

WEATHER:
North and South
Carolina: Fair, cold
at night and Fri-
day.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

AMERICAN POSITION RAIDED BY HUN

700,000 Workmen In Germany On a Strike

UNDER COVER OF A FOG GERMANS RUSH AMERICAN TRENCH

Attack Came Early Wednesday, Preceded by Violent Artillery Barrage
SCENE OF CASUALTIES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED
American Casualties Have Occurred Almost Daily in This Unnamed Sector on French Front.

A THRILLING STORY OF ASIAGO PLATEAU FIGHT

Italians Cut Way to Hilltop Overcoming Desperate Resistance

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 30.—Eye witnesses of the Italian attack of the past few days on the Asiago plateau tell a story of thrilling interest. From their account it appears that the first Italian rush was in the darkness at 3 o'clock Monday morning. The sleeping enemy forces were taken completely by surprise. The Alpine were in the thick of this fighting and by daylight they had swept the first line trenches and taken an old church which formed a strategic point in the enemy line of defense. They were vigorously supporting the heroic Sassari brigade which took and re-took the height of Col Del Rosso three times against the stubborn, desperate resistance of the enemy. These early movements were a diversion to screen the main movement on the right, where a stroke was delivered for the dominating height of Monte Di Val Bella. It was here that the most severe fighting occurred through Monday night and in the early hours of Tuesday. Italian storming troops took the eastern and western slopes and by 7 o'clock Tuesday morning had cut their way to the summit and were establishing themselves firmly in definite control of the key position.

A PLAN FOR POOLING ATLANTIC SHIPPING

Freight Consigned Abroad Will Be Loaded Wherever Ships Are Available

Washington, Jan. 31.—A plan for the pooling of trans-Atlantic shipping of American, Allied and neutral registry in an effort to facilitate the transportation of war supplies needed overseas went into effect today by direction of the ship control committee. The new government agency is headed by P. A. S. Franklin, of the International Mercantile Marine. H. H. Raymond of the Clyde and Mallory Lines, recently made shipping director at New York and Sir Cunnop Guthrie, director of British shipping in this country are the other members of the commission. Freight consigned abroad will be loaded in bottoms wherever available and the committee is empowered also to direct ships to ports where freight congestion is most urgently in need of relief. Supplies from the South no longer will be sent to New York for overseas shipment, but will go abroad directly from Southern ports. Formal approval of the plan has not yet been expressed by the allied governments, but prompt approval is expected as the arrangement long has been urged by their representatives here.

BOSTON SUFFERING FROM FUEL SHORTAGE

Boston, Mass., Jan. 31.—With the mercury hovering between 10 and 12 degrees above zero and a cold wind sweeping in from the Northwest, Boston went to work today in buildings inadequately heated because of the fuel shortage which had shut off deliveries to more than one hundred places where thousands of men and women worked. It was believed that the action of the Federal authorities in Washington last night giving priority to the loading and despatching of 50 ships in Hampton Roads, along with help from the big bins at the navy yard would bring relief before it was found necessary to carry out a contemplated plan of shutting down all business for a 48-hour period.

ICE GORGE STILL HOLDS IN RIVER

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 31.—Reports early today from Richardson's landing about 50 miles north of this city, indicate that the ice gorge in the Mississippi there still is holding. About 40 river craft of all descriptions are safely sheltered in the local harbor and, it is believed will pass unscathed from the passage of the ice and water which has accumulated behind the gorge. Reports from Hickman, are to the effect that 53 river craft passed there yesterday, lodged in the ice.

The past week show an increase over the two previous weeks. The current report of the British Admiralty says that 15 ships, including nine of more than 1,600 tons were destroyed. In each of the previous two weeks eight ships were lost and in each of the first two reports made in January, 21 merchantmen were sunk. The ruthless U-boat warfare enters upon its second year tomorrow without yet having accomplished its announced purpose—ending the war. German airmen have turned their attention from London to Paris. Wednesday night the French capital was raided by enemy aeroplanes for the first time in more than six months. The loss of some lives and damage to property is reported but full details are lacking.

