

WEATHER.

North and South-Carolina: Fair Sunday and warmer; Monday fair.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1918

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HINDENBURG IS NOW FACING THE FIRST REAL ALLIED ARMY

British, French and Americans Welded Into One Unit Under Foch

FURTHER ADVANCES THROUGH THE BRITISH

Germans Push-Forward Their Northern Front From One to Two-Miles-Capturing Six Villages

When the expected counter offensive starts on the West front, Hindenburg will find himself opposed by a single army—the first real Allied army.

The British, French and American forces will have been welded into a single unit by General Foch, the master strategist of the Marne, whose appointment as Generalissimo, was officially announced Saturday night.

Field Marshal Haig will retain their capacity as field commanders but the strategic struggle will be Foch against Hindenburg.

Meantime the great German wedge continued to chip away at the Anglo-French bulwark around Montdidier. The latest word from the French War Office, contained in the Saturday communication said the enemy had attacked violently on a 24 mile front extending from Moreuil, Southwest around Montdidier an Eastward past Lassigny.

The attack began Friday night and early Saturday the French, with the aid of constantly arriving reserves, were holding the enemy in check.

The London War Office, however, admitted Saturday evening that the Germans on the Northern leg of this front had pushed forward from a mile to two miles, capturing Aubvillers, Grevesnes, Cantigny, Mesnil St. George and Ayencourt. These villages form an irregular line from a point six miles Northwest of Montdidier to a point one mile South.

Demuin, seven miles North of Aubvillers, was captured by the Germans Saturday morning. Haig reported Saturday night, between the Somme and the Arve, he said, there were incessant attacks and counter-attacks with the enemy firmly checked.

Haig also reported renewed fighting in the vicinity of Boly and Boyelles, midway between Arras and Bapaume, on the main highway connecting the two cities.

The German War Office Saturday night reported the capture of Alette, two miles South of Boly. Elsewhere North of the Somme it declared the "situation is unchange."

A United Press dispatch from Wm. Phillip Simms, described a heavy bombardment in the Arras region, on the German right flank with heavy infantry engagements there, presage another attempt to invest the city.

Rain continues to fall over the battlefield and is having its effect on air combats and the transportation of supplies.

The fact that King George had visited the front Thursday was made known after he had returned to London Saturday night.

SHIP COMPANY GOES TO SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia, S. C., March 30.—Domestication papers have been filed in the office of the Secretary of State by the Carolina Shipbuilding Corporation, organized under the laws of Delaware.

The company gives the location of its South Carolina offices as Charleston, Lorenzo C. Dike, of New York, is president of the corporation, who has an authorized capital of \$100,000.

The bylaws of the company give the location of the principal office as Wilmington, Delaware, and the name of the resident agent in charge thereof as the Corporation Trust Company, of America.

BRITISH LOST SIX VILLAGES TO HUN

London, March 30.—North of the Somme the situation was unchanged, the War Office announced this evening.

"South of the Somme we maintained our positions.

"Further South, during the course of the day, heavy attacks on the West front enabled the Germans to gain ground West of the Arve and South of the Somme, capturing Aubvillers, Grevesnes, Cantigny, Mesnil-St. George, Lewachel and Ayencourt.

THE HOUSE VOTES UNANIMOUSLY FOR GREAT BOND BILL

Liberty Loan Authorization Increased by \$4,600,000,000 Without Roll Call

INTEREST RATE IS PUT AT 4 1/4 PER CENT

No Greater Interest Can Be Charged During the War. Amount Bonds Authorized \$14,000,000,000

Washington, March 30.—The great "Liberty bond bill," increasing authorization for Liberty loans by \$4,600,000,000, was passed by the House tonight unanimously and without a roll call.

The measure fixes the interest rate at 4 1/4 per cent.

The bill will be rushed through the Senate early next week, as it is essential to third loan campaign starting next Saturday.

