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FAVORABLE TO THE ALLIES

NEWS FROM BOTH THE WESTERN AND ITALIAN FRONTS LOOK GOOD.

Washington, Nov. 27.—"The week just closed has been one very favorable to the allies," said the war department official communique issued today, reviewing military operations for the week ending Saturday.

"The success of the British offensive in the region of Cambrai and the steady resistance of the Italians in the face of the repeated attacks of the Austro-German forces are two factors which may be considered as correlative elements of one and the same moment.

"It is evident that the enemy took the offensive in Italy hoping thereby to extricate himself from the increasingly difficult position in which his forces find themselves in the west. * * * Through the French and British have both dispatched large contingents to Italy, this has in no way hampered the continuance of their offensive operations.

"It is the wastage of the enemy forces, the slow, yet relentless sapping of his man-power by continued and sudden offensive thrusts, which must eventually result in the softening of his line in the west. * * *

"The military situation is dominated by spectacular success gained by the British forces in their thrust toward Cambrai. By adopting new tactical methods, by evolving a strategy daringly conceived and brilliantly executed, the British forces have been able to record a greater success, when measured by captured terrain, than any hitherto achieved by either belligerent in the same space of time along the western front. While seemingly continuing his offensive engagements in Flanders by an intense artillery bombardment in the sector strengthening from Ypres to the North Sea, Field Marshal Haig was able to mask successfully his plans for an offensive thrust between the Scarpe river and St. Quentin.

"The usual preliminary artillery preparation was dispensed with. The elements of surprise so essential to victory played a large part in the successes gained. The British by a preponderant numerical superiority in men and mobile material, by improvising the skillful, tactical maneuvering of an unusual number of tanks, and by co-ordinating with precision the deployment of cavalry made use of these two arms to bear the brunt of the encounter. Infantry then was called upon to hold and consolidate terrain gained. Thus the British were able to record a decided success to a very large savings of munitions and slight casualties. Three successive German lines of defense on a frontage of six miles astride the Cambrai-Bapaume canal in front of Cambrai was crossed. The British forces, while still pressing forward, are meeting with increased resistance.

"Cambrai, the center of very important railroad and canal lines of communication, now comes under the immediate fire of British field guns, while the large caliber high velocity and naval guns can readily search out the countryside for miles in the rear, harassing hostile territory and rendering the continued tenure of the city by the enemy difficult. The number of prisoners enumerated hitherto is over 10,000 which exceeds the total British casualties.

"While the battle for Cambrai has resulted in so rapid and sweeping an advantage for the British forces, apparently without extensive preliminary preparation, it must not be forgotten that it was only made possible by the continued pounding of the German lines in Flanders. In the meantime the British have not ceased to keep the enemy busy in the Ypres salient, and gains of terrain are noted to the southeast.

"Along the front held by the French forces, the latter have achieved a successful coup in the main south of Juvincourt in the Champagne, resulting in the capture of some elements of the German trenches and the taking of numerous prisoners.

"In the sector where our troops are training increased artillery activity is noted. Small detachments, while on patrol duty, have gained some useful experience.

"The Italian armies, now completing their reorganization, have been

able to withstand the assaults of the numerically superior forces of the Austro-German division engaged against them. They have hitherto prevented any further invasion of the Italian plain. The enemy is continuing his efforts to break through. Along the lower Piave, where hostile forces gained a temporary foothold on the right bank of the river, they were driven off with great loss, thus rendering the Italian positions more secure.

"Along the plateau of the Setto Comuni heavy fighting is going on. The enemy has been successfully detained. In the mountain regions between the headwaters of the Brenta and the Piave defensive operations have been well conducted, and the enemy has not been able to make any further progress. Strategic reserves, strengthened by allied contingents, have been constituted. The morale of the Italian forces is improving daily, and while the situation is not free from critical aspects, the defensive measures appear adequate to meet the situation.

"In Palestine the British forces under General Allenby are advancing rapidly on Jerusalem. They have now reached a point on the Ramallah road approximately seven miles west of the city, while another force is bearing down from the north."

AMERICAN SOLDIERS DECORATED WITH CROSSES.

With the American Army in France, Nov. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—The ceremony of presenting the French cross to the American soldiers was an impressive one.

An American major general presented the decorations and citations giving the American regimental colonel those for the men who were killed. They will be sent to their next kin.

The French general, in referring to the action of this American company, said:

"On the night of November 2-3 this company, which was in the line for the first time, met an extremely violent bombardment despite which it seized arms and offered such stubborn resistance that the enemy, though numerically superior, was obliged to retire."

