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FRANCO-BRITISH TROOPS ATTACK ON WIDE FRONT

From River Lys to Coast of Belgium, Distance of 30 Miles, Allies Gain Objectives. Many Prisoners Captured—Object to Secure Submarine Bases.

By the Associated Press. London, July 31.—The British troops in conjunction with the French forces on their left attacked German positions on a wide front north of the river Lys at 3:30 this morning.

The allied troops, according to a British official statement, have captured their first objectives on the whole front and are reported to be advancing satisfactorily.

A considerable number of prisoners already have been taken.

The offensive launched this morning by Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander in conjunction with the French forces on the Belgian front, is the continuation of the tremendous heavy bombardment which has been in progress almost continuously in this area for a week. The intensity of artillery drum fire with which the allied forces has been bombarding the German positions has been declared by the German general staff as the greatest in the war, even surpassing the preliminary attacks of the Somme and Arras battles.

Military observers have attributed two objectives for the offensive, the capture of the Belgian north sea coast, which has been used by the Germans as submarine bases, and to give the relief of hard-pressed Russians in the east.

The battle front north of the river Lys stretches from Warrington on the Franco-Belgian border to the North coast, the distance between these two points being about 30 miles. Included in this battle area is the famous West-Flanche-Messines front, where the British on June 7, after expending 1,000,000 pounds of high explosives under the German lines, attacked on the front and captured the entire ridge, several villages, some heavy guns and 7,000 prisoners.

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

London, July 28.—The imperial chancellor's much heralded speech, when after delay, it was made, was not addressed to the allied nations for information, warning, or reproach, nor to the opinion of mankind, for which the German government long since ceased to have a decent regard. It was addressed, to a suffering and badly damaged German people, and was in substance an offer of a brutal defiance by the "Potsdam Gang." The Hohenzollerns have learned nothing and will yield nothing. They will "stand pat" until a rising popular wrath sweeps them into oblivion.

Herr Stresemann used to say to his unfaithful ally at the Tribune office, "You're a liar and you know you're a liar and he knows as well as anybody in the world that you're a liar, and that all mankind outside of Germany knows that he is a liar. He repeats the silly stuff about British and Russian responsibility for the war and the 'illegality' of the British blockade. This means that he can't make a move to believe it awhile longer. He knows that everybody outside the British Empire knows that the central powers understand what the imperial government means by its claim to be fighting a 'defensive war.' It is fighting a defensive war—a war of desperate defense of Hohenzollern against the massing forces of world democracy.

The chancellor intimates that if America interferes unduly with United States activity, Germany will be prepared to fight America. America takes pleasure in returning the compliment. She will undoubtedly be prepared to fight Germany and had no intention of awaiting Germany's pleasantry as to a convenient time to begin. Germany made a large mistake in underestimating the fighting spirit and the military prowess of Great Britain. America will take a sincere pleasure in underestimating the German mind upon the military resources and determination of the United States.

It is just as well that things have turned out in Germany as they now are. Nothing could have been worse for the future of civilization than the headlong rush of the German government to the point of no return. The German government has decided and he would be doing a very ill service were he to attempt to define the position now.

KILLED BY TRAIN

By the Associated Press. Charlotte, July 31.—Walter Rawlings, a prominent farmer of the county, was killed by a Seaboard Air Line passenger train this morning while walking on the track. He was about 46 years old.

sufficient promptness and vigor. To suppose for a moment that the allied nations, backed by the resources of the United States, will not win this war is astoundingly childish. The war is astoundingly childish. The one and only possible way to shorten it now is to strike stunning blows. For one thing, we should get our navy into action. It is time to destroy the German naval bases. The situation calls for the resolution and the action of Farragut at Manila. "Damn the torpedoes; go ahead."

ANOTHER WARM ONE, BUT WAIT

Although persons were dying of heat prostration in several northern cities Monday, North Carolina was not without its waves of heat that came sweeping over the land from the west. Rains in the northwest—although the weather man has not tipped us off—are likely to be followed by a change in temperature and such a change, if any, will be for the comfort of humanity. In a few days as strange as this may seem now, Hickory people may be summoning blankets for their comfort at night, and even now sleep is not difficult.

