

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

VOL. III, NO. 156

HICKORY, N. C., SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 23, 1918

PRICE TWO CENTS

GERMANS BREAK THROUGH BRITISH DEFENSES

BRITISH MOVE BACK ORDERLY TO PREPARED POSITIONS

ENGLISH PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT OF THE OUTCOME OF GIANT CONFLICT

OVERWHELMING FORCES BREAK THROUGH DEFENSE

London Official Statement Tells of Terrific Fighting in Which Germans Effected Gap in British Lines—British Hold Their Northern Positions

By the Associated Press.
London, March 23.—Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of artillery have broken through the British defensive line west of St. Quentin, the war zone.

The British troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding their positions.

The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions further west. Very heavy rain with fresh enemy forces is progressing.

The war office states that there are prepared positions behind the British to which they are falling back in good order.

The official statement follows: "Heavy fighting continued until a late hour last night on the whole battle front. During the afternoon powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery broke through our defensive line west of St. Quentin. Our troops in this part are falling back slowly and in good order."

"Our troops on the northern portion of the battle front are holding their positions."

"Very heavy fighting with fresh forces is in progress."

FIRST IN WHOLE WAR

For the first time in the war on the western front since the opposing armies have pushed down in their front systems, the defensive zone has been broken through. In other places the French and British have been able to bend back the lines.

Dashing Counter Attack by British Drives Germans Out of Town, Prisoners Taken

By the Associated Press.
London, March 23.—The Germans found their way into Moy, but a dashing counter attack drove them out. British headquarters telegraphs. A large party was surrounded and captured.

There is reason to believe 50 German divisions are flowing into the strength, the correspondent states and probably half as many more are in reserve. Under the tremendous onslaught the British troops are falling back very slowly and in excellent order. In many places they are withdrawing voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front.

English Are Sure Army Will Win

By the Associated Press.
London, March 23.—The attention of all England was centered today on the western front. There was no doubt of confidence and pride in the army, which is fighting the battles of democracy as never before. The newspapers warn against undue optimism. But they point out that the fighting instinct still lives in the British breast notwithstanding war.

PARIS IS SHELLED AT RANGE OF 62 MILES

By the Associated Press.
Paris, March 23.—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long range guns. Since 8 o'clock this morning shells of 240 millimetre have been shelling the capital and suburbs at intervals of about a quarter of an hour, killing 10 persons and wounding about 15. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is 62 miles. The announcement that Paris was being bombarded was made officially this afternoon. Measures for counter attacking the enemy's cannon are under execution.

ANOTHER AIR RAID ON PARIS REPORTED

By the Associated Press.
Paris, March 23.—9 a. m.—An air raid alarm has just been given.

DISREGARDING PEACE TREATY TEUTONS ADVANCE IN RUSSIA

Moscow, Tuesday, March 19.—Now, notwithstanding that peace with Germany has been ratified by the congress of women's and soldiers' delegates, the German advance in Russia, still continues, the evacuation of Petrograd having served only to change the German objective to Moscow. According to reports printed in the newspapers this morning, the Germans are moving toward Moscow from three directions, southwest, west and northwest. From the southwest they recently have advanced 25 miles from Konotop, province of Tchernigov, in the general direction of Bryansk, which is 235 miles from Moscow by rail. From the west, the Germans are approaching Smolensk, which is about 250 miles from Moscow. In the northwest they have captured the station of Rosonovskaya, in the government of Vitebsk. The order to evacuate the hospital and other institutions in Gzhastsk, 100 miles from Moscow, indicates that a further German advance is considered imminent by the government.