The general specially cited in the order of the day Corporal James D. Gresham, and Private Merle D. Hay and Thomas F. Enright, "who died bravely in hand-to-hand fighting with the enemy, who had penetrated the first line."

The others cited were Lieut. William H. McLaughlin, Lieut. R. O. Patterson, Lieut. E. F. Erickson, Sergeant John Arrowwood, Corporal David M. Knowles and Homer Givens and Privates Charles Massa, William D. Thomas, George Hurd, Boyce Wade, Robert Winkler and John J. Jarvis.

INCREASE IS SHOWN IN NUMBER OF SHIPS SUNK.

London, Nov. 28.—Fourteen British merchantmen of 1,600 tons and over and seven of less than 1,600 tons were sunk by mines or submarines last week, according to the admiralty statement issued this evening. This is an increase of four vessels in the larger category over the number reported sunk in last week's report.

Last week's admiralty report announced the sinking of 17 British merchant vessels—10 of more than 1,600 tons and seven of less tonnage. The week previously only one craft of 1,600 tons and over and five of less tonnage were sent to the bottom.

Captures Wild Cat.

Snow Hill, Nov. 27.—Fifteen pounds is the weight of a wild cat captured in a trap near here by Is-man Quoin, a colored man. The big puma, one of the largest ever seen in this section, was a formidable looking catch. The species is nearly extinct in this part of the state.

THE MEANS TRIAL NOW ON—ARE LIKE CAVALIERS OF OLD

THE FIRST DAY'S TESTIMONY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AN EVEN BREAK.

Concord, Nov. 28.—Gaston Bullock Means, on trial for the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, near Concord, August 29, turned the first day of the commonwealth's testimony against him into an even break and went to sleep tonight with his ineradicable smile more expansive still.

The defense has built a German ring of iron about him and penetration has been exceedingly difficult. Upon the corpus delicti, the presence of the defendant and the unlikelihood of misfire by the little pistol, the state has left nothing to be desired. But the defense is parrying the motive in great shape and little that will identify the prisoner with a conspiracy against the dead woman's life, has been admitted into evidence.

The state indicated its purpose to show monetary motives as the incentive to crime, and Judge Cline sent out the jury to hear what Willard O. Rockefeller, hotel man of Chicago, had to say as a result of an interview with Mrs. James C. King, the wealthy widow whose death is laid to Gaston Means. The triers filed out for their first rest, but the court was firm in its purpose to allow no such evidence at this stage. Later Mr. Rockefeller did get into testimony a statement of Gaston Means in which the defendant threatened the abandonment of the hostelry if the manager again interviewed Mrs. King. But what took place, her disclosures to him, the condition of her affairs and her virtual slavery to his bigger mind, these all were kept out, and Mr. Rockefeller was yet on the stand when Judge Cline adjourned court at 6.10 this evening.

State Scored in Afternoon.

The state had finished its examination of the Chicago hotel man and turned him over to the clever Counselor. The Charlotte lawyer has made a great recovery. His chained-lightning mind always after all irrelevant and incompetent questions, has been a perfect rampage the while he shows what he has not been accused of having in great measure, good nature. The Charlotte lawyer has done one big day's work, and done it well.

The state made distinct score in the afternoon when it introduced Roy Smith, Asheville chauffeur who drove after midnight early in September from Asheville to Morganton, Gaston Means and Mrs. Melvin, who had been stopping at the Langren.

The witness could give only detached conversation. He heard Gaston ask Mrs. Melvin, "how does the lady feel about it?" and she surmised that "we got out in good time." There was no attempt to relate this cryptic talk, albeit everybody guessed that it referred to the attitude of Mrs. Anna L. Robinson, the mother of Mrs. King and Mrs. Melvin. That is supposed to have followed the visit of Mrs. Melvin and Gaston Means to Asheville.

Farmer Dry went on and under the adroit work of Counselor lost the picturesqueness that gave him headlines all over the country a few months ago. Capt. William Bingham's testimony for the state lost its force under the cross-examination, albeit the captain was essentially a defense witness and the state was disadvantaged in its effort to cross-examine its own testifier. There were elements of humor in it. Even the state was moved to comment that whereas forgetting was the long suit the first time, recollection was the trump this time. It was an interesting day.

Schiff Gives Liberally.

New York, Nov. 27.—Jacob H. Schiff has given \$200,000 to start the \$5,000,000 Greater New York campaign for Jewish war relief and for the Jewish welfare board in the United States army and navy, it was announced tonight. This contribution makes a total in excess of \$500,000 which Mr. Schiff has given for war relief during the present war.

Need 50,000 Hands.