The mercury, according to Professor Barbs government thermometer, registered between 94 and 95 degrees Monday, and he said the public could take its choice. During the night the mercury fell down to 72 points, but became active early this morning and by 10 o'clock, almost anybody could tell that it was warm.

Without recourse to the ground hog, the crawfish and the moon signs, the Record is tempted to promise relief by Thursday. Persons who have observed natural phenomena know that changes occur frequently in temperature and that the weather goes from one extreme to another. A change is about due, when several days of ideal weather will be our portion.

SELECTIVE DRAFT FOR DOCTORS URGED

By the Associated Press. New York, July 31.—A petition was being circulated today in hospitals among doctors asking congress to provide for a selective draft among doctors for military service. The proposed draft would take physicians between the ages of 21 and 45. According to the heads of several hospitals here, the petitions were sent from the council of national defense at Washington, which is supporting the plan.

DETAIN FIGHTING FOR FREE-EUROPE

London, July 31.—John Annan Bryce (Liberal), referring in the house of commons to the recent statement of Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, that the dismemberment of Austria was not one of Great Britain's war aims, said the statement would create difficulties because Great Britain's engagements with her allies could not be continued if the Austrian empire was to be maintained.

Italy, on the strength of these engagements, Mr. Bryce said, would not be content merely with a rearrangement of the Trentino region.

The references to Great Britain's war aims by Mr. Bryce and others, including Noel Buxton, who said that an unfortunate impression had got abroad in Europe as a result of the speeches in the house of commons that Great Britain favored a policy of annexation, but would not define her aims, brought an interesting reply from A. J. Balfour, the foreign secretary.

Mr. Balfour said the government had been asked to declare its policy, but he was not sure if that would be a wise course. When every ministerial statement was treated as a pledge, it was dangerous to accede to requests for definite announcements.

With respect to the Jugo-Slav and Austrian question, said the secretary, it was impossible to forecast the position in which the world would find itself when the problems came to be decided and he would be doing a very ill service were he to attempt to define the position now.

RUSSIANS UNABLE TO HOLD THEIR LINE

By the Associated Press. Berlin, via London, July 31.—Russian forces which made a stand in western Bukowina, says the official statement issued by the war office today, were forced yesterday to evacuate their Chermosh line and to retreat to the eastward.

BRITISH LOSSES 71,832 IN JULY

By the Associated Press. London, July 31.—British casualties in all military operations published in the newspapers for the month of July total 71,832 officers and men. The officers killed and wounded or missing totalled 2,003, and the men numbered 69,329.

SOUTHERN TICKET OFFICE IS ROBBED

By the Associated Press. Raleigh, July 31.—Robbers entered the city ticket office of the Southern Railway Company here last night, and forcing the office safe, got away with \$300. Although the city ticket office is located in the heart of the city and is directly across the street from the postoffice, the police have been unable to locate a clue.

LOCAL COMPANY MAKES GOOD RECORD

With something over 50 examined by the federal muster officers Monday, only three men of Company A were turned down for physical defects and one of these, Mr. C. S. Stevenson, may be permitted to retain his membership. The defect that threw him is the absence of the index finger or trigger finger of the right hand and under the regulations of the war department, he is ineligible. However, the department has been wired and it is hoped that this defect will be waived so that Mr. Stevenson, who has been passed before despite this handicap, may remain with the company. The others eliminated are Messrs. A. C. Lohr of Hickory and P. F. Moser of Morganton.

Captain Meyer and Dr. G. W. Chateau began their work of examination Monday and the boys were stripped and examined by turn. The officers came first, and Capt. G. L. Huffman, First Lieut. Frank L. Cline and Second Lieut. Joe H. Cilley passed in good style.

The men examined first are old members, and they have passed through other tests, though probably not as severe as the present one. The muster officers remarked on the good physiques of the men, most of whom are as solid as metal and as hard as bricks.