The outstanding features of the bill are: Increases Liberty bond authorization \$4,600,000,000, making total authorized \$14,000,000,000.

Fixes Liberty loan interest rate at 4 1/4 per cent. for rest of war.

Increases authorization of short time certificates by \$4,000,000,000 to \$8,000,000,000, since America entered the war.

Creates a fund of five per cent of each issue to protect the Liberty loan market, the Secretary of the Treasury being authorized to buy up bonds when he considers necessary.

Makes future issues, including the next loan, non-convertible, but allows bonds of first two issues to be exchanged for those of the third issue.

The House passed the bill in shorter time than any previous important measure. But there was some undercurrent of sentiment against it despite this.

Warning that future bond authorizations will be opposed on the ground that the war should be financed on a fifty-fifty basis—half tax and half bonds—was made by several members today, notably Representative Keating, of Colorado, and Huddleston, of Alabama. Both advocated greater taxes on excess war profits.

"When the United States Steel Corporation, after paying all the present taxes, can make a profit five times that of normal years there could be no serious hardship caused by the government's taking more of the excess profits," Representative Keating said. "It would not take a very high percentage excess profits tax to put the revenue system on the fifty-fifty basis proposed as we entered the war."

Plants engaged in war work are making \$5,600,000,000 more than their normal profits, Representative Huddleston charged.

BURY THE HATCHET.

Washington, March 30.—Plans for paying capital and labor on a war basis have been completed and laid before Secretary of Labor Wilson, it was officially announced tonight.

Workers and employers agree to bury the hatchet in common cause until the war is won. Strikes are rendered virtually impossible.

There is not known.

"Heavy rain has broken over the battlefield."

Most of the cities mentioned in the above dispatch are West rather than East of Montdidier.

Aubvillers is five miles Northwest of Montdidier; Grevesnes is four miles North and West; Cantigny is two and one-half miles East and North; Mesnil-St. George is one mile West and Ayencourt is one mile South.

The greatest gain by the Germans in this advance was about a mile and a half.

GERMAN ADVANCE HAS NOT PAID FOR MAN POWER LOST

Casualties Estimated at Twice Number of Americans in France

ALLIED LINE STILL PRACTICALLY INTACT

Hindenburg in a Serious Position Unless He Does Something to Offset His Heavy Sacrifices

New York, March 30.—Having lost probably twice as many troops in a week as the United States now has in France, von Hindenburg has been compelled to check his drive without forcing the Western combat to a decision. The British and French armies remain intact. The most reckless onslaught and the most ruthless sacrifice of a nation's man power in modern history has not given to the German war lords a territorial gain at all commensurate to their casualties, provided they now fall to bring the war to a quick conclusion. Von Hindenburg at the end of the week is in a highly serious quandary. To pursue the phantom of an early victory can be done only at a continuation of the frightful slaughter of Germans that already is beginning to stultify the Hohenzollern empire.

To halt permanently along the new front is to confess the previous slaughter has been in vain. The chief business of the Allies in the present stage of the war is to kill Germans. Von Hindenburg has assisted powerfully in this grim duty during the past 10 days. Nobody in Germany believes the fresh territory occupied by the German troops will be taken from France at the end of the war. It has been selected as a battleground by von Hindenburg because Germany wants the war to end quickly. Without this termination von Hindenburg now stands in a difficult position.

The new German front is 35 miles longer than was the Hindenburg line to which the Germans voluntarily retired last March. The retirement was made to save Germany's man power by shortening the trench mileage. In the past 10 days von Hindenburg has undone all the beneficial effects of that policy. Given some fresh divisions from the Eastern front the ferocity of the German militaristic spirit has shown itself in the quick slaughter of these unfortunate men at the West front.

Immediate major counter efforts by the Allies are not absolutely necessary to bring about the undoing of this primitive strategy of slaughter. To hold von Hindenburg fast along his greatly lengthened line and to pursue a policy of incessant local assaults would eventually compel a shortening of the German line, perhaps back to the starting place of the present drive.

