DISMAY THE NERVY PARIS CROWDS

ALLIES LOOKING TO HIM.



GEN. SIR DOUGLAS HAIG

OVERMAN BILL AND THIRD LOAN

These Subjects Will Be the Engrossing Topics Before Congress During the Week.

MAY VETO THE WHEAT BILL

President May Threaten to Veto Measure Unless Senate's Action Fixing Price at \$2.50 is Effinitated. Gen. Wood to Appear.

Washington, March 24.—Liberty loan legislation and the controversy over war machinery reorganization are the engrossing topics before congress this week.

Announcement tomorrow by Secretary McAdoo of the size and terms of the billions of new war bonds is to be followed by house consideration of the bill, whose passage within the fortnight intervening before the new Liberty loan campaign.

The fight over war organization promises to open in the senate. Senator Overman, of North Carolina, author of the measure to fix the president wide powers for reorganization, has given notice that he will call it up tomorrow.

Determined opposition is expected from several prominent democrats as well as republicans.

The senate military committee tomorrow will discuss the attitude of members of the controversy and whether the war cabinet and munitions directors bills shall be pressed.

Congress also this week expects to take final action on the bills authorizing the war finance corporation and sale of enemy property.

May Veto Wheat Bill

The contest over increasing the government guarantee for wheat to \$2.50 per bushel, also promises to be settled this week. The conferees will meet faced by reports that President Wilson may ask them to reject the senate wheat price amendment under threat of vetoing the bill.

Work on army legislation is to be resumed tomorrow in the senate in further effort to clean up pending measures. Interest centers on the war department measure extending the selective draft regulation to men reaching 21 years of age after June 5, 1917.

In a brief resumption of the senate military committee's war inquiry, Major General Leonard Wood, who recently returned from the battle front, is to appear this week.

Streets of French Capital Filled With Animation and Churches Crowded As Usual.

PAPERS DISCUSS INVENTION

Parisians Astonished and Openly Admire Mechanical Feat But Claim It Is French.

IT COSTS \$4,000 A SHOT

Gun Located At Point 76 Miles From Paris City Hall.

Paris, March 24.—The German "monster cannon" which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the Forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon and exactly 123 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall. The gun bombarded Paris during the greater part of Sunday.

The day was ushered in by loud explosions from the ten-inch shells and immediately the alarm to take cover was sounded. This occurred at 5:55 o'clock and many persons sought shelter, but greater numbers of them appeared in the streets on their way to the churches, which were almost as well filled as usual. The women who sell palm leaves on Palm Sundays did their usual business.

People Not Distracted. At first shells began arriving at intervals of twenty minutes, and the detonations "seemed" louder than on Saturday. Their power to disturb the equanimity of the populace, however, seemed less, the people refusing to be distracted from their Sunday habits.

For the benefit of that portion of the populace which had been led to believe the Germans had broken through the line and were bombarding Paris from nearby positions, a semi-official note was issued during the day. They warned the people against believing pessimistic reports. "The French front is intact," said the note. "Any assertion to the contrary is a lie."

Bombardment Ended at 1 O'clock. The bombardment of the capital ended around one o'clock. Although during the earlier hours of the bombardment the shells arrived on twenty minute intervals, later in the day they began arriving every fifteen minutes and some of them even fell 12 minutes apart.

In military circles belief was expressed that the Germans were using two long-range guns. The Martin says the position of one of the guns was established in the St. Gobain forest, which would place it further south than had been believed. The situation would be about 76 miles from Paris.

Streets Full of Life. "During the early hours traffic in the streets of Paris was curtailed, but before noon both the streets and the ways began running. In the afternoon both the streets of the city showed great animation. During the day large numbers of persons unable to secure means of transport were stranded in the streets in various ways. In military circles belief was expressed that the Germans were using two long-range guns. The Martin says the position of one of the guns was established in the St. Gobain forest, which would place it further south than had been believed. The situation would be about 76 miles from Paris."

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