The examination may be concluded by tomorrow and then the muster roll will be ready. The non-commissioned officers have not all been designated yet, because the officers are not sure how many they will be allowed. The complete roster will be printed in this paper as soon as the examinations are completed.

COTTON CONTRACT IS HELD ILLEGAL

By the Associated Press. Fort Smith, Ark., July 31.—Federal Judge Youmans in a decision here today held that the present standard form of contract used on the New York and New Orleans cotton exchanges does not comply with the United States cotton futures act and is therefore illegal.

MITCHELL WILL RUN ON FUSION TICKET

New York, July 31.—Mayor Mitchell will become a candidate to succeed himself as the city's chief executive for the next four years. In a letter from Upper Saranac Lake, N. Y. to William Hamlin Childs chairman of the executive committee of the fusion committee, he accepted the designation for mayor in the September primaries.

LONDON CASUALTIES FROM RAIDS BY GERMANS

London, July 31.—Since the beginning of hostilities 366 persons have been killed and 1,092 injured by air raids in the London metropolitan area according to a statement made by Sir George Cave, the home secretary of commons. During the same period the secretary noted, 2,412 persons were killed and 7,863 injured in ordinary street accidents in the same territory.

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FIFTEEN DEATHS REPORTED IN CHICAGO

By the Associated Press. Chicago, July 31.—Fifteen deaths attributed to the heat occurred in Chicago within the last 24 hours, according to the coroner Hoffman said today. The government thermometer registered 93 degrees at 11 a. m. and was expected to go higher.

WARM IN PHILLY

By the Associated Press. Philadelphia, July 31.—Philadelphia suffered from the hottest weather in its history today when the thermometer registered 98 degrees at 1 p. m. The weather bureau expected the temperature to go above 100 during the afternoon.

I. W. W. CROWD ARE THREATENING STRIKE

By the Associated Press. Chicago, July 31.—Miners, harvest hands and other workers of the idle west threatened to go on a sympathetic strike unless the Independent Workers of the World are returned to their homes in the Arizona mining district.

A telegram was sent to President Wilson by William D. Haywood threatening a strike of more than a quarter million hands unless the miners were returned.

FUNERAL OF MRS. HENKEL HELD THIS AFTERNOON

Funeral service over the remains of Mrs. Mary Eleanore Henkel, whose death occurred at her residence on Eighth avenue Sunday night, was held from St. John's Lutheran church, near Conover, at 11 o'clock today. Rev. W. E. Murray, pastor of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church, conducted the service, and the pallbearers were Messrs. J. A. Moretz, D. H. Russell, A. L. Moser, D. M. Boyd, James R. Whitener and J. S. Probst.

Mrs. Henkel was bereaved of her husband about 40 years ago when he was accidentally killed in a sawmill accident in Caldwell county. She is survived by Mr. T. L. Henkel and Miss Candace Henkel of Hickory, Messrs. C. V. and L. P. Henkel of Statesville, Mr. D. S. Henkel of Caldwell and Mrs. S. E. Hoey of Shelby.

Mrs. Henkel would have been 84 years old had she lived until August 13. A member of the Lutheran church, she spent her years in the cause of her loved ones and humanity, and her death brings sorrow to many homes.

FOOD PRICES VERY HIGH IN GERMANY

Washington, July 31.—Information concerning food costs in Germany received at the offices of the food administration show that many edibles, particularly those containing fats, are selling at almost prohibitive prices. Fat for frying is bringing more than \$4 a pound. Goose fat is sold at \$5.36 a pound. Fowls generally are high. Fresh fowls bring \$1.01 a pound; larded goose breasts, \$2.08; salted goose legs, 94 cents; young country laying hens, \$3.32 each; well-fed geese, \$11 to \$19 each.