MAY HAVE BEEN BIG GERMAN FACTORY

Zurich, Wednesday, Jan. 30.—A tremendous explosion, accompanied by gunfire and followed by a huge column of fire, was heard in the direction of Friedrichshaven this morning, a telegram received at St. Gall from Rosenberg on Lake Constance reports, he explosion probably was the result of an aerial attack on the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshaven.

GERMAN SEA WARFARE TAKES HEAVIER TOLL

British Shipping Losses for the Past Week Totalled Fifteen
London, Wednesday, Jan. 30.—An increase in British shipping losses is shown by the official summary issued tonight which reports the destruction of nine vessels of more than 1,600 tons and six of lesser tonnage. The official statement follows: Arrivals 2,352; sailings 2,301. British merchant men 1,600 tons or over sunk by mine or submarine, nine; under 1,600 tons, six; fishing vessels, one. British merchantmen unsuccessfully attacked, eight.

FRANCIS ASKED TO REPORT ANY THREATS

Washington, Jan. 31.—Secretary Lansing has instructed Ambassador Francis at Petrograd to report to the State Department any developments in connection with threats made against him by anarchists because of the conviction of Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, but it has been left to the Ambassador to follow any course he may consider advisable. Officials of the Department were not inclined today to regard the Ambassador's situation as serious, believing it probable that the government authorities would take such measures as necessary to protect him.

DANIELS COMMENTS SAILORS FOR BRAVERY

Washington, Jan. 31.—Secretary Daniels today commended ship's cook, James Marcio for bravery in rescuing Chief Quartermaster Robertson, washed overboard from the U. S. S. Smith on December 17, while endeavoring to clear a jam in the steering gear during a heavy gale. Robertson became exhausted by the cold and rough sea and was unable to help himself, when Marcio tied a line to his waist and jumped into the water after him. Marcio lives in Philadelphia. Lieutenant J. H. Lela, of Cincinnati, and Lieutenant J. C. Brynes, Jr., 414 Boussevain avenue, Norfolk, were commended to excellent seamanship.

Three Dead, Four Hurt, One Missing

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, Jan. 30.—An American position on a certain section of the French front was raided during a heavy fog shortly after daylight this morning. The attack was preceded by a violent barrage. Two Americans were killed and four wounded. One soldier is missing and is believed to have been captured by the enemy.

Casualties have been occurring almost daily for several days on this sector. It is now permitted to disclose that all the recent casualties given out from Washington occurred in this sector. The deaths were caused by shell fire, mostly sharpnel. One of the men wounded was hit by a sniper's bullet. He fell in a trench filled with water and almost drowned before he was rescued by his captain. Several of the wounded had been listed as accidental woundings. These were mostly wounds on the hands.

It is certain that the enemy casualties from the American cannon and machine gun fire has been as great as or greater than ours.

The casualties given out in Washington recently occurred over a certain recent period. The dead were buried within the sound and range of the guns. One man was blown to pieces by a shell into a dugout. Three men were killed by one shell which fell in a trench and another died of wounds in a hospital. Quite a few of the men sent to hospitals were wounded in the upper part of the body or on the head from sharpnel.

For military reasons it has been inadvisable to send earlier or other details.

Last night was fairly quiet throughout the American sector. The usual number of shells came over, doing no damage, and there were the customary sporadic outbursts of machine gun fire from both sides at points where the opposing lines are nearest.

At daybreak this morning, the heavy fog which had been enveloping the whole position and the country for miles around for several days became still thicker, blotting out all except the nearest enemy positions. At 7 o'clock three muffled reports sounded through the fog. There were three whistles, followed quickly by three shell bursts. The projectiles exploding on three sides of an American listening post just outside the wire with in 45 feet of an enemy listening post.

"Then hell broke loose," said one of the men there. For 15 minutes the enemy broke hundreds of high explosive 77s around the post and the surrounding ground, cutting off the

men there. Two of them were killed in the first few minutes. Another man who was at the post told the correspondent later, as he was lying on a cot in a field hospital, that he saw four Germans approaching out of the fog as the barrage lifted.

He brought his automatic rifle into play and saw two of the Germans fall. He kept on firing until shell splinters hit him in the head and arm.

"The last I remember is the time before I reached the hospital," said another wounded man, "as seeing something moving through the fog. I determined to get some Germans and put my rifle to my shoulder, but never pulled the trigger. There was a deafening explosion behind me. Frozen earth, ice, stones and shell splinters came my way."

