

GREATEST BATTLE IN HISTORY RAGING ABOUT RUINS OF DOUAUMONT; GERMANS PLAN TO ASSAULT ENTIRE ALLIED FRONT

Offensive Seems to Have Made No Material Gain at Verdun—Plain in Front of Position Strewn With the Dead—Toll of Life Fearful—Trainloads of Injured—French Have Sufficiency of Troops and Munitions—Counter-Attacking on Center and Right—Regiments on Both Sides Wiped Out—Percentage of Casualties Exceeds the Percentage of Champagne Fighting—The Kaiser Would End War by One Victory

(By the United Press)

PARIS, Feb. 28.—Dispatches from the front claim that the German offensive at Verdun is now crumbling into a series of local actions.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—With all the resources at his command, the Kaiser is striking for an immediate overwhelming German victory which is planned to end the war. The Verdun onslaught preludes a grand assault against the whole western front, the most tremendous battle in history. The greatest infantry and artillery battle in the history of the world is being waged over the ruins of Douaumont.

Greatest Battle in History.

PARIS, Feb. 28.—The Verdun woods may go down in history as the world's bloodiest battlefield. Trainloads of wounded are moving today toward Paris, bringing evidence of the fearfulness of the carnage north of the French fortress. Other trains loaded with fresh troops and munitions are hurrying eastward to fill the gaps in the French ranks.

Paris was today cheered by advices that the French left is holding the heights in the center and at the right of the Verdun defenses, and are counter-attacking. On the eighth day the offensive casualty list is impossible to estimate. Thousands of dead and wounded lie on the plain north of the heights. Returning surgeons report whole regiments of both sides practically annihilated. The percentage of dead exceeds the Champagne offensive. Confidence continues on account of the sufficiency of reinforcements and ampler reserves of munitions.

German Account Great Battle.

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—Military critics predict Verdun's fall within a fortnight. It is pointed out that no fortress yet has withstood the German high power battering once the ring defending the position was breached. Douaumont was laid in ruins Thursday before it was stormed and captured by the Brandenburgers.

Four shots from heavy artillery scored bullseyes on the distant target, violent explosions following each shot. Owing to the vigilance of German airmen enemy aeroplanes have been unable to force their way behind our front, the Germans thus preventing observations which might disclose the offensive plans.

We advanced at 5 o'clock in the afternoon through a wilderness of wrecked barbed wire with only slight losses, says a report, and by 8 o'clock the woods were firmly in our possession, likewise the strongest redoubt in this sector, the correspondent reports that the offensive then gradually spread eastward toward Ornes. The same clocklike co-operation of artillery and infantry resulted in the capture of new positions. Shifting again toward the east bank of the Meuse, directly north of Verdun, then the Brabant position and village were taken. The driving power, endurance and discipline of our troops is incomparable.

Offensive Spreads Like Fire to Champagne, Says Berlin.

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—An official statement says the offensive has spread westward to the Champagne region, French positions on both sides of a principal road have been captured, including 1,600 yards of trenches. A thousand prisoners have been taken. On the Verdun front the Germans continue to push forward. Heavy French attempts to recapture Douaumont have been repulsed. The Meuse peninsula has been cleared.

CARTER LEAVING ALL UP TO HIS FRIENDS

Asheville, Feb. 27.—Judge Frank Carter, who spent the past two days with his family here, declares that he has not written a letter nor made a personal appeal to a man in his race for the nomination for attorney general. "My time is taken up with my court duties," he declared yesterday, "and my campaign is entirely in the hands of my friends."

HOLDERNESS, BANKER, SETS GOOD EXAMPLE

Tarboro, Feb. 27.—George A. Holderness, banker, is now shipping hogs to Richmond and Baltimore. The hogs he has been fattening since last fall, about fifteen hundred, are now ready for the market, and he is disposing of them. Those he has shipped to Richmond brought him \$3.4 cents a pound and the shipment to Baltimore sold for nearly nine cents.

THE ODDDEST STORY IN THE DAY'S NEWS.