The egg ration at Hamburg for one week was one egg for each person. Horses are in great demand for food, and horse flesh sells at from fifty-three to eighty-six cents a pound. Cheese is quoted at from thirty-six to eighty-two cents a pound. Rabbits are sold at

MARKETS

COTTON FUTURES

	Open	Close
October	24.08	24.02
December	23.95	23.79
January	23.84	23.70
March	24.00	23.80
May	24.12	24.00

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	23	1.2
Wheat	—	—2.75

CHICAGO WHEAT

By the Associated Press. Chicago, July 31.—Most of the trading in wheat today consisted of last day evening up to July contracts by scattering shorts. The market opened two to three cents higher at 2.64 for July and clung insistently to the latter figures.

WEATHER

For North Carolina: Generally fair tonight and Wednesday; little change in temperature, gentle shifting winds.

FAILED TO AGREE FOOD BILL TODAY

By the Associated Press. Washington, July 31.—The conferees on the administration food control bill failed at their first session today to break their deadlock on the congressional war expenditures committee, opposed by the president, and recessed today on a motion of Senator Smith of Georgia to strike out the senate provision.

NEW YORK TROOPS WILL MOVE SOON

By the Associated Press. New York, July 31.—The first detachment of national guard is expected to leave for the training camp at Spartanburg, S. C., before the end of the week, according to instructions from Major O'Ryan, of the department of the east. It is expected there may be as many as 10 companies of the van guard which will make preparations for the remainder of the troops.

INCREASE TAXES FOR SINEWS OF WAR

By the Associated Press. Washington, July 31.—Increase of the pending \$1,670,000,000 war tax bill to a total of \$2,800,000,000 was decided today by the senate finance committee on increases on corporations, normal increase of taxes on individuals, and by a tax of \$1 more on distilled spirits, 50 cents on beer.

The committee decided to increase the present two cent normal rate on corporate incomes to six per cent against four per cent in the bill as originally drawn, yielding \$162,000,000 additional revenue. The increase of tax rates on \$15,000 was estimated to raise from \$36,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

MAGNIFICENT CROPS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Col. Fred A. Olds of Raleigh spent Monday night in Hickory on his way from Asheville to Boone, Blowing Rock and other points in the mountains. He has been from the coast to the Tennessee line since spring and declares that in all his life he had never observed such magnificent crops as are making this year. Everywhere, the colonel declared, the crops are a dream, and he thought that providence was aiding North Carolina in fighting Germany. Millions of dollars will be made on the farms in North Carolina this year, for all sections are producing their various crops in super-abundance.

GERMAN SUBMARINE IN SPANISH HARBOR

By the Associated Press. Coruna, Spain, July 31.—The German submarine U-23 anchored in the harbor here late yesterday evening. She entered the roadstead with only her periscope emerging from the water.

Saturday, August 4, the annual reunion of the Shuford family will be held on the dairy farm of R. L. Shuford on the South Fork. All the Shufords, and there are lots of them, of Catawba, Lincoln and Burke counties and many others of different names but having Shuford blood in their veins, will attend the reunion. There will be several speeches and historical papers. A picnic dinner will be one of the chief attractions. Mrs. E. L. Shuford of Hickory is secretary of the Shuford organization.

SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

By the Associated Press. Asheville, July 31.—The Southern Sociological Congress held its first regular meeting at Blue Ridge with Dr. W. A. Evans of Chicago, chairman of the section on public health, presiding. The congress today also considered home and church work. The night meeting will be held in Asheville with Federal Judge Pritchard presiding.

RAILROAD DISPUTE IS SETTLED IN EAST

By the Associated Press. Washington, July 31.—The main question in dispute between 40,000 employes of southeastern railroads has been settled by Secretary of Labor Wilson. The settlement affects employes in the car department.

MAY BE SUPREME FIGHT FOR NORTH SEA BASES

Cooperation of French in This Part of Battle Regarded as Highly Significant as Pointing to Effort to Clear Belgian Coast-- Other War News.

DR. RANKIN WILL SPEAK HERE FRIDAY

By the Associated Press. One of the big moves of the war apparently is under way in Flanders where the right flank of the German front is anchored on the sand dunes and flat fields that skirt the North sea coast.

Unprecedentedly terrific battle of big guns that has been raging for days past has been succeeded by a charge of the infantry and a combined English and French force is sweeping over the fortified Teutonic lines.