THRIFTY WALDESIANS

Even in less strenuous times than war times the thrift and industry of the Waldensian colony in Burke county, whose town is Valdese, is a matter of pride to the county and their example is worthy of imitation, says a Morganton correspondent of the Greensboro Daily News. The Waldensians are as loyal Americans as can be found in this country and are showing that their patriotism is 100 per cent pure by both their words and deeds. When the Liberty loans were launched they subscribed most liberally. Now many of them are buying thrift and war savings stamps. The whole settlement is making great gardening plans for the approaching season. To encourage the movement among its employes the Valdese Manufacturing Company is furnishing them, free of charge, seed and fertilizer for their gardens and having the plowing done. A big part of the mill grounds have been converted into a potato patch.

AMERICANS ARE GASSED BY GERMANS

By the Associated Press.
With the American Army in France, Friday, March 22.—The Germans launched a heavy gas attack against a certain town in our lines northwest of Toul last night. No wind was blowing and the fumes from the gas hung low over our lines for several hours. The batteries firing the shells were located east of Regicourt and our batteries shelled them during the afternoon and night.

Rev. J. D. Harte of Oxford has been the guest for several days of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Elliott.

PITTS BOYS ARE ACQUITTED OF MURDER

Morganton, March 23.—"Not guilty" was the verdict returned at exactly 6:30 o'clock last evening by the jury in whose hands rested the fate of Garfield and Aaron Pitts, whose trial on the charge of murdering Dr. E. A. Hennessee at Glen Alpine, has been in progress since Monday morning. The scene in the Burke courtroom was an impressive one as the jury filed in its spokesman, W. H. Knox, announced their decision in the case. Judge Cline finished his charge at 4 o'clock and the jury retired. It deliberated on the case for two hours before announcing its readiness to return a verdict. The court had been dismissed shortly after 5 o'clock, the judge instructing the sheriff that when the jury had settled upon its verdict he and other court officials should be notified.

REPUBLICANS MEET IN NEWTON TODAY

Newton, March 23.—The Republican county convention met here this afternoon with delegates present from every precinct and a sharp fight in prospect over the nomination of the present county officers. J. F. Joy was elected chairman of the convention and R. P. Caldwell secretary. When C. R. Brady of Conover moved that the present county officers be nominated, A. A. Whitener of Hickory objected vigorously, and the election was then taken up in the usual order. On account of the 110-term rule, it was thought there would be difficulty in renominating the present officers. The old county officers were renominated.

UNITED STATES HOLDS BOLSHIEVIKI FOR TRIAL

Norfolk, Va., March 23.—Sixty-two members of the Bolshievi crew of the Russian steamer Omisk were ordered held for the May term of the United States district court at Norfolk by the United States Commissioner Percy S. Stephenson, who conducted the preliminary hearing. The men are charged with violations of port regulations, interference with foreign relations and violations of neutrality. There was no explanation of the action of the commissioner without further hearing of the case. Bond was fixed for all of the men at 200 in default of which all are still held in the city jail.

The number under arrest was augmented today by the taking into custody of fifteen Russian sailors still on the Omisk making the total held sixty-two. It is understood that two arrests were made on orders from Washington, but no confirmation could be secured. Officials declined to make any statement regarding the reasons for the arrests. Department of justice agents are known to be still investigating the case.

GERMANS FAILED IN AIR RAID ON PARIS

By the Associated Press.
Paris, Friday, March 22.—At 9 o'clock tonight a group of enemy airplanes crossed our line and bombs were dropped on Compeign and different towns in that region. Several machines advanced further to the south, but were forced to turn back by our artillery. The alarm was given in Paris and a half hour later the signal, "All clear," was given.

Mrs. Fred Brower, formerly Miss Hattie Timberlake of this city, but now of Winston-Salem arrived in the city this afternoon to spend several days with her friend, Mrs. J. L. Latta.

BERLIN ACCOUNT OF TERRIFIC BATTLE

By the Associated Press.
Berlin, via London, March 23.—A crossing over the Oise west of LaFere (12 miles south of St. Quentin) was forced by Judagaur battalions, it is officially announced. Between the Omignon stream and the Somme after the capture of the first enemy position, the Germans made their way through Holnon wood and fought across the heights of Savy and Rouppe, penetrating into the third hostile position. South of the Somme the Germans broke through the hostile line, adds the report, and in an uninterrupted forward movement drove over the Croizat canal toward the west.

