

WEATHER:  
North and South Carolina — Probably rain tonight and Tuesday cooler.

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## HUN IS PREPARING FOR ANOTHER BIG SMASH ON ALLIES

Enemy Efforts For Past Several Days Checked At Most Points

### SIGNS POINT TO AN EARLY RESUMPTION

It is Believed Germans Are Preparing For Another Drive To Reach Important Position of Amiens.

Germany apparently is preparing for another big effort on the wide battle front in Northern France. Heavy drum fire, such as usually precedes an attack is reported along extensive sectors held by the British while the Paris war office also announced violent artillery actions along the French front.

The most intensive German fire seems to be in progress south of the Somme, where the direct drive toward Amiens is on, and north of the Scarpe river towards the British left flank. In the Somme sector, the British have evidently been trying to better their position in anticipation of the next German push, and Field Marshal Haig reports today a slight advance of his line on the south bank of the Somme, east of Vaire-Sous-Corbie.

The increase in the artillery fire north of the Scarpe river may mean a renewal by the Germans of their thrust towards Arras, which broke down utterly earlier in the battle against the Southern approaches to Vimy ridge. They have shown their intense anxiety to push forward their lines in the northern part of the battle.

The German line in the South in an all-out counter blow, but have found the British line virtually immovable all along the front from Albert northward.

A still further extension of the battle northward may be indicated as well in the beginning of a heavy attack with gas shells upon the British lines on the six mile front between Lens and LaBasse canal and east of Armentieres, a dozen miles north of LaBasse.

The Germans are likewise pounding the French lines south of the Oise, the extreme Allied right on the present active fighting front. The French have retired from their dangerous salient here, however, and are reported well established in position which had been prepared along the Ailette river which offers an excellent holding point.

Checked at most points along the front from Arras to Coucy, north of Soissons, the Germans are nibbling at the Allied line in an effort to find a weak spot. So far the enemy has been repulsed along the Western leg of the "elbow" salient. In the Chauny-Coucy-LePere triangle along the Oise, on the extreme Eastern end of the Southern front of the battle line, the French have retired to higher ground.

Correspondents at the front in France say signs are not wanting that the Germans are getting ready to launch another heavy attack on a long front in an endeavor to reach Amiens. Enemy efforts North of the Somme recently have been solely in an endeavor to capture artillery positions, but the Germans have not gained their objectives. Aerial fighting continues heavy. French and British aviators have brought down 31 enemy machines, while Berlin reports the destruction of 88 enemy airplanes. From Arras to the Somme the British line still stands as it did 10 days ago. The latest enemy attempt to attack was made in the region of Bucquoy, 20 miles North of the Somme, but both efforts were broken up by the British artillery fire. Immediately South of the Somme there has been only local fighting with no change in the position of the battlefield.

## ALLIED CAVALRY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE BIG BATTLE

Work of Horsemen One of Brightest Spots In Defensive Work

### CALLED MANY TIMES TO BEAT BACK ENEMY

The Desperate Charge of the Cavalry Time and Time Again Broke Up Attacks

With the British Army in France, Sunday, April 7.—No finer chapter has been provided from the story of the British defense since the German offensive began than that furnished by the cavalry.

Never during the present war had horsemen been given the chance which they had in this more or less open warfare and they made the most of it. They have been here, there and everywhere, filling in gaps, strengthening the lines and covering the retirement of infantry. Their work has been brilliant and they thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, despite the grueling engagements.

The cavalry on the road yesterday. They were battle-worn and plainly showed the marks of hard fighting. More than one trooper led a riderless horse. But the men's heads were up and their lances described defiant circles, while the horses cavorted as though they too were ready for more trouble.

In the first three days of the German drive the cavalry fought mostly on foot and did valuable work. It was dismounted cavalry that held the Olley-Ham line on March 22, while the infantry withdrew. There was fierce fighting here. One party of dragons was cut off all night during which they were out in the open battling for their lives. Finally they cut their way through the German lines at Jussy by main force.

On the 23rd the cavalry came into its own for the horses were brought forward and the troopers began a series of spectacular feats.

