

North and South Carolina — Fair tonight and Friday; continued cool tonight with light frost in exposed places.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 11, 1918.

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AMERICAN TROOPS REPULSE A STRONG ATTACK BY ENEMY

German Assault Followed a Most Severe Bombardment of Seventy-Two Hours

GERMAN PLAN IS TO WIPE OUT BRITISH

Terrific Fighting Along the British Front—Submarine Losses For the Past Week Greatly Reduced.

American gunners and infantrymen holding a certain sector of the front in France drove back in disorder on Wednesday a strong German attack. The enemy effort was the heaviest yet made against an American position but the Germans did not get through the wire entanglements and suffered numerous casualties.

After a violent artillery bombardment for 72 hours, during which many gas shells were used, especially selected German units moved against the American position under a heavy barrage fire. The American artillery checked them at the wire entanglements and machine and rifle fire also was poured into the enemy who retired leaving several of their number hanging to the wire entanglements.

On the Northern battle front American soldiers, the vanguard of a large force have joined the British army. The first force was only a battalion in strength but other American contingents are moving forward rapidly. General Pershing's men were greeted enthusiastically by the British.

Desperate fighting continues uninterruptedly on a 25 mile front between Givenchy and Wytschaete, with the Germans suffering severe losses for small gains against the strong British defense. In two days of heavy engagements, the enemy has not yet gained any point of strategic importance. The British still dominate the battlefield from the heights of Messines ridge on the north and Givenchy on the south.

Below Armentieres where the attack was launched Tuesday, the Germans have made little additional progress although they have crossed the left bank of the Lys between Estaires and Bac St. Maur. Repeated attacks against the British line between Estaires and Givenchy toward Bethune have been checked sanctorially. Berlin claims the capture of 6,000 men and 100 guns on this sector Tuesday.

North of Armentieres the Germans, after driving the British from their first defenses in the lowlands, have been unable to gain the crest of Messines ridge, despite many furious assaults. Armentieres at the apex of a sharp salient as the result of the two days fighting has been evacuated by the British withdrawal to the west of the Lys.

Emperor William and the German military leaders in the present offensive, it is reported in dispatches from the battlefield, plan the wiping out of the British army. It is believed that the Germans now are seriously attempting by swinging their attacks to the north to annihilate British resistance. In consequence further assaults along the British front and much desperate fighting is expected.

Infantry fighting on the Picardy battle front has quieted down momentarily. The French and German artillery fire has been violent north of Montdidier and along the Oise canal, northwest of Soissons. There have been artillery exchanges on the British front which has not yet been linked up with the Northern battle front. There has been no infantry activity on the Lens-Vimy sector, the connecting link although the German artillery fire is increasing.

Another drop in the sinking of Allied merchantmen by German submarines is noted in current reports. The British losses of six ships, including four of more than 1,600 tons, is the next lowest weekly total since February 1917. The lowest week was that of November 11, when one large and five small vessels went down. Last week's total was 13 including six of the large tonnage. One Italian and two French merchantmen are reported also lost.

It is believed in Washington that the falling off in submarine effectiveness is due to the fact that the Germans are turning their attention from merchantmen to transports. Departures of American troops for Europe, it is said, now are three times greater than some time ago and it is probable the Germans may be preparing for a huge submarine offensive against the troops ships.

TWO ASSAULTS ON AMERICAN FORCES WERE BROKEN UP

Germans Driven Off With Heavy Losses By the Effective Gunfire

THE FIRST ATTACK LASTED TWO HOURS

Few Reached Wire Entanglements and They Were Attended to by Infantry—Attack at Toul Also Repulsed

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, April 10.—American troops on a certain sector today repulsed the heaviest German attack yet made on an American force. Brilliant work by American gunners dispersed the German infantry before they reached the wire entanglements and those of the enemy who got into the wire were accounted for with machine gun and rifle fire.

The German attack came after a violent artillery bombardment of three days. A large number of the enemy are believed to have been killed or wounded during the attack which continued for nearly two hours. For 72 hours before their effort, the Germans had been firing an increasing number of shells at the American positions and making extensive use of gas shells. At noon yesterday the enemy began a harassing fire against one of our strong points and kept it up throughout the night, dropping hundreds of shells of all calibers on both front and rear positions. The American artillery replied vigorously the men in some batteries working with their gas masks on for two or three hours at a stretch.

About 9 o'clock this morning German infantrymen in the front line signalled their batteries for a barrage and started for the American front line. The American gunners laid a counter barrage almost immediately. The attackers, who were specially trained for this operation, were selected from among the best men in three regiments. They were preceded by shock platoons, but the American barrage caught them before they were able to reach our wire entanglements.

A terrific fire against the advancing enemy was kept up by the American batteries. The Germans probably suffered severe casualties as several bodies were seen hanging across the barbed wire after the enemy retired. The attack was made in a heavy morning mist but the American gunners did wonderful work considering the poor visibility.

As soon as the American barrage lifted American infantrymen climbed from their shelter and attacked the enemy with heavy machine guns and rifle fire, driving back those who had not been dispersed by the artillery fire.

The attack was followed by a violent artillery duel which was still going on at a late hour tonight. Another Attack Smashed. With the American Army in France, Wednesday, April 10.—The Germans attempted an attack against the American positions northwest of Toul, just before sunrise this morning, and were completely repulsed. Two German prisoners said the enemy planned the attack with a force of 300 men, but that it was stopped in its full strength by the effective fire of the American artillery.

The Americans lost no prisoners. One of the German prisoners died later of wounds.