The reported appointment of General Foch, the French chief of staff, to the supreme command of the Allied force in France, suggests that a counter offensive is in process of development under his direction. Its magnitude, however, cannot be foretold. To force back von Hindenburg at the point of the bayonet might be as costly to the Allies as the original drive has been to the Germans. It is possible General Foch will prefer to postpone his advance until he can accomplish a double objective. By developing a major offensive along the Alsace-Lorraine border, Foch could probably invade German territory and at the same time compel von Hindenburg to retire from Western France to protect the Rhine.

An offensive of this magnitude, however, probably would need the assistance of a great many more American troops than are in France. Whether to wait for a vast increasing strength or whether to advance now before American help has reached major proportions, is the chief problem General Foch must meet in his new position.

KING GEORGE VISITS FRONT.

London, March 30.—King George visited the battle fields in France on Thursday, it was officially announced on his return to London tonight.

The World's Greatest Battle to Date

March 21.—The Germans began their long expected West front offensive. Berlin claimed to have penetrated portions of the British positions between Cambrai and LaFere. London admitted some ground lost, but emphasized the enemy's heavy losses.

March 22.—Hindenburg continued to push forward at some points while the British counter-attacked and took Doiglines, eight miles East and North of Bapaume, on the Bapaume-Cambrai highway. Haig announced the Germans threw forty divisions (400,000 men) into battle on the first day, and asserted the enemy losses were terrific.

March 23.—The enemy advanced to Rouppe, North of the Somme, about 4 miles Southwest of St. Quentin, and to Jussey, South of the Somme, about 7 miles West of the former line. The Germans claimed to have taken 25,000 prisoners, 44 cannons and 300 machine guns.

March 24.—The offensive gathered momentum and swept forward to a depth of 15 miles. Peronne, Ham and Bethencourt fell. Berlin claimed 30,000 prisoners and 600 cannon. The Germans had now retaken about a third of the territory they lost in the spring of 1917.

March 25.—Bapaume, Nesle, Guisard and Chauny were lost by the Franco-British. The heaviest fighting had shifted South of the Somme, where the enemy pushed forward an additional five miles. This marked the first appearance of the French in the major fighting and announcement was made that American engineer regiments were engaged. Berlin now claimed a total of 45,000 prisoners. The Germans continued to lose men at a staggering rate.

March 26.—Reye, Noyon and Lihons fell. The Germans made their greatest effort to date North of the Somme and pushed forward to the outskirts of Albert, making a total advance of 14 miles in that region. Berlin announced that cannon captured totaled 963, besides 100 tanks. The German losses so far were unofficially estimated at 400,000.

March 27.—Albert was captured but with its fall the German Westward advance from that place North was practically stopped. The offensive began to show signs of exhaustion. The British made successful counter attacks between the Somme and the Ancre, re-capturing Morlan-court and Chippy. South of the Somme, however, Rosieres was invested. At that point the Germans had advanced about 26 miles from their original battle line.

March 28.—The German Crown Prince's army took Montdidier, about 35 miles West of LaFere. This practically marked the high tide of the offensive, as the enemy's efforts to push farther Westward at this extreme point have in the main been frustrated. The enemy extended the battle front Northward beyond the Scarpe and entered advanced British positions East of Arras. Haig's men held firmly elsewhere. The French counter-attacked between Noyon and Lassigny, re-taking the villages of Mesnil, St. George, Contandmache and Assainvillers. General Pershing conferred with General Foch at the front placing the entire American expeditionary force at Foch's disposal.

March 29.—Hindenburg's attack continued to slow up, ostensibly hindered by the heavy rain which fell during the night. The Allies gained some ground South of the Somme, but the Germans pushed forward slightly toward Amiens. Foch's appointment as Generalissimo of all the Allied armies was semi-officially announced.