Wildrose, N. D., Feb. 28.—Tree eating, dog fighting, thieving rabbits are pestering the farmers in this district and hindering agricultural progress, the farmers say. Because shepherds have been whipped in encounters with rabbits, it is becoming difficult to get a dog that will attack them.

PENNSYLVANIA'S SPEED BETTER THAN REQUIRED

Rockland, Me., Feb. 27.—A speed three-quarters of a knot in excess of contract requirements was attained by the super-dreadnaught Pennsylvania, when she was pushed on the fastest mile of her standardization tests at the rate of 31.75 knots an hour today.

SLAYER OF FORMER KINSTON MAN HELD FOR MURDER IN KY.

Post Mortem Examination Located Bullet In Back of Frank Nunn's Body Here Today—Victim Born and Reared In This City

A post-mortem examination of the remains of Frank Nunn, 30, brought here from Somerset, Ky., today, was held shortly after noon by Coroner Wood. The examination was made to locate a bullet in the back of the dead man, the Coroner said. The search for the missile was successful. The certificate accompanying the body said Nunn came to his death by a gunshot wound, made by a weapon in the hands of a railroad watchman. Relatives of the deceased stated that he died on last Wednesday night and that the watchman who did the shooting was being held for murder in Kentucky. Nunn and a companion were together, they said, when the watchman arrested the other man. The railroad employe shot, whether at the man in arrest or Nunn is not known, but the latter received the load and died as the result. Nunn was en route from New Orleans to Cincinnati.

Mr. Nunn was born and raised in Kinston. His father is Mr. B. F. Nunn, now of Greenville, and prominently connected here. The father and two brothers of the dead man came here for the interment in Maplewood cemetery at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Harris, Presbyterian, of Greenville.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

BODIES FROM ILL-FATED SHIP WASHED UP.

London, Feb. 28.—The bodies of the captain and eight sailors of the Wilson liner Dido, sunk Saturday, have washed up on the Lincolnshire coast.

VESSEL IN DISTRESS OFF HATTERAS.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The coast guard cutter Onanago is rushing to assist the steamer Creston, in distress off Diamond Shoals.

BIG SHIP HITS MINE, LOSS OF LIFE HEAVY

(By the United Press.) London, Feb. 28.—Revised figures indicate that 169 persons are missing from the Peninsula liner Maloja, all probably lost, including 55 passengers. The total of survivors is 260.

Dover, Feb. 27.—The steamship Maloja, a 12,431 ton vessel belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental line, struck a mine and sank within a half hour, two miles off Dover today. More than forty persons were drowned or killed as a result of the accident. Explosion was so violent that the houses along the waterfront were shaken. The London Times estimates the Maloja dead at 147, of whom 117 are Lascars.

HIS FIVE THOUSAND CHILDREN TO GIVE FAREWELL TONIGHT

(By the United Press) New York, Feb. 28.—Five thousand of Colonel Daniel Appleton's "children" will tender him a farewell banquet at the Seventh Regiment Armory, N. Y. N. G., here tonight. Twenty-six years he has served as colonel of the regiment, having enlisted in the guard as a private in 1871. He is retiring because he has passed the age limit for the army. His "children" are the 5,000 veterans and active members of the regiment.

A BRITISH CRUISER AND 2 DESTROYERS SUNK BY AIRSHIPS

Bombs Killed Many of Caroline's Crew; Number Drowned

FACTORIES DESTROYED

Four Plants in Birmingham and One in Eckles Demolished—Three of Them Made Munitions—German Report Positive

(By the United Press)

Berlin, Feb. 28.—Despite British denials, a semi-official news agency reiterates the statement that the British cruiser Caroline and the destroyers Eden and Nish were sunk in the latest zeppelin raid. It is asserted that 31 of the Caroline's crew were killed by bombs; 58 wounded and 47 drowned.

Two government factories and two munitions factories at Birmingham were destroyed, also a munitions factory at Eckles.