Inspection of the scene of the raid showed that the ground was ploughed up by the explosion of shells.

AIR RAID ON PARIS.

Paris, Jan. 31.—Twenty persons were killed and 50 were injured in last night's raid, it is announced officially. One of the German machines which raided Paris was brought down. The occupants of the airplane were made prisoners.

EASTERN SECTION OF COUNTRY NEEDS COAL

A Large Area is Threatened With an Immediate Fuel Famine
Washington, Jan. 31.—A fuel famine of large sections of the East was dominant today unless the railroad administration found a way to speed coal movement despite snow and ice storms which continue to hamper traffic. Forecasts gave little basis for hope as snow is promised in most sections east of the Mississippi and there are indications that many industrial plants in New England, parts of Pennsylvania and the Atlantic Seaboard districts may be forced to close for lack of fuel.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD ADVANCING

Washington, Jan. 31.—Retail prices of food regained in December the one per cent decrease which in November caused householders to hope that the time of deliverance from the high cost of living was at hand. Of 27 articles for which prices are received by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 16 were more costly in December than in the preceding month, three remained the same, and eight dropped slightly.

GREAT LABOR UPHEAVAL IN KAISER LAND

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN FARMER

Calls for Assistance the Coming Year to Win the War

WAR CAN BE WON BY THE FARMERS, HE SAYS

Great Wars of Past Have Been Won by Farmers, and America is Expected to Report Now

Washington, Jan. 31.—To the farmers of the United States President Wilson sent a message in which he called attention to the country's need of their assistance during the coming year in winning the war. The message was sent through the Farmers' Conference, being held at the University of Illinois at Urbana. The message was delivered by President James, of the University of Illinois, in the absence of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, who was to have represented the President at the conference. The President had expected to attend, but indisposition made it impossible and he delegated Mr. Houston, who was prevented from participating by the tie-up in

THE DISPATCH AND WILMINGTON

The Wilmington Dispatch has great faith in the ultimate future of Wilmington and Eastern Carolina and while it probably is not necessary we could like to say here that wherever the interests of the City of Wilmington and the State of North Carolina are concerned, you will always find the Dispatch in the van fighting for the city and everything that would tend for its upbuilding, with North Carolina as a whole a close second. Our efforts are not altogether selfish, although they may be in measure for whatever is for the good of Wilmington and Eastern Carolina is good for us. The bulk of our living comes out of this city, and its people read The Dispatch, subscribe and pay for it, its business men and merchants advertise in it, and this city and the Wilmington Dispatch are bound up in mutual interests.

This has always been the attitude of The Dispatch and it will continue to be as long as it is under the present management. In a large degree this accounts for the popularity which this newspaper enjoys in the minds and hearts of the people of this city.

There is no politics in our championship except we are Democrats and always support the Democratic administration—local, State and National. We have no axe to grind, except the benefit of the city, which means, of course, our own benefit as well. Above all things, the work we do is sincere.

State of Siege. Copenhagen, Jan. 31.—A state of siege has been declared at Hamburg, Altona and Wandsbeck, according to the Hamburg Echo, a Socialist newspaper.

Altona and Wandsbeck are in the (Continued on Page Seven).

MILLION MEN ARE OUT. Amsterdam, Jan. 31.—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press).—The strike has been extended in districts near Berlin, especially in Tegel, Adlershof, Spandau and Mariendorf, where 500,000 men have quit work. A similar number of workmen are on strike in the remainder of the empire.

London, Jan. 31.—The German strike is still growing in magnitude, the Exchange Telegraph correspondent at Copenhagen says. In Berlin 700,000 persons are on strike, he reports, 58,000 of these being women. A great number of Socialist leaders have been arrested in various German towns, according to this authority. The fact that Berlin is wrapped in a thick fog has made it impossible for the authorities to prevent the dissemination of pamphlets, the reports state.

The cessation of work in Hamburg is now virtually complete, according to a Daily Telegraph dispatch from Rotterdam. The strike has extended from the Vulcan Shipbuilding Works in Hamburg to the works of Blohm & Voss, another large shipbuilding concern. The strikers demand an immediate peace on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities.

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