

WEATHER:
North and South
Fair
Tuesday
and Tuesday
likely light frost
in low places
STANDARD PLAYS.
The public attention of the
Wilmington is
forthcoming engagements
at Southern
Grand The
today.

THE BRITISH DEFENSE IS STILL HOLDING

FRANCE THROWS HER FORCES INTO BATTLE ON THE WEST FRONT

Heavy Fighting Continues Around Bapaume and Near Peronne

FIFTH DAY OF DRIVE SHOWS NO WEAKENING

Hindenburg's Perocious Assaults are Valiantly Met by the British—Germans Claims Progress

France has thrown the weight of her forces into the great battle raging with unexampled intensity on the Western front, and the British and French armies are now battling together against the onslaught of the common enemy in his desperate attempts to break through the Allied line.

The British armies are holding fast along the line of the Somme and also in the region north of Bapaume, Field Marshal Haig reports today. The Germans in their thrusts in the latter sections reached the British trenches at only one point and there they were immediately ejected. Their assaults elsewhere were smothered by the British fire with great losses to the enemy.

On the Somme line bodies of German troops which had succeeded in forcing their way across the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne, were driven back to the eastern bank. On both sides of the Bapaume the German attacks were resumed today.

The greatest danger point at present seems to be further south, where the Germans apparently have driven through the great width of the region they devastated in retreating in 1917, as the Paris statement reports heavy fighting in the region of Noyon. This town itself is some 10 miles to the west of Chauny in the region of which Berlin yesterday reported the repulse of Franco-American reserves, but the German advance probably has been met considerably short of Noyon. The wedge driven into the Allied line is evidently a deep one, however, and the French troops are reported by Paris to be contesting for the heights to the east of Noyon, for which the German forces have contended.

The Oise on this part of the front runs southwest of Chauny and passes to the south of Noyon.

Persistent attacks with strong forces of infantry and lavish use of artillery have not enabled the Germans to break through the British defense and, after four days, the great offensive blow in Northern France has not yet brought a decision for the attackers. Heavy fighting is in progress around Bapaume near Peronne and where the French and British fronts join.

Field Marshal Haig's withdrawal, previously planned in case of heavy enemy attack, has been executed in a manner described as masterly and great credit for its success is given to the small units which, sometimes outnumbered eight or nine to one, clung to their posts and impeded the German advance. The British have made few counter attacks but every one attempted has been successful.

The British efforts are centered on withdrawing an occasion requires and permitting the enemy to wear himself out before the British defenses. Sunday the fighting forces in the north reached the old battlefield of

(Continued on Page Seven).

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES HAIG.

Washington, March 25.—President Wilson today cabled Field Marshal Haig, congratulating him on the British stand against the German onset and the perfect final Allied victory.

The President's message read: "I may not express to you my warm admiration of the splendid steadfastness and valor with which your troops have withstood the German onset and the perfect confidence all Americans have that you will win a secure and final victory."

King George's Message.

London, March 25.—King George today sent the following message to Field Marshal Haig: "I can assure you that the fortitude, courage and self-sacrifice which the troops under your command continue so heroically to resist greatly superior numbers are realized by me and my people. The empire stands calm and confident in its soldiers. May God bless them and give them strength in this time of trial."

BRITISH DEFENDING WITH STUBBORNNESS

London, March 25.—The British in their retreat defended every hill, ridge and fortification with the greatest stubbornness, messages from German war correspondents on the Western front say, according to a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam. The British artillery, it is added, splendidly sacrificed itself in covering the retreat, the batteries only breaking up when the German storming troops arrived within a few hundred yards of the positions. The British gunners then fired their last ammunition and retired.

SENATE PASSES THE LUMBER BILL

WASHINGTON PASSED A 42-... Washington, March 25.—The War Department bill empowering the President to requisition timber and lumber and to conduct logging operations for the Army, Navy and Emergency Fleet Corporation, was passed by the Senate today and now goes to the House.

Heavy Firing Heard.

London, March 25.—Extremely heavy firing from the direction of Flanders was heard all last night along the Kentish coast, according to the Central News. The heavy concussions shook the houses. The firing appeared to be at different points over a wide area, guns of all calibres apparently being in action. There were also violent explosions.

COLONEL McARTHUR WOUNDED.

Washington, March 25.—General Pershing's casualty list today contained thirteen names. One died of wounds, three of disease, one from causes known, one man severely wounded and seven slightly wounded.