GIRL WIFE DOESN'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH HUSBAND'S FAMILY

Judge Bond Dismisses Habeas Corpus Writ Today. Stroud vs. City and Oil & Ice Co. Compromised

Judge Bond this morning dismissed a writ of habeas corpus served on J. J. Davis of the Pink Hill section on Saturday at the instance of Daniel Mercer, who charged that Davis was keeping his wife, "nee Miss Estelle Davis, from him. Judge Bond placed the costs on the petitioner. Mrs. Mercer, a young girl, declared that she would not live with Mercer's people, and had returned to her own family because she could not agree with the latter. Mrs. Mercer is said to have professed willingness to live with her husband at some place than his relatives' home.

This morning Stroud vs. City of Kinston and Lenoir Oil & Ice Co. was compromised in Superior Court after the case had been commenced. The plaintiff was suing for damages alleged to have been sustained when he fell into the noted "open sewer" in East Kinston near the Oil & Ice Co.'s plant, into which hot water was allowed to escape. It was said at the Courthouse that about \$275 was the sum agreed upon in the compromise.

Late Saturday Mewborn vs. Railroad was decided by a jury in favor of the defendant. The plaintiff asked \$440 for alleged carelessness in handling of livestock between a Kentucky point and Kinston. Two animals had died en route, and one was damaged, it was alleged.

WASHINGTON DENIES ORCHID FAD AFFECTS CAPITAL'S SOCIETY

(By the United Press) Washington, Feb. 28.—Pittsburgh and Cleveland and Chicago and other newly established cities may have a fad for buying orchids since Mrs. President Wilson started it on her recent tour with the President, but not Washington. Catch Washington society, which dates proudly back to the days when the first citizen fled to the Maryland cornfields to escape the British and the first government jobs were started by anyone. Certainly not! Florists said tonight that Washington has been conservatively buying orchids for several years and that no recent increase in sales has been noted.

WILL TRY TO FORM SEMI-PRO. BASEBALL LEAGUE IN SECTION

Lindsay Warren Proposes Eight-Town Association, Comprised by Kinston, New Bern, Washington, and Smaller Towns

Lindsay Warren, a Washington lawyer, today sent letters to leading baseball fans in New Bern, Kinston, Greenville, Goldsboro, Williamston, Plymouth and Aurora asking that those towns send delegates to a baseball meeting in Washington on the 15th of March. The Free Press was informed over long distance telephone. Mr. Warren is depending upon this city and Greenville to come in "strong" for a proposed semi-professional league. He regards Williamston, Plymouth and Aurora. small towns always baseball wild, "as good as signed up." Goldsboro and New Bern can hardly afford to remain out of the organization, since it is about certain that the old East Carolina professional association will not be reorganized this season.

Lawyer Warren's idea is for each town to organize a team of local amateurs with as many as four hired men, but not in excess of that number. Four games a week would be played by each club, two at home and two away.

Years ago there was in the Tidewater section just such an association as Warren proposed, it is said. The league was well-patronized and paid expenses. Williamston then had one of the strongest clubs in the outfit. Greenville and Aurora, two of the most enthusiastic baseball towns in the State, have maintained part-time teams for years.

Warren is satisfied that this city will send representatives to the meeting on March 15th. This city would be the largest town in the league, since it has jumped into second place behind Wilmington in the territory east of the Atlantic Coast Line's main line.

DUPLIN MAN ACCUSED OF VIOLATION OF STOCK LAW.

Mount Olive, Feb. 28.—Charged with a violation of the federal quarantine law by allowing his cows to run at large, Joseph King, a Duplin county farmer living near here, has been served with a warrant, citing him to appear before a United States commissioner at Watha, Pender county, Monday, where the matter will be heard.

RUSSIA LIKES NEW PREMIER, SINCE HE HAS DECLARED SELF

(By the United Press) Petrograd, Feb. 28.—Russia's new premier, M. Sturmer, is making a good impression. His appointment as M. Goremykin's successor was a surprise. He is 68 and has passed his whole life in government offices. Those who knew him regarded him simply as a bureaucrat. The public knew him hardly at all. He was understood to be a close friend of Goremykin. This was not a favorable advertisement for him. Goremykin has been blamed freely for lack of energy and initiative. The Russian press did not disguise its satisfaction at his retirement, but it had few words of welcome for his successor. Nevertheless, Sturmer's initial statement of his policy was well received. Evidently he did not want to be considered a reactionary. He spoke in very friendly terms of the duma and hinted that he expects it to take an active part in affairs when it resumes its session late in February or in March. Of the war he said: "We must win. There can be no talk of a separate peace for us, nor can the threat of exhaustion alarm us. How can this great country, so rich naturally and every day disclosing fresh treasures, be exhausted?"