When Noyon was first threatened cavalry was sent to hold the line of the Oise, west of the town. The British infantry was forced to fall back on the 26th and the cavalry was pulled back also with the intention of occupying the ridge near the village of Porqueret in the vicinity of Noyon. The Germans also were after this hill.

A race developed between the horses and the enemy infantry across the rolling ground. The Germans reached the northern part of the wood, but the cavalry arrived at the other side at about the same time and went rushing through the forest against the Germans. An intense battle at close quarters ensued and the cavalry was doing great execution when the order came for them to fall back in order to cover the retirement of the infantry at other points. The troopers withdrew from the wood and brought up the rear, pausing often to fight rear guard actions with the hotly pressed enemy.

The next big action was on March 30 when the Germans got into a wood northwest of Moreuil. Word came from the British command that the wood must be cleared out. The position was filled with enemy infantry who had brought forward great numbers of machine guns which were mounted in every available vantage point, even in trees. The cavalry was called upon. Here a part of them dismounted and went in on foot but the Canadian horsemen tore on into the forest and hurled themselves on the enemy. As one trooper later put it: "There was a hell of a fight."

Step by step the Germans gave way before the onslaught until the western part of the wood had been cleared between Moreuil and Demuin. The cavalry held it until next morning, when the infantry took over the position.

Had to Abandon Freighters.

## TWO ATTACKS ON AMERICAN LINES WERE REPULSED

Sammies Not Only Drove Off Boches, But Chased Them

### RAN GERMANS OUT OF FIRST LINE

Waited Until Enemy Reached Barbed Wire, Then Opened Up On Him, Following With Counter Dash

With the American Army in France, Sunday, April 7.—On the front North-west of Toul, Friday night, the Germans attempted two raids but both were repulsed. American infantrymen went out of their trenches on the second occasion and chased the Germans from the German first line trenches into the support trenches.

Details of the action were made public in the following official report, issued tonight:

"The enemy raided our trenches at two points. The first attack was repulsed easily. In the second the enemy was allowed to reach our wire entanglements. Then our fire opened and a moment later the American infantrymen rushed out in attack driving back the foe. The pursuit was continued until the first enemy trenches were emptied and the Germans had been driven back to their support trenches."

### DUMPING HOT SLAG CAUSED EXPLOSION

Baltimore, April 8.—Hot slag being dumped into the river at the Sparrows Point works of the Bethlehem Steel Company early today, caused a terrific explosion which shook the lower part of this city. It was at first thought there had been a serious accident and this feeling was heightened by the refusal of any information at the steel works when inquiries were made.

Later, Chief of Police James Robb, of Sparrow's Point, said that hot slag caused the explosion and that no accident of any kind had occurred at the steel plant. The dumping of slag into the river is a nightly occurrence and it is generally accompanied by an explosion. This time, however, it was unusually heavy.

### POSTMASTERS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

(By George Manning).

Washington, D. C., April 8.—The following presidential postmasters in North Carolina have been re-appointed for another four years by the President and commissioned:

Robert S. McRae, Chapel Hill; Stephen P. Wilson, Fairmont; Ira T. Hunt, Kittrell; John R. Swann, Marshall; Robert P. Gardner, Mount Holly; George W. Waters, Plymouth; Samuel V. Scott, Sanford; Cepha L. Harris, Thomasville; John P. Saunders, Troy; George W. Hill, Vineland; Otto K. Holding, Wake Forest; and Robert S. Galloway, Winston-Salem.

Puts It on Clemenceau.

Vienna, April 8, via London.—Premier Clemenceau in January this year took up discussions with Austria respecting the possibility of peace negotiations, says an official statement issued here today in reply to the official denials at Paris that France had taken the initiative in the exchanges. The statement says the negotiations were begun when Alexandre Ribot was premier of France; that they were broken off and again taken up by M. Clemenceau.

Unjustified Cancellations.

## GERMAN LEADERS PAY NO ATTENTION TO COST OF DRIVE

Men are Hurlled to Slaughter With Utter Disregard of Loss

### USED 25 DIVISIONS AGAINST FRENCH

Massed Attacks Mowed Down French Are Using Minimum Number of Soldiers

With the French Army in France, Sunday, April 7.—Twenty-five divisions have been used by the Germans in the last four days in efforts to break through the French line and reach the railroad running south from Amiens. All attacks have been checked by the wonderful resistance of the French, some of whom were thrown into the line as soon as they arrived on the battlefield.