Colonel Douglas McArthur, chief of staff of the Rainbow Division, was severely wounded. Colonel McArthur formerly was the War Department's censor here and was recently decorated for bravery.

USED A DIVISION ON EVERY 2,000 YARDS OF FRONT

One German Division to Each British Battalion in the Attack

MORE DETAILS OF THE FIRST DAY

South of St. Quentin the Enemy Hurlled Forward a Force Eight Times as Strong as the British

British Army Headquarters in France, Sunday, March 24.—The main thrust on the British right flank by the Germans Thursday morning was south of St. Quentin and the enemy used a division for every 2,000 yards of the front, there being approximately one German division against every British battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urville and Essigny Le Grand and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It is now possible to give more details of the early stages of this and other fights.

On the extreme right of the British army the enemy crossed the river Oise at two places. One body of troops came out of LaFere and swung north, while another army crossed at Moy and turned south to form a junction with the LaFere group. Throughout the day the battle raged in the low lands about the Oise.

At Vendell, a group of British held out until 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. A little further north the Germans stormed Urville and Essigny. Just west of St. Quentin the British were forced to fall back, but throughout the day they clung to the Holnon wood, a little northwest of the city.

South of St. Quentin a number of strong British redoubts made a gallant defense and it was not until the last of them, with the machine gunners, had been reduced. The end of the first day found the British behind St. Quentin.

Friday morning the enemy renewed the assault with increased vigor and after desperate fighting in the region of LaFere succeeded in getting across to the British side.

Further north the British also withdrew from the Holnon wood. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British positions.

In the other main theatre of operations—between Arras and Bapaume—the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between the Colij and Sensee rivers. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific and their infantry outnumbered the British eight to one in some cases.

Early the Germans attacking southward into Bullé Court and the British withdrew to a line covering Vaulx-Vrancourt, Mochies and Baumetz Lez-Cambrai. The hottest and most disputed point was Mory, which the Germans occupied only yesterday. During Friday the Germans overran St. Leger, Vaulx-Vrancourt and Henin. One company of machine gunners on Henin hill held up the Germans for a long time, doing deadly execution in the densely formed ranks. The Germans have been bringing up artillery in the most able manner behind their shock troops and have been making full use of this arm as the advance continued.

READY TO ANNOUNCE NEW LOAN DETAILS

Washington, March 25.—The third Liberty loan was discussed today at a conference between Secretary McAdoo and his assistants, including Ways and Means Committee, Assistant Secretary Leflingwell, of the treasury, and other treasury advisors. Mr. McAdoo said he expected to have an announcement late today on the size, interest rate and other features of the loan.

FRESH ATTACK LAUNCHED BY THE GERMANS

FRESH GERMAN ATTACKS

London, March 25.—Fresh attacks by the Germans have developed northward and southward of Bapaume, the war office announces.

London, March 25.—The British repulsed powerful attacks yesterday afternoon northward of Bapaume.

London, March 25.—The British drove back to the eastern bank of the Somme bodies of German troops which had crossed the river between Liscourt and Bris, south of Peronne.

The statement follows:

"The battle continues with great violence on the whole front. Powerful attacks delivered by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening north of Bapaume were heavily repulsed. Only at one point did the German infantry reach our trenches whence they were immediately thrown out. Elsewhere the enemy's attacks were stopped by rifle, machine gun and artillery fire in front of our positions and his troops were driven back with great loss.

"During the night and this morning fresh hostilities have again developed in this neighborhood and also to the south of Bapaume.

South of Peronne bodies of German troops who had crossed the river between Lincourt and Brie were driven back to the east bank by our counter attacks."

FRENCH TROOPS COME UP

Paris, March 25.—The French on Saturday went to the assistance of the British and took over a sector of battle front, the war office announces.

In the region of Noyon and on the right bank of the Oise heavy fighting with the Germans is in progress.

AMERICANS DOING GOOD WORK

British Army Headquarters in France, March 25.—A further advance late yesterday by the Germans at some points along the battle front is recorded.

American engineers have again been in the throes of fierce conflict, in which they have done excellent work in transportation.

The presence of the American engineers on the battle front has long been known. They were praised for their gallantry in the battle of Cambrai, last fall.

GERMANS NEAR PETROGRAD

Washington, March 25.—German occupation of Petrograd within 24 hours was predicted by American Consul Tredwell in a dispatch that reached the State Department today, dated March 20. Virtually all Americans have left the city, the dispatch said.