March 30.—The Germans began to dig themselves in at various points along the battle front. The attack extended Northward again, this time to the vicinity of Loos. The heaviest fighting was in the region of Montdidier, where the enemy was attacking savagely on a 24-mile front from Moreuil, southward to Montdidier and eastward to a point beyond Lassigny.

Berlin claimed a further advance around Montdidier, with the capture of six small towns.

AMERICA IS USING ALL HER MEANS TO TRANSPORT TROOPS

Every Available Ship Being Utilized to Carry Troops Across

SEVERE FIGHTING REPORTED FROM NEAR MONTDIDIER

Berlin Claims an Advance of About a Mile From the Position

FRENCH PUTTING UP STIFF RESISTANCE

Heavy Concentration of German Troops Reported on the Verdun Front. British Drive Turks

London, March 30.—The heaviest fighting today continued to center around Montdidier, the point of the German wedge, according to both British and French official day statements. The War Office this evening said the situation was unchanged.

The Berlin day official statement claimed a further advance of about a mile northward, west and south of Montdidier.

The newest enemy thrust was an attack begun last night over a 24-mile front astride Montdidier. This sector extended from Moreuil, Southward around Montdidier and Eastward to a point beyond Lassigny. The French War Office reported Petain's men aided by continually arriving reserves, "showing desperate resistance to the enemy's powerful assaults."

A continuation of the rainfall in the Southern part of the battle zone, at least, was indicated in the Paris communique statement that although bad weather, French airmen carried out extensive bombing attacks in the region of Noyon, Guisard and Ham.

Haig reported a savage German attack at Demuin and Mezieres, ten and one-half miles North of Montdidier, where the British were forced to fall back slightly. At Mezieres, however, the British took a number of prisoners in a counter-attack. Haig still retained possession of Demuin after sharp fighting throughout the afternoon.

The correspondent of the Amsterdam Handelsblad, after a visit to the Verdun front, reported he saw heavy German concentrations of German troops in that sector.

The British continue to drive the Turks before them in the Mesopotamia and Palestine theatres. In the former region British forces have captured Ana and Haditha, 83 miles Northwest of Hit, and are pursuing the remnants of the Turkish army. General Allenby has advanced two miles on an eight-mile front West of the Jordan, occupying Khummel-Ikba, Khummel-Bured and Deirsiman.

Statesboro, Ga., March 30.—Charged with the murder of their brother-in-law—Frank P. Mincey, a prominent Bulloch county farmer—Walter L. Hendrix, county commissioner, and H. Foster Hendrix are in the custody of the sheriff here tonight. The two brothers admit killing Mincey, but claim they did so in self-defense.

The shooting occurred at the home of Mincey about 15 miles Southeast of Statesboro. Immediately after the two Hendrix's telephoned the sheriff that they would surrender.

The Hendrix boys claim Mincey was mistreating their sister and that they went to protect her. After a brief conversation it is alleged Mincey went into his house and returned with a rifle. The brothers then opened fire with their pistols, three bullets taking effect.

The dead man was the father of four small children.

CHARGED WITH DEATH OF BROTHER-IN-LAW

STREAM OF GERMAN WOUNDED MOVING

Amsterdam, March 30.—Train loads of German wounded from the Western front are crossing the German frontier in a continuous stream, according to a dispatch to The Telegraph today.

The correspondent described the trains as "drifting with blood" and the condition of the wounded as distressing in the extreme. So numerous are the wounded men that freight cars are being substituted for hospital cars in transporting them, the wounded men in these cars lying on beds of straw and shavings.

JUDGE REFUSES COOK'S MOTION

Atlanta, Ga., March 30.—Declaring that there was no merit to the 44 grounds set up by the defendant, Judge Ben H. Hill, of the Fulton County Superior Court, today overruled the motion for a new trial of J. W. Cook, convicted with Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, of attempting to blackmail Mayor Asa G. Candler of \$500,000.