Early reports of the engagement do not indicate exactly its scope and it can only be surmised as to its exact purport. It seems insignificant, however, that French forces have combined with the British on this sector.

There is a keen desire on the part of the entente command to get at the submarine bases which line the shores of Belgium and this purpose would be accomplished by any sweeping victory achieved on the Flanders front.

The attack of the two allies marking the southern boundary of this field is marked by the river Lys about 30 miles from the coast. "On a wide front" is the official British expression describing its scope which obviously does not make clear the object.

The operation gives every evidence of being a major one, however and it is clear that it was successful in its initial stages, the war office declaring that it was successful and that satisfactory progress was being made.

Many prisoners have been captured.

The launching of the drive was seemingly a surprise to the Germans who only yesterday were boasting that the intensity of their artillery had caused the British gunners to lessen the intensity of their fire. It comes moreover after the tremendous efforts the German crown prince has been making to break the French front in the Aisne region. The French reserve force evidently is strong enough not only to defeat the strong pressure of the crown prince, but to carry on an offensive with the British.

In addition General Petain last night made a successful attack on his own account on the Aisne front, carrying German positions 1,500 yards wide on the Chemin-des-Dames and capturing more than 100 prisoners.

On the eastern front while the Russians are now evidently making a determined stand against the Austro-German forces, the latter are still advancing.

Russian anxiety to protect the holding of terrain in Bukowina is particularly evident, but even here the German reports that the Russians were forced to yield positions.

The breaking of the Russian lines in the Carpathians and the advancing of the Teutons in this region also is reported by Berlin.

In all more than 2,000,000 Russian troops are said to be in retreat. Conditions in the seventh army, in which the traitorous developments which caused the Russian line to break, are reported to be improving with the execution of the deserters and agitators.

Mrs. H. C. Lutz and son, Horace Jr., returned this afternoon from Blowing Rock. The son is very much improved, though he is suffering from a sprained wrist.

HOT WAVE IS BUSY ALL OVER COUNTRY

By the Associated Press. Washington, July 31.—The most intense hot wave of this year continued today in the central gully, the New England states, the middle Atlantic and the South Atlantic states.

Weather bureau officials held out no promise of relief during the next two days.

From the Rocky Mountain region westward and from Montana northward moderate temperatures prevail. In the accepting several thousand the heat is also great. Local thunder-showers may afford relief in some sections.

MORE THAN 70,000 APPLICANTS RECEIVED

Washington, July 31.—For the 16,000 places in the second officers' training camps to open August 27, a total of 72,914 men have applied and the war department is considering accepting several thousand more than was originally intended. Preliminary examinations given the applicants by civilian physicians indicate 51,838 are physically satisfactory.

In most states, the number of applicants is from three to five times the state's quota.

ALL SLACKERS WILL BE BROUGHT TO BOOK

Washington, July 31.—District Attorneys W. C. Hammer and J. O. Carr have been requested to run down all "slackers" in North Carolina.

The department of justice has ordered the searching out, arrest and criminal prosecution of all men of conscription age who have failed to register themselves for draft service.

The men will be registered and subject to the draft in the regular way.

They will then be prosecuted and if found guilty will go to jail for at least a year unless selected for military service by the draft boards.

ASSOCIATED PRESS MAN WITH

Allied Armies Furnishes Details of Big Battle

By the Associated Press. British Front in France, July 31.—The entente allied forces which launched their offensive this morning have advanced well beyond the shell-shattered front line German trenches. In many places they have reached a point on the second line, according to the early reports.

The British and French troops went into battle under cover of what perhaps was the greatest barrage fire ever seen during the war. The entente artillery is moving forward rapidly.

Between Dixmude and Boesinghe as formerly.

the attackers reported they had secured the two first line trenches after having fought over the most difficult terrain imaginable.

The British have again captured LaBasse Ville, which they recently relinquished to the Germans.

The British and French forces are facing a fresh concentration of artillery and heavy reserves of German infantry.

The entente allies have established the air superiority.

The entente officers say the morale of the Germans is not as good as formerly.