GERMANS FORCE FIGHTING MORE INTO OPEN GROUND

By the Associated Press.
After two days' terrific battling in their great offensive on the western front, the Germans have finally succeeded in breaking the action on one point somewhat more into the open. Field Marshal Haig reports that the British defensive system west of St. Quentin was broken through by the great weight of the enemy infantry. The British here are falling back in good order. That the yielding of the line at this point has been by no means unexpected and possibly had been foreseen as ultimately inevitable is indicated that the retirement is to prepared positions further west. There is no evidence that this retrograde movement will seriously affect the defensive line in the north, as it is explicitly stated that these positions are prepared.

GERMANS CLAIM CAPTURE OF 25,000 PRISONERS, SOME 400 GUNS AND 300 MACHINE GUNS

By the Associated Press.
Berlin, March 23.—Between Fontaine les Croisilles and Moeuvres German forces penetrated into the second enemy position and captured villages, army headquarters announced. British counter attacks failed. So far, the statement announces, 25,000 prisoners, 400 guns and 300 machine guns have been taken. Two villages taken on the Fontaine-Moeuvres front Vaux-al-Vraucourt and Mochies. (The former village is about 3 1-2 miles and the

GERMANS FORCE FIGHTING MORE INTO OPEN GROUND

which was designed to be available for action at any point on the wide front from the North sea to the Adriatic. It doubtless has not been the entire intention to throw the army into action hastily, but it undoubtedly stands ready for any emergency and might easily prove the deciding factor in the battle. The concentration of men and artillery on the British front, as shown in official reports, demonstrates that the Germans are making a determined effort to smash the British front. Forty divisions, or about 400,000, Teutonic troops are in the fight. The total number of cannon the Germans are employing cannot be estimated, but one official reports say that there were 1,000 guns on one small sector. Austrian and Bulgarian troops have made their appearance on the British front. The attack was launched under the eyes of Emperor William, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff, the three guiding spirits of the German war machine. The French report fighting in various sectors and especially in Champagne and Lorraine.

CARD OF THANKS

The Red Cross committee, collecting old clothes etc., for the Belgians, desire to thank the people of the city for their generous response to the call for help. It would do their hearts good if they could see the large packing cases that are now ready to ship. One case, however, is not quite full and it is hoped that enough may be sent in, to fill it. Send to the Chamber of Commerce. Money also would be acceptable, as the freight has to be paid. Those who desire can hand the cash to W. H. Nicholson, or any one of the committee.

GERMANS FORCE FIGHTING MORE INTO OPEN GROUND

There were many glum faces in Hickory today when the Record's war news was braked about the streets, but there were hopes that the British would check the drive. Unfortunately, there were no military men here to analyze and explain the situation.

British Gallantly Fight Germans

By the Associated Press.
The battle. The Germans this morning were pressing hard the British forces defending Hermies, about 2 1-2 miles back of the old line in the region southwest of Cambrai. Throughout the night the battle extended southward and it was reported this morning that the French were engaged. The most intense fighting appears to have been around Moisel. The slaughter in the enemy ranks was appalling.

GERMANS FORCE FIGHTING MORE INTO OPEN GROUND

Break in British Lines not so Serious as First Reports Indicated—Allies Retire in Good Order to Prepared Positions—French Soon May Strike

By the Associated Press.
Paris, March 23.—The break in the British lines is not so serious as first reports indicated. The allies are retiring in good order to prepared positions. The French are expected to strike soon.

NEW YORK COTTON

	Open	Close
May	33.00	32.99
July	31.90	32.06
October	30.82	30.84
December	30.65	30.69
January	29.52	30.45

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	32c
Wheat	\$2.40
Corn	\$1.75

WEATHER FORECAST

For North Carolina Cloudy tonight and Sunday, probably rain; moderate northeast winds.