Cook, who is sentenced to serve 12 months on the chain-gang and pay a fine of \$1,000, will carry his case to the court of appeals, it was indicated by his counsel today.

LEGAL ADVISORS NOT TO GET COMMISSIONS

Washington, D. C., March 30.—The lawyers in North Carolina who have so generously and patriotically contributed their services in an advisory capacity in the administration of the selective draft law will not be awarded certificates or be commissioned by the War Department. Provost Marshal General E. H. Crowder, in a letter today to Senator F. M. Simmons, made known the decision of the War Department.

AMERICA IS USING ALL HER MEANS TO TRANSPORT TROOPS

Every Available Ship Being Utilized to Carry Troops Across

MUST BUILD MORE SHIPS TO WIN WAR

The Output of Vessels is far Below the Requirements National Army Men Sought to Be in France

Washington, March 30.—America is now sending troops to France to the full capacity of every transport ship at her disposal.

This was learned officially today from army and navy sources who added that it is up to the Shipbuilding Corporation to turn out more ships if the present Allied appeals for further speeding American troops—now—is to be met.

Practically all the economies in space possible have been accomplished. The "turn around" has been speeded; dockage facilities in France have been increased; every cubic inch of ship space is utilized and wasteful use of tonnage has been curtailed.

The transport fleet is being augmented by the conversion of a few very few—cargo ships into troop vessels, while the Dutch ships will provide another very small number of extra troop transports.

The army and navy men said, however, that it is now virtually impossible to convert further cargo carriers into troop ships and that only the maximum space economies have been accomplished.

The conversion of a few cargo vessels into transports was undertaken before Lloyd-George's recent appeal for more Americans and the Dutch shipping will relieve virtually only the merchant marine situation.

Food shipments, it was stated, can not be further curtailed with safety, though perhaps some additional cut in meat could be made.

The United Press informants—men who know the transport question thoroughly—declared that the question as a whole gets back to the American-British shipping output and that neither of these is now satisfactory.

The Shipping Board announced during the day that 27 vessels had been launched in March with a total dead weight tonnage of 240,000. This was 12 more launchings than in February, but it was pointed out that a launching does not mean the vessel is ready for service. Deliveries were 18 ships of 162,000 tons as against 16 the previous month of a 123,000 dead weight tonnage.

This does not begin to keep up with German submarine sinkings. In other words, the fundamental of the whole problem before America now is one of getting more ships, according to the experts, and that was what Lloyd-George was appealing for in reality when he asked for more American troops.

It has been pointed out that too little is being done to encourage and stimulate ship workers to the vital nature of their task and to keep labor satisfied. Labor unrest, the experts say, must be wiped out and labor must be urged to forget its strife while at the same time more forceful administrative work with less red tape is regarded as necessary here.

Considering the resources available the United States is sending across a sizeable supply of men now. Figures cannot be printed under the censorship at present. National Army men will soon be in France to aid in protection of "frontier of freedom" and the next few months will see the nation rather well stripped of forces rounded up in National Army and National Guard camps last fall.

The army can feed in as many men as there are ships to carry and still have a surplus of men.

President Wilson apparently is urging on Chairman Hurley of the Shipping Board the need for "pepping up" the shipyard output, while Army and Navy chiefs are seeking to find any new way to shorten the turn around and to economize on space.

(Continued on Page Nine.)

BERLIN ANNOUNCES A YETTE'S CAPTURE

Berlin (Via London), March 30.—"Arette has been cleared of the enemy," the German War Office reported tonight.

"North of the Somme the situation is unchanged."

German troops captured Beaucourt and Mezieres, the statement said. French attacks against Montdidier failed.

Between the Somme and the Arve

The capture of Mezieres previously was announced by the London War Office and staff correspondents. Beaucourt, which is a mile directly East, would necessarily fall with Mezieres.

Arette is seven miles Northwest of Arras. Its capture marks an enemy advance of less than a mile.