Spokane, Nov. 27.—Fifty thousand Chinese are needed in Washington by fruit growers and farmers, according to Dr. G. Luther, of North Yakima, who today addressed the fruit-growers' conference held in connection with the national apple show. All fruit growers attending the conference reported a shortage of help,

CANADIAN CAVALRY WIN GLORY AND RENOWN BY GALLANT CHARGES.

THE BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, NOV. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—The British cavalry have had many thrilling experiences since the battle began in the Cambrai sector last Tuesday and opened a way for them into the great territory over which they have roamed almost at will, like cavaliers of old seeking combats with those who would accept their gage.

Stories of their gallant charges with drawn sabres against enemy batteries and in strong infantry positions have been innumerable. But perhaps none of them had a more exciting time than a squadron of Canadian horsemen.

Rode Out But Walked Back.

They swept proudly out of Masnières on their chargers with their sabres making merry music against their trappings. They returned afoot and thereby hangs a narrative of bravery and strategy which is worth recording.

For a considerable distance the horsemen cantered along over the rolling grasslands without encountering an enemy. East of Rumilly, however, they came upon several British tanks which had run almost into a German battery position and were being fired at point blank by great guns.

In the Nick O' Time.

The monitors were in a tight place and needed assistance badly. They got it. The cavalry came pounding up in columns of four and their leader, sizing up the situation sent them swerving in on either side of the battery. Then they charged in straight among the gun crews, their sabres flashing. It was over in a moment, and the last enemy lay tramped upon. This incident finished, the cavalry trotted off in search of other adventures. Not far away was a sunken road which concealed considerable enemy forces armed with machine guns. Cavalry scouts discovered this trap and gave the word to the commander. The latter snapped out a command and the squadron most of whom were still unaware of the presence of the sunken road, divided into two bodies, one of which deployed to the right toward a break in the wall of the road, while the other drew their sabres and charged straight ahead.

Leaped Into Precipice.

The Germans, not knowing that British cavalry was operating in that section, remained in the big ditch and the Canadians reached the edge of the miniature precipice without seeing the enemy. They saw them then in numbers, and realized for the first time that they were headed for a drop of several feet to the level road.

Not a horseman hesitated. They took the flying leap straight down among the surprised Germans and began their work of death. Half a hundred of the enemy lay dead when the remainder took to their heels and fled toward Rumilly.

The cavalry commander then was out of touch with the remainder of the advancing British forces and decided to remain in the sunken road for a time until he could get orders. Accordingly he sent back a courier to carry information as to the location of the squad.

Another force of German machine gunners, stationed in a commanding position nearby, opened a grilling fire on the cavalry and succeeded in killing several horses within a short time.

It became apparent that the men and the rest of the horses must suffer the same fate if they remained where they were. The commander knew it would be suicide to ride out into the open, and he seized upon an ingenious plan to outwit the Germans. The horses were gathered together and stampered with their empty saddles in the direction of Cambrai. The ruse worked, for the Germans, peering through the mist thought the horsemen escaping.

Escape Under Cover Big Guns.

The machine guns came into action again, the galloping horses and the troopers meantime made good their escape from the road. They started back but losing their way at one time were actually in the outskirts of Rumilly. This may have given rise to a report which became current

that the British had occupied the village.

The Canadians continued their journey toward what they thought were the British lines until they were challenged by a German officer with nine men. Among the troopers was a little chap who spoke German fluently. He was sent forward with orders to engage the officer in conversation until the rest of the troopers could close in with their sabres.

The little emissary fulfilled his mission by engrossing the attention of the officer with a cock and bull story to which the German listened because he did not know that the British cavalry was in his zone. He listened a moment too long, however, for the Canadians rushed in and killed the men accompanying him and he was taken prisoner and compelled to conduct the horsemen back to their own lines.

THE SACRIFICE OF AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Osmond Kelly Ingram, of Pratt City, Ala., the gunner's mate lost overboard when a German submarine attacked the American destroyer Cassin in the war zone on October 16, deliberately sacrificed his own life to reduce the risk of his mess-mates.

A detailed report from Admiral Sims, shows that Ingram standing aft, on the destroyer where some high explosive depth charges were stored, saw the torpedo coming. Instead of rushing forward to save his own life by getting away from the explosive, Ingram stuck to the spot throwing overboard the high explosives, which he knew would further endanger the lives of his fellows if they were detonated by the explosion of the torpedo. He was the only man lost, being blown overboard by the explosion. The Cassin got in under her own steam, and the gallantry of her crew in affecting temporary repairs was commended by Admiral Sims in a special report.

The navy department's announcement refers to the exceptional presence of mind of the gunner's mate and says:

"The department considers that Ingram sacrificed his life in performing a duty which he believed would save his ship and the lives of the officers and men on board."