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KILLED AT HIS POST

Gave Up His Life Rather Than Leave His Place of Duty

With the American Army in France, Thursday, March 21.—The French commander of a division with which American troops are being trained today awarded the cross of war to an American infantryman who, two nights ago, gave his life rather than abandon his post of duty. The war cross was spiked to the coffin before burial.

Two infantrymen entered an abandoned trench to establish a sniper's post when they observed several Germans in the wire before the American trenches. Other Germans arrived. There began an exchange of rifle fire which resulted in a barrage from both sides. At the end of an hour the enemy gave up his attempt to enter the American lines and withdrew.

Then it was discovered that one of the two Americans had been killed. There was plenty of cover within a few yards, but he remained at his post throughout the artillery battle.

The distinguished service cross has been awarded to Corporal Charles H. Burke, infantry. His citation reads: "Severely wounded while patrolling, he refused to leave his platoon commander, who also was severely wounded. He stayed at his side during an intense bombardment and insisted on driving off an enemy patrol." Lieutenant H. B. Davis, the United States army medical reserve, who is serving with the British army, has been awarded the distinguished service cross, one of the four new American decorations for bravery.

GENERAL PERSHING'S LIST OF CASUALTIES

Nearly a Score of Names Sent to the War Department

Washington, March 25.—General Pershing's casualty list which reached the War Department late last night is as follows:

Died of accident: Private Anthony Romanoski. Died of disease: Sergeant Jule Hauston; Privates Franklin Cooper, Joseph F. Covert, Ernest L. Stafford. Wounded severely: Private Jacob Brosz. Wounded slightly: Lieutenant Royal Sharp, Corporal Arnold Carico, Privates Carter A. Dillingham, William Dunsuir, Charles L. D. Fuller, Albion O. Gross, James McDanielson, Mark A. Resnick, Dan Sanders, Major M. Shelton, Harry Shepherd, Burton L. Thorburn, Private Christian A. Sorenson.

DISCOURAGE NEW NON-ESSENTIALS

Washington, March 25.—To discourage all new industrial projects not deemed essential to the prosecution of the war the War Industries Board will withhold from such new plants the benefits of priority of transportation for their products.

Aerial Activity in Italy.

Rome, March 25.—There has been remarkable aerial activity over the lines on the Italian front, the War Department announced today. Eight enemy machines were brought down. There has been a lively artillery battle at various places between Lake Garda and the Brenta.

BIG GUN RESUMES ITS BOMBARDMENT OF CITY OF PARIS

AMERICAN HEAVIES CONTINUE HURLING SHELLS AT ENEMY

So Effective the Fire That Two Lines Have Been Abandoned

GERMANS COME BACK WITH GAS BOMBS

No Infantry Contacts Reported During Past Day or Two Airplanes are Busy Making Observations

With the American Army in France, Sunday, March 24.—American artillery on the Toul sector continued today to shell effectively enemy first line and communication trenches, the town of St. Bausant and billets and dumps north of Boqueteau. Many of the American shells have fallen in the German trenches and the first two lines in at least one place have been virtually abandoned.

One American patrol freely inspected this point in the enemy line with out molestation last night and this morning and remained there several hours. There have been no contacts between the infantry during the last 24 hours.

For the third successive day German artillery today bombarded heavily with gas shells a certain town within the American lines. Today's bombardment was made in two periods, each a half hour in length. Many gas shells and a few high explosive shells fell on the American positions.

An enemy airplane early this morning cut off its engines at a great height over the American lines northwest of Toul and planned down. When close to the ground it dropped a quantity of bombs. Some were of a new variety which explode in midair with a bluish red flash and give off a cloud of mustard gas. Being heavier than the air the mustard gas quickly descended toward some of our battery positions and road.

Another enemy airplane hovered over the town while the bombardment with gas shells was in progress.

The weather was especially suitable today for aerial work and the Germans took advantage of it. On one portion of the sector 14 enemy airplanes crossed between noon and 6 o'clock in the evening while four friendly ones were over the American line in the same period. One group of seven enemy machines, apparently on a bombing expedition, was discovered at midnight and driven off by the rapid fire of American anti-aircraft guns.

An American patrol has brought in quantities of valuable papers from the bodies of five Germans killed in a shell hole by American artillery fire a few days ago.

