

North and South Carolina: Fair tonight and Saturday, little change in temperature.

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 72

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 22, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BRITISH TROOPS HOLD GERMAN ONSLAUGHT MOST STUPENDOUS ATTACK IN THREE YEARS IS HALTED

German Hurdled Masses of Infantry Against Line in Northern France

BRITISH SOLDIERS WERE WELL PREPARED

Sanguinary Fighting Along a Line of 50 Miles—May Be the Beginning of Decisive Battle of the War

The first of the great German offensive on the Western front has passed and it is to be scored as a German failure, the enemy having fallen short of realizing his aims in the first great smash, according to dispatches from British headquarters today.

After attacking all day yesterday and until a late hour last night the Germans let down in their smashing operation along 50 miles of the British front and had not resumed their heavy assaults at the latest advices from Sir Douglas Haig today.

Further hard fighting was ahead, however, the field marshal predicted. The enemy was still being held in the British battle positions, he reported, which means that the British line is still intact, although admittedly, it has been bent backward at points under the terrific Teutonic assault.

The battle line has not moved in only the direction, however, the British having struck back spiritedly at the German masses and regained some positions temporarily abandoned. The German official statement today reports that the British positions were attacked from a point southeast of Arras to LaPerre, the British first lines being captured.

The dispatches from British headquarters purposely omit giving the exact position of the British line for the stated reason that the enemy might be given valuable information.

While the infantry is being held temporarily in check, the artillery battle is still raging, according to indications in the news dispatches. Great numbers of Austrian cannon are declared to have been transferred to the Western front to reinforce the German artillery. Bulgarians too have been brought into the field by the German command, it is declared, the understanding being that they are to be used as a strategic reserve.

Altogether the indications are that the Central Powers have massed all possible forces at their disposal on the West front for their present drive. The prospects seem, however, that they will need every man of them if they keep up their attack long with anything like its initial forces, as all the reports indicate that the German losses have been terrific under the withering fire of the British artillery and machine guns. The German artillery too, has suffered heavily through counter battery work by the British who found the massed guns the targets for effective destructive work.

The German war triumvirate, Emperor William, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff are reported behind the German lines while the attack is in progress. German artillery fire also has been intense on a lengthy front north of the LaBasse canal and in the Ypres sectors in Flanders. On the French front, the Germans have carried out minor attacks northeast of Verdun and in Lorraine. French troops repulsed both attempts with loss.

British monitors and naval aircraft have made a combined attack on Ostend, Belgium, a German aerial and submarine base and British seaplanes have attacked enemy mine-sweepers near Helgoland with machine gun fire. In the attack on Ostend, British aircraft brought down five German machines, while the monitors bombarded the town heavily.

Germany, according to unofficial reports from The Hague considers that the attitude of Holland toward the Anglo-American shipping demand has changed the relations between the German and Dutch governments. The same report says that Germany would take it as a cause of war if Holland should abandon her remaining demands regarding the use of seized Dutch ships by the United States and Great Britain.

MANLEY'S DEATH LIST HAS REACHED SIXTEEN

Twelve Additional Fatalities Reported to the Navy Department

Washington, March 22.—Twelve additional deaths as a result of the collision between the destroyer Manley and a British man-of-war on March 19 were announced today by the Navy Department.

This brought the death list to 16. John C. Holmes, carpenter's mate, of Boston, Mass., was one of the 12 men reported killed today. The names of the 11 others have not been received.

It was announced also that 13 men reported yesterday also were injured. All of those hurt were reported well.

Isaac Diggs, mess attendant, 926 Chesland street, Norfolk, Va., was among the injured landed and sent to a hospital.

The Navy Department today announced that the names of Lewis Cohen, boatswain's mate, previously reported killed, should be corrected to read Louis Cohen, and that his address should be Baltimore.

The man reported as Richard S. Gallman, seaman, seriously injured, was Richard E. Gallman. His emergency address was Trouth, S. C.

EVIDENCE AGAINST BISBEE CITIZENS

Washington, March 22.—Gathering of evidence against citizens of Bisbee, Ariz., who were responsible for the deportation of 1,186 striking copper miners last July 12, has about been completed by the Department of Justice, and a report will be made soon to President Wilson.

Some Department of Justice officials believe that Federal statutes were violated in the seizure by the vigilance committee of the Bisbee exchange of the Bell Telephone Company, and the attempt to exercise a censorship over interstate connection of both telephones and telegraph lines, and by the committee's measures to prevent the return of some of the deported workers to their home where they were registered for the draft.

SOUTHERN MILL TEACHERS GATHER

Charlotte, N. C., March 22.—A conference of educational workers in Southern mill communities is in session here today. United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton is in charge of the conference. It is well attended by teachers, social workers, mill superintendents and others interested in the community welfare work in cotton mill settlements, many workers from neighboring States being present.