New Bern claims to have had twice as many births as deaths so far this month.

VON BERNSTORFF TELLS LANSING ABOUT ATTACKS BY MERCHANTMEN ON UNDERSEA CRAFT AND SECRET ORDERS OF ADM'LTY

Berlin Government Not Apt to Back Down—Austria Declares It Holds Same Views as Germans—Wilson's Letter Regarded by Berlin Officials as Proof of the Seriousness of the International Situation—Believed Orders Have Been Issued to Put Decree Against Armed Vessels Into Effect By Midnight Tuesday—The Teutons Seem Determined to Carry Out Plan at Risk of War With America

(By the United Press)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—After conferring with Austrian Charge Zwiedinek, Ambassador Von Bernstorff visited Secretary Lansing at 11:30 o'clock today, delivering a written memorandum of the Germans' representations regarding the United States' objections to the latest submarine program. Mr. Lansing refused to discuss the contents. Zwiedinek also conferred with Secretary Lansing, saying that Austria's views are the same as Germany's.

It was learned later that Von Bernstorff's communication detailed a score of incidents wherein armed merchantmen attacked submarines, and also referred to alleged secret British admiralty orders instructing merchantmen to attack submarines.

Germany Realizes Situation's Seriousness.

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—The President's letter to Chairman Stone has brought to the full realization of the German officials that the German-American situation is serious. The official text of the Wilson letter cabled to Ambassador Gerard has not been decoded, and therefore has not reached the foreign office. Berliners say the President has not seen alleged British orders to merchantmen to sink submarines.

Armed Merchantmen Subject to Destruction.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Germany has instructed Count Von Bernstorff to inform the United States Government that the assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare, given in the Lusitania and Aztec cases, still are binding, but that they apply only to merchantmen of a peaceful character. The German government is understood to contend that armed merchantmen, have without regard to the nature of their armament shown themselves not to be peaceful, and therefore are subject to destruction without warning. Guns Carried for Attack, Claimed.

The instructions direct the German Ambassador, particularly to tell Secretary Lansing that British merchantmen armed ostensibly only for defense have not assumed the character of peaceful traders, but that on the contrary they carry guns for the special purpose of attacking German submarines. To support this claim the Berlin foreign office has sent the ambassador for presentation to the State Department a list of at least twenty incidents where it is claimed British merchant ships have attacked submarines.

Orders Reported to Have Been Given.

Confidential advices received from Berlin state that German and Austrian submarine commanders already have been given their new orders and that from midnight Tuesday they will be authorized to sink without warning all armed merchant ships of the enemies of Germany. It was said also that many of the submarine commanders probably had left their bases of voyages, and then even should the United States request the postponing of the opening of the campaign it would be impossible to get word to many of the submarines. It was stated, however, that so far, neither the United States or any other nation had asked a postponement.

CRONES SEEN ON TRAIN NEAR FAYETTEVILLE

Fayetteville, Feb. 27.—Following receipt of a letter purporting to be from Jean Crones by Chief Kelly yesterday declaring that the anarchist-poisoner was in Fayetteville and was going to "make hell" for the local police, it was learned today that a man corresponding closely to published photographs of Crones was seen on a train between Raleigh and Fayetteville Friday morning.

TODAY ON THE LOCAL COTTON EXCHANGE

Less than a dozen bales of cotton had been sold here today by 3 o'clock. Prices ranged from 10 to 10 3/4c.

New York futures quotations were:

March	11.18	11.18
May	11.35	11.32
July	11.64	11.53
October	11.74	11.72
December	11.80	11.80

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