NORTH CAROLINIAN ON DESTROYER ACTAEOON.

London, Nov. 27.—The American steamship Actaeon was torpedoed Sunday, a dispatch from Corunna, Spain, reports. Twenty-one survivors have arrived at Port Camarinas. Three boats with the remainder of the crew, are missing.

One From Bell Haven.

New York, Nov. 27.—Fifty-eight men, including 31 Americans, comprised the crew of the American steamer Actaeon, reported sunk off the European coast. A dispatch from London today saying 21 survivors had reached Port Camarinas, Spain, and that the other members of the crew were missing, made no mention of the United States naval gunners aboard. Names of none appear in the records of the federal shipping commissioner here, but it is assumed the vessel was controlled by the shipping board.

Formerly the German steamship Adamsturm, of 5,000 tons gross, the Actaeon left New York city early in October, carrying government supplies for Bordeaux. It is believed she was on the return voyage when sunk. She was commanded by W. J. Johnson. The vessel was built in Germany in 1909 and was seized by this government after the war with Germany began.

The American citizens on board included U. B. Crada, coal passer, Bell Haven, N. C.

The Actaeon is the first of the seized German steamships to be sunk while in American trade.

Congressman Nelson and Son Are Indicted.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 28.—Congressman John M. Nelson and his son, Byron, were indicted by a federal grand jury today on a charge of conspiracy to violate the registration laws. The son previously had been indicted charged with failure to register. They will be tried in December. Congressman Nelson was charged with advising his son not to register. Young Nelson now is on his father's ranch in Canada. Congressman Nelson is in Washington.

ITALIANS HOLD THEIR OWN

THE LEFT WING OF THE FOURTH ARMY DOESN'T WAVER BEFORE ENEMY.

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—Five determined attacks by Austro-German forces on the left wing of the Italian fourth army, near Monte Pertica, between the Brante and the Piave, were delivered today. The enemy rushes were broken by the defensive troops with heavy losses to the attackers.

Not only the left, but the right wing and the center of the army holding this sector were subjected to attack, the enemy effort attaining its full force here. On the right and the center the struggle raged from Monte Monfenera, westward, with the Italians holding their lines at all points.

The fluctuations of the great battle have now developed to a stage where the resigling power of the Italian army has been demonstrated to be sufficient to retard, if not to prevent any sudden rush through the passes leading to the Venetian plains. This was regarded as a serious menace six days ago, but as each day has shown the Italian lines holding solid against repeated attacks and their defenders ready even to take the aggressive against heavy odds, the feeling of gravity that then prevailed is changing to one of confidence and unwavering determination coupled with a spirit of buoyance which pervades all ranks of the army and civilian life.

There is also the feeling that friendly allied support is near at a timely moment and that the mingled ranks of gray, blue and khaki will combine to form the barriers that Italy has sustained alone until now.

Many British officers were at headquarters today and the streets showed almost as much khaki as gray. The prince of Wales renewed his earlier visit, going about the streets and mingling with the officers at public restaurants in the most democratic fashion.

It is reported from the Friuli region occupied by the enemy that the civil population has been required to turn over all copper articles, brass and other in its possession within five days. Emperor Charles is said to have made another visit to the invaded region, going to the coast cities of Grado and Monfalcone.

FIVE HUNDRED NURSES NEEDED NOW FOR ARMY.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The army is in need of 500 graduate nurses for immediate service with the army nurse corps. The work is particularly difficult and exacting, according to the surgeon general of the army, and the opportunity for patriotic service correspondingly great.

A thousand bed base hospitals have been established with each national guard and national army cantonment. Each will require at least 65 graduate nurses in its personnel. Those whose services are immediately available are desired. The pay is \$50 per month and maintenance.

HEAVIER TAX IS LEVIED ON LIQUORS IN MEXICO.

Mexico City, Nov. 27.—President Carranza has issued a decree increasing the taxes and import duties on all wines and alcoholic liquors, to take effect January 1. All alcoholic liquors produced in Mexico will be subject to a tax of 50 per cent and wines will be taxed 25 per cent. Wines and alcoholic beverages of foreign make will have to pay a stamp tax of 70 per cent above the import duties. Foreign made beer will be taxed 80 per cent above the import duty. The decree provides also for a stamp tax of from 5 to 20 centavos on corked bottles sold over counters.

War Crosses For Sammies.

With the American Army in France, Nov. 27.—The French war cross has been conferred on the 15 American officers and men who were cited with their company by the French general commanding the sector in which the Americans were stationed at the time of the first German raid on the night of November 2-3. The men were decorated today and were informed that they may keep the medals in their possession but must not wear them until Congress gives its authorization.