The Germans are obtaining only insignificant results in their attempts to advance, considering the number force is at least three times as great as the number of French defenders.

The cheerfulness and confidence with which the French troops go in to action is remarkable. They feel they are better than the enemy and make light of the German superiority in numbers. The French command continues to stay the German rush, thus retaining the reserves for possible attacks some place else.

Powerful trench mortars have made their appearance behind the German infantry, but up to this time, have not influenced the situation to any extent and in some places the guns have been unable to approach within an effective range. On the other hand, an enormous number of machine guns pour an intense barrage into the French lines and at the same time the German infantry attempts, under cover of this fire, to get close to the French line in small groups and establish pockets from which to leap forward at the proper moment.

This procedure was quickly neutralized by the French and the Germans are now resuming massed attacks in which their men come under the direct fire of French machine guns, rifles, grenades and 75's, which inflict terrible losses. The 75's do terrific execution, cutting wide lanes through the enemy ranks.

The enemy commanders appear to pay little attention to this slaughter, their aim being to reach the objective whatever the cost.

Late last night the enemy again attacked in the region of Grivevenes, but were repulsed singularly and forced back to their own lines with greatly diminished numbers.

Further south in the vicinity of Noyon, they at first succeeded in entering the French positions. Later, after the most severe fighting they were compelled to retreat, leaving the situation unchanged.

Mont Renaud, near Noyon, saw repeated attacks from the Germans throughout Saturday, but all were equally futile. The hill was the first point where the French barred the German advance through the Oise Valley towards Compiègne and Paris. When the Germans first swept down from Noyon, the hill changed hands repeatedly. The ground thereabouts shows striking evidence of the fearful nature of the battle in the number of German bodies that can be seen.

Since March 30, the French have not budged. In fact, they have gained some ground on the northern slope of the hill. The Germans occupied two hills overlooking Mont Renaud, which possesses little practical value, although they afford a view of what is going on in Noyon and slightly beyond that town.

Further eastward, along the Oise, the French fell back Saturday from the dangerous salient north of Amigny. Fighting all the way, they retired to better positions which had been prepared along the Ailette river.

### COLUMBIA REPORTS A HEAVY RAINFALL

Columbia, S. C., April 8.—Since 3 o'clock last night 2.7 inches of rain has fallen here and at 10 o'clock this morning there was no indication of a let-up in the down-pour. The local weather bureau stated that the Santee river might reach the flood stage today.

### VIOLENT ARTILLERYING.

Paris, April 8.—Violent artillery engagements occurred at night, especially on the left bank of the Oise river, says today's official report.

BRITISH MAKE ADVANCE.

## TWO CABINETS ARE NOW WORKING WITH PRESIDENT WILSON

One Handles Political Problems and the Other War Questions

### MORE EFFICIENCY IN WAR MAKING

Closest Harmony Among the Various Organizations For Speeding Up Fight for Democracy

Washington, April 8.—The nation's war-making agencies have achieved a close harmony of action in the last two weeks through the Wednesday conferences at the White House which high officials said today has speeded the prosecution of the fight for democracy to the point of greatest efficiency yet reached.

The President now virtually has two cabinets, the first of which advises him on diplomatic and political questions, while the second discusses with the chief executive the problems of mobilizing the industrial powers of the nation without which there could be no war. The cabinet proper meets every Friday. The "war cabinet" or "industrial cabinet," as it is coming to be known, gathers at the White House every Wednesday, the Director General of Railroads, the chairman of the Shipping, War Industries and War Trade Boards, the Food Administrator and Fuel Administrator. At times, when the Navy or Army has a special involving industrial questions, Secretary Daniels or Acting Secretary Crowell attend.

The War Cabinet at no time has touched on political questions. This was learned today from a very high source. All of the war cabinet's work has been to further the preparation of America to throw her entire resources into the scale against the Hun.

So important has been the work become that the prosecution of the war, except for direction or actual military and naval movements, now is entrusted to the little group of six men, representing the factors necessary to providing the fighting men with all they need to bring victory as quickly as possible.

