

THE COMMONWEALTH.

AFTERNOON DAILY

SLOGAN: "EVERY ONE FOREACH OTHER AND ALL TOGETHER FOR SCOTLAND NECK."

VOLUME FOUR.

AFTERNOON DAILY

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. FRIDAY MAY 31, 1918

TELEGRAPH SERV

NUMBER 61

HEAVY PRESSURE FORCE FRENCH TO EPANGY

GERMANS BY ATTACK ON AY ETTE RIVER CONSOLIDATES AISNE AND PICARDY BATTLE FRONTS AND ADVANCES TOWARD MARNE

FRENCH MAINTAIN WESTERN EDGE

(By United Press)

Washington May 31.—Foch has not sufficient men for a great counter attack although he can operate seriously to upset the German advance, officers say.

So critical has the problem of reserves become that the chief of the allied armies can only hope at the most now to being the enemy drive to a halt.

Paris May 31.—The Germans, by an attack at the Aisne river region, between Coureux le Chateau and the Oise river, have definitely consolidated the Aisne and Picardy battlefronts, the French war office announces.

Before this attack the French had withdrawn from Bierencourt an Epangy, fighting stubbornly. In the center the Germans advanced towards the Marne.

On the left the French are holding the western outskirts of Soissons, and on the right the French counter attack recaptured Thillois, three and a half miles west of Rheims.

The Germans have made prolonged efforts towards the Oise by violent attacks along the Aisne region, the statement said.

The French withdrew fighting north of Bierencourt and Epangy.

In the neighborhood of Soissons, and farther south the Germans attacks have broken the French resistance. The French have maintained their positions on the western outskirts of the town and along the Chateau Thierry road.

TEACH BASEBALL TO ENGLISHMEN

(By United Press)

Washington, May 31.—A Committee on Public Information representative in London says:

London has never heard of a baseball season before, but will get its chance this year when the American baseball league gets its schedule of games well underway. There are eight American and Canadian teams recruited from various organizations stationed in London, with games scheduled for each Saturday during the summer.

The thousands of American soldiers who may pass through London, or be invalided or stationed here, are in a fair way to be made to feel that England is the next best place to home and that English hearts are kept warm for them.

COTTON MARKET.

	Open	High	Low	Close
July	25.30	25.50	24.97	25.25
Oct	24.19	24.40	23.72	23.90
Dec	23.96	24.25	23.60	23.72
Jan	23.80	24.05	23.48	23.50
Mar	23.80	24.05	23.45	23.45

Local Market Normal

ENGLAND HEARS BATTLE ROAR

(By United Press)

Ramsgate, England, May 31.—Heavy gunfire was heard in the direction of the Belgian coast for five hours last night.

There were also terrible explosions and a great flare accompanying each report.

BRITISH REPORT SLIGHT GAINS

London May 31.—Minor operations have taken place by the British on the northern battle front, General Haig reports.

"South east of Arras one of our parties rushed a German post during the night taking a few prisoners."

"Northeast of Ypres there were patrol encounters during which we took prisoners and machine guns."

"Northeast of Robecq we raided an enemy post after which we found a few of our men were missing."

"In the vicinity of Villiers-Brettonneaux and Albert also between Festubert and Clarence river there was hostile artillerying."

AMERICAN AIR SQUADRON IN TEN BATTLES

With the American army in Lorraine, May 31.—The American air squadron established a record of ten fights in one hour this morning.

PLANS STANDARD NATIONAL WAGE

Washington May 31.—Standardization of wages of common and unskilled labor, to halt the enormous labor turnover that is slowing up war work throughout the country, was under consideration today by the department of labor.

Such a move is essential to equal distribution of the present labor supply. Officials of the department say, because of varying wage rates and inequality of working conditions.

JUNIORS COMMUNITY OPENS CHAUTAUQUA

WEDNESDAY EVENING AT SIX THIRTY, DAY PRIOR TO CHAUTAUQUA COMING, JUNIOR PATRIOTIC PARADE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

PAGEANT OF ALLIED NATIONS JUNE 10.

The Junior Chautauqua will open on the Chautauqua proper, for, on the evening before, that is on Wednesday evening next at six thirty, on the Graded School Grounds, all the children of the town are expected to take part in the Junior Patriotic parade, and each child is asked to be present on the School Grounds at six o'clock dressed in some fancy costume.