MRS. J. B. GORDON WITNESSED PARADE

Atlanta, Ga., March 20.—Mrs. J. B. Gordon, widow of the noted Confederate general, after whom Camp Gordon here was named, was the guest of honor today at the largest military review ever staged at the camp. The entire 82nd Division of the National Army, with the exception of two regiments, were in the line of march. Brigadier General Burham, Governor Hugh Dorsey, their staffs and guests forming the reviewing party. Several thousand citizens journeyed to the camp to witness the spectacle.

FIGHTING ON WHOLE ITALIAN FRONT

Rome, March 22.—Fighting is becoming more active along the whole front, the War Office announces. The Italians drove back patrols at several points on the front and ejected an Austrian detachment which had forced its way into an advanced post in the Frenzella valley sector. Along the Piave the artillery fighting became more intense.

Flying Cadet Killed.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 22.—Cadet S. W. Arnheim, Royal Flying Corps, was the aviator killed yesterday afternoon at Hick's Field. He was an American, but had joined the British service. His home was in New York city. Officers say he fattened with 4,000 feet in the air.

AMERICAN GUNFIRE COMPLETELY WIPES OUT GERMAN LINES

First and Second Line Positions East of Luneville Destroyed

ENEMY SURRENDERS TO AMERICAN PATROL

Number of Germans Deserted and Are Taken in Charge by Sammies—Activity Behind the Lines

With the American Army in France, Thursday, March 21.—Enemy first and second line positions on a part of the sector east of Luneville have been destroyed completely by American artillery fire. After the raid into the German positions last night, the American gunners shelled the positions heavily all night and this morning. Today a patrol without assistance from the artillery crossed No Man's Land and found that the first and second lines had been wiped out.

The patrol also obtained additional information and returned without casualties, the Germans apparently having decided not to molest them.

Artillery firing by both sides on this sector continued all day.

On the sector northwest of Toul a number of Germans deserted last night and surrendered to an American patrol in a certain wood. The Germans approached the Americans shouting: "Don't shoot." The prisoners were turned over to the French.

Much information of value was obtained from the deserters who said they were fed up with the war and decided they would rather be prisoners. Included in the information obtained from the men was the statement that during the gas projector attack against the American lines on February 27, 900 projectors were employed. One-half the projectiles fired fell within the German lines and the gas overcame many of the Germans.

The next day, according to deserters, 11 Germans were killed and 30 wounded, while taking out the dead.

American intelligence officers are inclined to doubt the story regarding 900 projectors. American information is that only 75 were used.

An American patrol last night entered the enemy first line and remained there six hours, but did not see any of the enemy. It is reported that the Germans recently had constructed trenches that are concrete half way up on the side.

Great activity continues behind the enemy lines. Within the last four days a number of rock crushers and concrete mixers have been brought, and there are signs that the Germans intend to construct a number of new pill boxes opposite the American front. Several trains of material have arrived at towns in the German line during the last 24 hours.

Today's reports say that three German airplanes flew over various parts of the American front line at daybreak and fired their machine guns on our positions. Their efforts, however, were without result.

WILL ASK A PARDON FOR THOMAS MOONEY

San Francisco, March 22.—Application for the pardon of Thomas J. Mooney is to be filed with Governor William D. Stephens immediately after the State Supreme Court issues the remittitur on its decision affirming Mooney's conviction and sentence of death in connection with the preparation of a bomb explosion here in July, 1916. The remittitur will be issued automatically on March 31 under the regular procedure which provides that the decision shall become effective 30 days after it has been rendered.

Maxwell McNutt, counsel for Mooney, said today that the issuance of the remittitur will close any possibility of reopening the case in the courts, and will leave the disposition of Mooney's fate entirely in the Governor's hands.

WASHINGTON DOES NOT BELIEVE THE BIG DRIVE IS ON

Very Doubtful That Yesterday's Attack Was the Real Offensive

PROBABLY A CLOAK FOR ANOTHER MOVE

Military Observers Watching Reports Closely Trying to Ascertain Germany's Immediate Object

DECISIVE BATTLE SAYS NEWSPAPER

Washington, March 22.—American military observers, already having cast their doubts on whether the German drive begun yesterday really heralds the long expected German offensive, were closely scanning the official dispatches today for evidence to support their view that the German onslaught, terrific as it may be, really is the forerunner of some other movement.

There is a marked tendency among American army officers here not to accept the present movement as the real offensive until it is more fully demonstrated.

Despite announcement from London that the German war machine is attacking on a wider front than ever before attempted in the West, there is a distinct feeling here that the move may not prove more than a gigantic demonstration to overawe European neutrals or cloak some other purpose Germany has in mind.