### CORONER'S INQUEST OVER PRAGER TODAY

Collinsville, Ill., April 8.—The inquest today over the death of Robert P. Prager, an enemy alien who last Friday morning was hanged by a mob, is the first formal step in an investigation of the crime by State officials. Representatives of the attorney general's office and the adjutant general's office have announced that if the coroner's jury names parties responsible for the hanging, prosecution will be started immediately, probably next week, when an adjourned session of the grand jury is scheduled to meet.

### MINIMIZES LANDING OF JAPANESE TROOPS

Moscow, Sunday, April 7.—The Japanese representative at Volodga, where Allied and neutral diplomatic missions are stationed, has sent a communication to M. Tchitcherine, the Russian foreign minister, minimizing the significance of the landing at Vladivostok, according to The Ivestia. The communication said that the incident was local and that Admiral Kato acted on his own initiative and without specific orders from his government. M. Tchitcherine, however, is reported to be skeptical.

Reports received here from Vladivostok indicate that the Japanese have not interfered with the life of the city and that they only patrol the streets. Admiral Kato visited the mayor and the president of the Zemstvo, who protested against the landing. The municipal council also passed a resolution of protest.

### ALLIED POSITION IMPROVES DAILY

Washington, April 8.—Every day finds the Allies in a better position to resist with definite success the great German offensive, according to an official review today by the British military attaché. The French, British and American reserves are pouring in daily to defend Amiens, the review declares.

Shot at Moving Picture.

Davenport, Iowa, April 8.—During the performance here last night of a photoplay depicting German atrocities, a man who gave his name as E. J. Kelly and his occupation as a traveling salesman, fired two shots at the screen when an impersonation of the German Emperor was shown. Kelly was taken into custody, but today it was announced he would not be prosecuted.

## FIRST DAYS DRIVE IN LIBERTY BOND SALE \$250,000,000

### WINTER WHEAT CROP CONDITION IS POOR

The Government's Forecast Estimates Crop at Only 560,000,000 Bushels

Washington, April 8.—Winter wheat production this year will be about 560,000,000 bushels, the Department of Agriculture estimated today in its report showing the condition of crop on April 1 to be 78.6 per cent. of a normal.

Rye production will be about 86,000,000 bushels, its condition April 1 being 85.8 per cent. of a normal.

Condition of winter wheat in the important growing States follows:

Ohio 80, Indiana 94, Illinois 88, Missouri 92, Nebraska 75, Kansas 67, Oklahoma 63.

Widespread interest centered in today's production forecasts of this season's winter wheat and rye crops, estimated by the Department of Agriculture from the condition of the crops on April 1.

Winter wheat, sown on 42,170,000 acres, the largest area ever planted, entered the winter with the lowest condition of record on December 1. In its December forecast the Department of Agriculture estimated the crop would be about 540,000,000 bushels. The government had aimed to have a crop of 672,000,000 bushels of winter wheat and relied upon farmers to plant enough spring wheat to bring the country's wheat production this year to more than 1,000,000,000 bushels.

Wheat conditions through the winter have not been adverse to the winter grain crops and early reports indicated that the winter wheat and rye crops had begun the spring in better condition than had been expected. It was felt from these indications that the production forecasts today would be larger than those estimated as a result of the December conditions.

Rye acreage last autumn showed a 36 per cent increase over the previous year, with 6,119,000 acres planted. The condition of the crop on December 1 was 84.1 per cent of a normal and the forecast of production made at that time was 85,000,000 bushels.

### BOLO PASHA IS GIVEN A REPRIEVE

Paris, April 8.—Shortly following the action of President Poincare in refusing clemency to Bolo Pasha, convicted of treason in acting as agent of German propaganda in France, which caused the expectation that his execution would not be long delayed, it was announced today that the military judiciary had granted Pasha a reprieve. The action was based on the representation of his attorney, Albert Salles, that the convicted man had revelations to make to the authorities.

The length of the reprieve is not given in the official announcement which, in making the fact of the reprieve known states that it is granted "for the moment."