The entire American front, from generals to privates, eagerly awaits news from the British front. All are confident that the Germans eventually will be defeated severely, even if they should strike hard at the outset.

The German offensive is the sole topic of discussion on the American sector. Official communications are caught by wireless operators and newspapers are circulating rapidly along the front.

Several Shots from Mysterious Gun Fell in City this Morning

FRENCH AIRMEN ARE TRYING TO FIND GUN

Believed that the Giant Cannon Will Soon be Definitely Located and Put Out of Commission by Airmen.

Paris, March 25.—The long-range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6:30 o'clock, but was interrupted after the second shot.

After a brief interval two more shots were fired. The bombardment was again suspended at 9:10 o'clock. As was the case yesterday the people did not take to shelter. Cells, which were filled on Saturday, remained empty this morning. Little interest was shown in the bombardment.

Soon after they were awakened by the first shot the people were brought to their windows by the rattling of drums. Policemen circulated through each quarter of the city, introducing the new system of alarm, which is distinguished from the alarm in the case of air raids.

Work was resumed under normal conditions. All the transportation lines were running. The streets were full of people whose sole subject of conversation was the new battle of the Somme, which is generally compared with Verdun.

"It is to be hoped that the gun which shelled Paris will virtually shortly be silenced," says The Figaro, which gives the following quotation from a man who is said to be in a position to know:

"The 350-millimetre gun which bombarded Dunkirk two years ago from a distance of 25 miles was located by our airplanes and soon put out of action. The same methods will be adopted to locate the gun which has been bombarding Paris for the last two days. Since Saturday our airplanes have been looking for it and the fact that it stopped firing is due, perhaps, to their arrival. It will not be long before the gun is definitely placed; then its career will soon be over."

The military authorities, according to another morning newspaper, are convinced that the Germans are using two new guns, while it is reported that the military expert of L'Oeuvre, believes there is a whole battery of them.

An American corporal of marines was struck in the chest by a splinter of one of the first shells which fell during Saturday's bombardment of Paris by the Germans. He was wounded seriously but his life probably was saved by the deflection of the splinter by a cigarette case. So far as has been reported he is the only American victim of the bombardment.

The Matin says one of the shells fired in the direction of Paris yesterday struck a church in the suburbs. Several persons who were attending a Palm Sunday service were killed.

MISSING TWO MONTHS SUDDENLY REAPPEARS

Syracuse, N. Y., March 25.—Loomis Allen, former director of the American Electric Association, who disappeared from Washington, January 9, returned today as suddenly as he disappeared. Allen refused to give any information concerning himself.

At the time of his disappearance, he was engaged in government work and various rumors were put out concerning his disappearance. To every question today he simply smiled and shook his head.

COUNTER ATTACKS MADE BY BRITISH

London, March 25.—The British this morning were counter attacking between Nesle and Ham, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports. The French also were in action.

North of Bapaume, he states, the Germans were attacking in considerable force at dawn, but did not get through the British barrage. The Germans, the correspondent says, are relying upon sheer weight of numbers in the heavy attacks on the British lines, relieving their tired troops by fresh divisions which press forward without waiting for artillery support.

The enemy all day yesterday and through the moonlight last night, kept

up his hammering of the British positions, the message states, the British troops resisting with valiant stubbornness.

The Germans are employing many small bodies of Uhlans mainly as scouting patrols, it is added.

The spear head of the German effort is still directed against the old Somme battle ground. The British troops have been falling back slowly upon new positions under tremendous pressure, destroying everything which might be useful to the Germans.

Hostile airmen were active throughout the night, bombing the British communications but showing little inclination to compete with our flying men after daylight came

GERMAN SOLDIERS NORTH OF SOMME

Berlin, March 25.—The Germans are now standing to the north of the Somme in the middle of the former Somme battlefield, says today's official statement. Bapaume was captured in night fighting.

An evening Nesle was taken by storm, the statement adds. British-American and French were thrown back through a pathless wooded country by way of Vilequier-Aumont and La Neuville. More than 45,000 prisoners and more than 600 guns have been cap-

tured, the statement says. Violent fighting developed for possession of Comblès and the heights west of the town. The enemy was defeated, the statement says.

Bapaume is on the northern part of the battlefield, where the British line for the most part has held. It is one of the larger towns on the fighting front from which a number of roads radiate. The official German report Sunday night said a gigantic struggle was taking place for the town. It is 13 miles below Arras.