American observers think that the military situation in France is against the probability of a real German offensive at this time. The view prevails that Germany now would hardly stake the issue of the war on a desperate drive against the all but impregnable Allied line in the West.

Reports from Holland that Germany semi-officially has made a peace offer to the Entente coming at the same time as the attack engaged immediate attention. Although there was nothing to confirm the reports it was pointed out that the threat of German guns may be for its effect on the people of England and France. Some see significance in the fact that the drive follows closely on the seizure of Dutch ships in American and British waters.

Supreme confidence is expressed, on every hand, however, in the Allies' ability to arrest the Germans even should the attack now reported under way from La Fere to the Scarpe prove to be the grand offensive.

KILLED DAUGHTER AND COMMITTED SUICIDE

Ashland City, Ten., March 22.—Advises received here today from the Ninth district of Cheatham county told of the killing yesterday of Idola Dunaway, 11 years old, by her stepfather, Thomas Hamilton, 35 years, a farmer, who, after shooting at A. P. Dozier and Miss Mattie Dozier, with whom the child was staying, killed himself by slashing his throat when Sheriff Knight went to arrest him. The child's mother died in October and until recently she had lived with her stepfather. Last week she obtained a warrant charging him with numerous outrages on her. After a stay in jail Hamilton made bond, returned to his home and the tragedies followed.

GERMANS SUFFERED SEVERE LOSSES IN THURSDAY'S DRIVE

London, March 22.—The great battle on the Western front continued until late last night, the war office reports. The British are holding the enemy.

The statement follows: "The fighting continued until a late hour last night on the whole front between the river Oise and the river Seneze. Our troops continue to hold the enemy in their battle positions.

"During the enemy's attacks yesterday, massed attacks offered remarkable targets to our rifles, machine guns and artillery, of which full advantage was taken by our troops. All the reports testify to the exceedingly heavy losses suffered by the enemy.

"No serious attack has yet developed this morning, but heavy fighting is still to be expected."

The eagerly awaited British official statement of today, which was expected to give further details of the tremendous fighting indicated in last night's reports, was read with great satisfaction insofar as it revealed that the enemy had been held and suffered great losses.

If this turns out to be the great German offensive that has been predicted the preliminary round appears to have gone in favor of the Entente, although as the official report points out, further heavy fighting is still to be expected.

The tremendous artillery duel was heard more distinctly than ever in Kent last night. Houses were continually shaken as the result of the violent concussion.

SHIPPING BOARD AGENT EXPECTED HERE THIS WEEK

Mr. Towle Here Today or Saturday to Visit Shipyard Sites

WORKING CAPITAL IS STILL RATHER SMALL

Shipping Board Requires Local Interests to Have \$1,000,000 Capital to Land the Contracts

AN IRISH PORT, MARCH 22.—The bodies of three men from the American destroyer Manley have been brought here to be embalmed for removal to America.

MANLEY VICTIMS TO BE BROUGHT HOME

An Irish Port, March 22.—The bodies of three men from the American destroyer Manley have been brought here to be embalmed for removal to America.

Announcement was made in Washington yesterday that an officer and three men of the Manley had been killed and 11 others injured by the explosion of a depth charge on the destroyer, caused by a collision in the war zone on March 19 with a British warship.

TRIAL OF TWO PITTS BOYS NEARS AN END

Morganton, N. C., March 22.—The trial of Garfield and Aaron Pitts, charged with the murder of Dr. E. A. Hennessee at Glen Alpine, was nearing its end today. J. F. Spaincourt made the closing speech for the defense, followed by Solicitor Huffman for the State. Judge Cline will charge the jury this afternoon.

KAISER WATCHES ATTACK.

London, March 22.—Emperor William, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff have gone to the Western front to witness the German attack, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

Complete Survey Being Made With a View of Relieving the East

SOON TO ANNOUNCE A DEFINITE POLICY

Government Turns to the South Atlantic States as a Relief—Will Transfer War Contracts From East

GERMAN PLAN IS TO RECAPTURE OLD HINDENBURG LINE

Early Reports From Battle Front Give Only Vague Information

AN EFFORT TO PINCH OFF SHARP SALIENT

Enemy's First Attempt to Cut This Salient Was Checked After Hard Fighting. Swaying Fortunes.

London, March 22.—It is not yet possible to give more than a very general and vague idea of the fighting Thursday on the front between the Oise and the Seneze, which continued with swaying fortunes, according to the accounts of correspondents at the British front, in the morning newspapers.