### AUSTRIA SAYS FRANCE STARTED PEACE TALK

Amsterdam, April 8.—The statements of the French government and ex-Premier Poincare that it was Austria, not France, which took the initiative resulting in the conversations in Switzerland, concerning the possibility of opening peace negotiations, are denied by the Austrian government, which insists that France took the first step. An official statement issued in Vienna says the accounts given by Premier Clemenceau and M. Poincare, of the meetings in Switzerland between Count Reventat, the Austrian representative, and Major Armand, representing France, deviate from the facts in many important particulars. It asserts the initiative was taken by the intermediary acting in the name of the French government.

### RUSSIAN SHIPS WERE PURPOSELY DESTROYED

Washington, April 8.—The Russian warships sunk by their commanders off the Southern coast of Finland, to keep them out of the hands of the Germans, reported several days ago, were blown up after German ships had opened fire on them, according to a dispatch to the State Department today from Stockholm. Three of the Russian vessels were battleships.

Representative Jones Ill.

Washington, April 8.—Representative William Atkinson Jones, Democrat of Virginia, chairman of the House Committee on Insular Affairs, is lying in a very precarious condition today, following a stroke of paralysis last night. Mr. Jones has been in very feeble health for some years.

Reports May Not Be Given Out Except Weekly or Bi-Weekly

### THIRTY THOUSAND FLAGS DISTRIBUTED

Hundreds of Towns Will Soon Be Flying Honor Flags. New York Subscribed Over \$105,000,000 Saturday.

Washington, April 8.—Unofficial reports to the Treasury today put the first day's subscriptions in the third Liberty Loan campaign at \$250,000,000. Officials said this probably was somewhat too high, though, as first reports usually are optimistic.

After planning a system for gathering reports of subscriptions day by day, officials in charge of the campaign now are considering withholding the reports or giving them out weekly or bi-weekly. One proposal is to make public only figures reported by Federal Reserve banks, based on receipts from initial payments on subscriptions.

Several hundred towns within a day or two probably will fly the honor flag of the third loan. Thirty thousand flags have been distributed to district committees which will award them to communities reaching or exceeding their allotments. Without waiting for determination of which community won the honor first—since scores reported within a few minutes after the campaign officially opened—some district headquarters forwarded the flags to honor roll towns today.

In an effort to clear up which communities actually are entitled to first honors in the flag competition headquarters today took steps to obtain affidavits from local committees to be checked up with telegraph company records and with statements from Federal Reserve district organizations.

New York Had a Good Day.

New York, April 8.—Subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan in the New York Federal District, aggregating \$105,394,600, had been officially reported to the district's loan committee up to 11 a. m. today. This represents a gain of more than \$31,000,000 as compared with Saturday's closing figures.

Chicago Reports.

Chicago, April 8.—The second day of the third Liberty Loan drive opened today with unofficial reports from the five States in this district that more than \$40,000,000 in subscriptions had been made on the first day.

In Chicago unofficial reports showed that \$20,000,000 had been subscribed.

Colonel Guthrie Dead.

Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 8.—Col. William L. Guthrie, 39th Engineers, widely known in army circles, died of pneumonia at the base hospital here today. He was graduated from West Point in 1901.

### MILITARY POWER IN GERMANY IS DOOMED

London Newspaper Says President Wilson Sealed the Kaiser's Fate

London, April 8.—The doom of the military power in Germany was pronounced by President Wilson in his speech at Baltimore, says the Morning Post.

"Whether or not the Allies are strong enough to break in pieces the German military power remains to be seen," it adds.

"But that given time America is able to defeat the enemy is as little doubtful as that she is resolved to do it, however long the work may take. It is a gigantic enterprise, for the defeat of the German armies in the field is not all that America has promised, but she purposes to go further."

"Amid the stress and suspense of the great conflict now raging on the Western front, we can assure our American friends that their brave and simple declarations are inexpressibly encouraging. They look upon the war from a point of view which, after nearly four years of stupifying vicissitude, we have lost."

"President Wilson from the first has insisted that before all it is a moral issue. There are millions of men among the Americans and the forces of the Allies who are fighting in the simple faith that they are doing duty in a good cause."

"It has fallen to President Wilson to put into stern practice the conviction, which the greatest among American poets affirmed in every line of his rough-hewn verse, that the spirit of liberty is invincible."