The public is strongly urged to assemble on the school grounds and see this pretty spectacle of the children, dressed in all fantastic costumes, parading in what is to be known as the Community Rally. Following the parade there is to be a play festival and a ticket

hunt, in which the children will hunt for one or more season tickets to the Chautauqua.

The chief event of the Junior Chautauqua will be the Pageant of Allied nations which will be given on the last day of the Chautauqua, and for which rehearsals will be held every day preceding June 10.

It is well to note that the price for children's season tickets for those from six to twelve years of age is \$1.91, and these tickets are obtainable from Mrs. O. J. Moore. Children between the age of 12 to 14 years the price of season tickets is \$1.19, and are to be obtained from Mrs. R. C. Josey Jr.

VILLIERS IS AGAIN SHOWN BY THE HUNS

AFTER OBTAINING IMMUNITY BY INTERCESSION OF ARCHBISHOP OF COLOGNE WITH VATICAN THEY MACHINE GUN HOSPITALS.

ALSO BOMBARD PARIS AT LONG RANGE

(By United Press)

PRAYER-FASTING WAS OBSERVED EVERYWHERE

One of the most remarkable events in American life was the close observance yesterday of the President's proclamation, calling upon all the people of the United States to observe Thursday, May 30, as a day of prayer, supplication and fasting, and almost without exception the people of this entire nation complied with his request.

In towns contiguous to Scotland Neck word has been received that merchants and business men without exception, closed their places of business and attended church to offer their prayers for the cause of freedom.

At home every merchant followed strictly the request of the town officials to close up and attend service at one or other of the churches; and in consequence the Baptist Episcopal and Methodist churches were filled to overflowing, and, more than all else, there was a degree of solemnity throughout the day which pointed to deep seated feeling that was affecting all people.

Last night a community service was held at the Methodist church and people of all denominations attended to hear Rev. Ruben Meredith and Rev. J. E. Holden, of Rich Square make patriotic addresses which were delivered with such fervor by these noted divines that the people were greatly affected.

ORDNANCE FOR MEN OVERSEAS

(By United Press)

Washington May 31.—The army Ordnance Department has thus far met every demand imposed by the new program for overseas shipment of American troops, according to a statement by the department. Despite the great acceleration in the sending of American forces to France, no infantryman goes aboard a ship without a United States Model 1917 rifle (modified Enfield), bayonet, belt haversack, pack carrier, bandoleers bayonet scabbard, and full mess equipment.

Tonnage is today a limiting factor in the shipment of ordnance material overseas, especially because of the present necessity of increasing the transport of infantry regiments.

Sufficient supplies of artillery French 75-mm. and 155-mm. and American heavy railway artillery are already in France to meet the present demand. Sufficient machine guns are also immediately available for American forces in France.

Paris, May 31.—Eighteen were killed and wounded Thursday by long range bombardment of Paris it was officially announced.

The bombardment took place on the feast of Corpus Christi, a Roman Catholic festival, when the British had agreed not to conduct air raids against towns not in war zones.

With the American army in Picardy May 31.—German aircraft attacked three American hospitals in the rear of the battle area on Wednesday night and not only dropped bombs upon them, but swept low over the hospital tents and deluged them with machine fire.

This attack took place on the eve of Corpus Christi, a religious feast day, which the Boches has obtained immunity for their towns through the intercession of the Vatican following an appeal from the German archbishop at Cologne.

With the British armies in France, May 31.—German aircraft on Corpus Christi day again bombed a British hospital far behind the lines, killing women nurses, doctors and patients, and setting fire to the buildings.

AMERICANS TAKE OVER FUR TRADE

(By UNITED PRESS)