The German attack made on the British front west and southwest of Cambrai evidently aims at recapturing all the Hindenburg line, says a dispatch to the Morning Post from British headquarters in France, which adds:

"The German army attacking south of the Scarpe seems to have delivered its first blow principally in the triangle of the Arras-Cambrai and Baupaume-Cambrai roads, while the German army south of Cambrai is striking against our trench systems in the region west of the Scheldt canal. No doubt the enemy hopes that the attacking forces of these two armies may succeed in forming a junction and thus cutting off a considerable slice of the British front, and taking back all the Hindenburg trenches lost exactly four months ago."

Struggles for villages and ruined farm houses continued throughout Thursday, according to the correspondent of the Daily Mail. "The enemy bombardment," he says, "began at 5 o'clock in the morning and at 6 o'clock some of the German units left their trenches and attacked the British with heavy and light machine guns. Between 9 and 10 o'clock the engagement became general on a front of some 25 miles.

"The right of the German attack was aimed at Croisilles, Bullecourt and Lagnicourt, and there was hard fighting in a brick field near the first of these villages. Along the Baupaume-Cambrai road the enemy also attacked and toward Gouzeaucourt while his left wing was pushed in the direction of Ronsoy and Hargicourt.

"The British front in the area of attack forms a rather sharp salient. If the enemy could pinch off this salient and run his line straight in a northwesterly slant instead of having it turn at an angle first north and then west, he would be able to hold it with fewer troops. Also in pinching it off he would hope to surround and capture a good number of British troops. These, it seems plain, are his aims in the first stage of the offensive.

"The enemy is trying to repeat on a larger scale the operation by which he won back some of the ground we gained in the battle of Cambrai. They pushed in on an angle of our front both from the north and the east. His two bodies troops did their best to join hands but could not make it, though they had at first considerable success. Much the same design is being followed now. We have good reason to hope that it will be checked as was the previous one."

British Miners Accept.

London, March 22.—It is understood that the Miners' Federation has accepted the government's proposal regarding the coming out of men for military service.

Complete Survey Being Made With a View of Relieving the East

SOON TO ANNOUNCE A DEFINITE POLICY

Government Turns to the South Atlantic States as a Relief—Will Transfer War Contracts From East

Washington, March 22.—An extensive survey of the location of war industries, now being made by the War Industrial Board and several other government departments, may result shortly in the transfer of many government contracts from the industrially congested East to the West and South where factories are working under less pressure, labor is not quite so scarce and railroad transportation conditions are better.

The subject has recently been discussed, it was learned today, between representatives of the War Industries Board, Railroad Administration, Treasury, Shipping Board and the Labor Department. Attempts are being made to formulate a definite policy, which probably will be announced soon.

The joint policy of the railroad and shipping board to divert more export freight to South Atlantic and Gulf ports, now beginning to materialize, is certain to result eventually in the drawing of manufacturing toward those points, it is pointed out. Reports to the War Industries Board already indicate a tendency of manufacturers in the Mississippi Valley and the South to figure bids on government contracts in accordance with these new alignments of rail and water transportation.

A committee of traffic experts headed by B. L. Winchell, of the Union Pacific, is now in the South studying railroad trackage and terminal facilities with the intention of recommending a scheme of routing more traffic over lines not overburdened already, as are Eastern roads. Similar studies have been made of the Middle West and a report to Director General McAdoo is looked for soon.

POOL FUEL OIL EAST OF ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Action Necessary Because of Transfer of Tankers From Coastwise Service

Washington, March 22.—Transfer of tank steamers from coastwise to other routes has been chiefly responsible for the decision of the Fuel Administration to order the pooling of all fuel east of the Rocky Mountains, it was learned today. Difficulties of distribution have arisen which threaten an artificial shortage of oil in the East, although the available supply is deemed ample for essential needs.

Approximately 60 per cent of the coastwise tankers have been taken off to carry oil to the navy and to the Allies.

Greater economy in the use of tank cars is being sought to offset the loss and free time for unloading oil in the East has been cut from 48 to 24 hours.

Suggestions for a pipe line from Beaumont, Texas, to Savannah, Ga., as a means of quick transportation of fuel oil to the Atlantic seaboard have been abandoned because steamers can be built more quickly and more cheaply. The cost of the pipe line would have been about \$29,000,000.

ANOTHER SPANISH CABINET FORMED

Madrid, March 22.—Antonio Maura, the former Premier, has succeeded in forming a cabinet to succeed that of the Marquis de Alhucemas. Senor Maura will be Premier, former Premier Dato will be Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Romanones, Minister of Justice, and General Marina, Minister of War. The Marquis de Alhucemas will take the interior portfolio, Count Romanones also is a former Premier.

Snow in Texas Panhandle.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 22.—Snow was reported falling early today in the Texas Panhandle. At Perico the snow fall began last night but the flakes melted as they struck the earth.