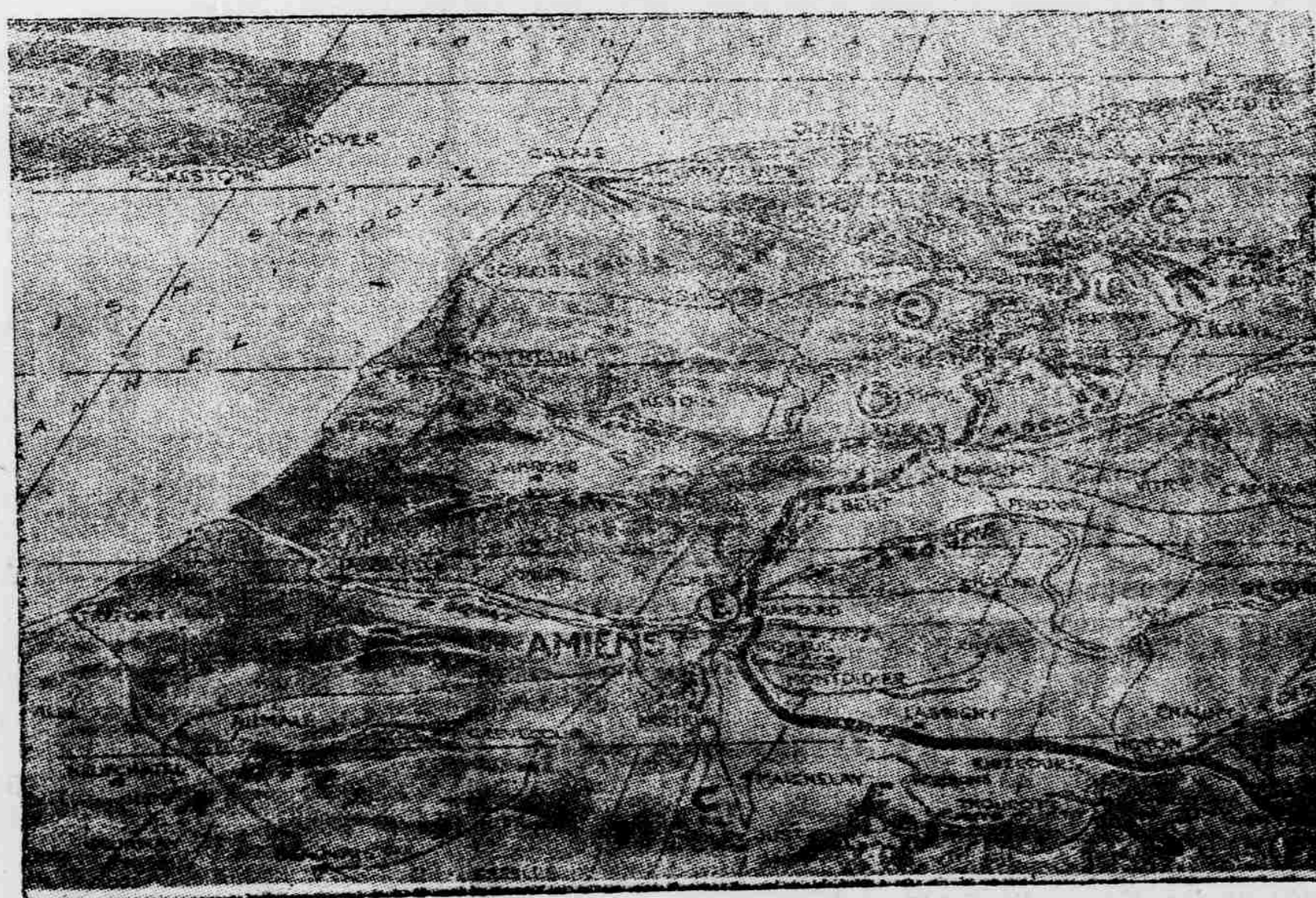
Washington May 31.—Arrangements are being completed by which the interests of German fur men, amounting to several million of dollars, will be purchased by American merchants and the money thus paid turned over to the treasury.

Before the war broke out in Europe, according to a statement issued by the Alien Property Custodian, the trade of American furs was practically nothing but a collecting and shipping agency for the Germans. Almost every pelt taken by American trappers went to Leipzig before it could be sold. Although London was the world's market 3/4 of the fur shipped to London from America, Russia, and even China, went to Leipzig for dressing and dyeing.

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The war deprived Germany of the chance to purchase furs in London, and limited the supply from America—now also entirely cut off. In New York, American dyeing houses are actually operating and in St. Louis sealskins have been dyed successfully. According to the Alien Property Custodian, when the readjustment is completed and the German interests have been taken over by Americans, furs for European consumption will be bought in the American market, and will be American dressed and dyed.

MAP OF BATTLEFRONT



The principal points are indicated by the letter A to F, where the main attacks have been made by the Huns in their effort to reach Paris or the coast.