DRAFT EVADERS JOIN WITH ALIEN ENEMIES

Ottawa, Ont., April 11.—Two deserters from the Canadian army, with several draft evaders and eight enemy aliens, said to be Germans, have taken refuge on an island in the Ottawa river, opposite the Petawana military camp and are defying the authorities.

The party, deserters from Military District No. 3 has raised the red flag. It is said to be well armed and provisioned.

STORM WARNINGS ON NORTH ATLANTIC

Washington, April 11.—Northeast storm warnings today were ordered displayed along the Atlantic Coast from Cape Henry to Boston. The storm of Hatteras was increasing in intensity and probably moving northeast, the Weather Bureau announced. Modern northeast gales were indicated by this afternoon and tonight.

May Close "Wire Houses." Washington, April 11.—Recommendations for the closing of what are known as private wire houses were made today by Food Administrator Hoover replying to notification by grain exchange of self-imposed restrictions effective today for June and July trading.

STATE DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO ADOPT WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Platform Leaves the Question of Votes For Women Severely Alone

CONVENTION WAS A HARMONIOUS AFFAIR

Only Contest Was Over Woman Suffrage—Victor Bryant Delivered Keynote Speech

Special to the Dispatch. Raleigh, N. C., April 11.—The Democratic State convention here yesterday afternoon refused to adopt a plank in its platform favoring woman suffrage, the convention being overwhelmingly against the demands of the women in this respect. The suffrage question developed the only contest of any sort, the balance of the proceedings running along without the least friction. The sentiment of the convention as expressed by those arguing against the suffrage plank, was that there was too much division among the people on this question for it to be injected into the campaign during these times of war.

As the primary system chooses the party's candidates, there was no action along this line by the convention, though there was quite a deal of log-rolling done by the friends of various aspirants.

The platform which was adopted as reported by the committee declares that in this time of great trial the Democratic party takes pleasure in greeting its historical opponent, the Republican party, with assurance of confidence in the loyalty of its membership to our common country and appeals for all parties to subordinate questions of internal policy about which voters are likely to be much divided, so far as the interests of the State will permit, that the winning of the war be the supreme interest.

The principles of the Democratic party are endorsed and the declaration made that it is an obvious fact that the entering of the world war was the only honorable course left to the country and that every thing dear to the people is involved.

The conduct of the war by the Federal authorities is endorsed and special commendation given to Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels as having won the plaudits of all erstwhile critics. There is endorsement of the Senators and Representatives in Congress and especially for Senator Simmons, whose campaign for reelection is to head the Democratic ticket in this campaign.

Governor Bickett's administration and that of the State officers are endorsed and the aid that the Democracy has given to agriculture in the State and the national administration of the party recited. There is endorsement of the proposed Bickett amendment to the constitution to exempt mortgages and notes given in purchase of homes from taxation where the purchase price is not over \$3,000 and the loans run from five to 20 years at 5 1/2 per cent.

Increased support is pledged to the public schools and legislation called for that will assure increased salaries for teachers. All the people are called upon to rally to the support of the worthy ideal summarized in the platform.

When Chairman Morrison, of the Platform Committee, read the report, A. L. Brooks, of Greensboro, spoke in advocacy of a woman suffrage plank, and was supported by S. C. Brawley and R. O. Everett, of Durham. S. M. Gattis, of Hillsboro, and Benehan Cameron, of Stagville, spoke against the proposition. Henry Grady, of Sampson, offered a resolution to permit the women to express themselves on the question at the coming election. This aroused Cameron Morrison, of Mecklenburg, who eloquently pleaded that the whole matter be left alone, and this was done by an overwhelming majority.

Victor Bryant, of Durham, was permanent chairman of the convention, and his keynote speech was a splendid piece of eloquence. He reviewed with pride the development of North Carolina under Democratic rule; praised the conduct of national affairs under a Democratic administration, and made a rousing patriotic address.

Reports of Congressional district conventions naming committees of the convention included the following: First district—Vice president, J. J. Laughton; platform committee, W. G. Lamb; members State executive committee, E. F. Aydtel, A. P. Godwin, Chas. Whedbee, W. G. Lamb, E. A. Daniels and L. W. Tucker.

Second district—Vice presidents, S. G. Daniels, Warren; platform committee, Senator Burgwyn, Northampton; State executive committee, W. O. Howard, Edgecombe; Moses Gilliam, Bertie; John Dunson, Lenoir; W. A. Finch, Wilson; B. B. Williams, Warren; E. L. Travis, Halifax.

Third district—Vice president, H.

UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH NAVAL BASE ON AZORES

Agreement to This Effect Has Been Reached With Portugal

FOR THE PROTECTION OF TRADE ROUTES

In Addition to Being Used As a Naval Base It Will Also Be a Homing Station for Airplanes

Washington, April 11.—For the protection of the Atlantic trade routes to Southern Europe, the United States with the consent of Portugal, has established a naval base on the Azores islands.

Guns have been landed to begin fortification of the station which in addition to being used as a naval base for American submarines, destroyers, and other small craft, also will serve as an important homing station for American airplanes, a number of which already have been assembled there.

Negotiations now are in progress between the State Department and the Portuguese government to insure full co-operation between American naval forces and the local authorities of Portugal on the islands for the adequate defense of the station. This action will simplify the task of protecting the great trade routes not only to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, but also returning traffic to South America and Southern Gulf ports in the United States.

Portugal was not only willing to enter the arrangements, but was eager to see it perfected that her own lines of communication to her colonial possession would be covered. The value of the new station as a base for the replenishment of supplies for American submarines, submarine chasers and destroyers on the voyage to Europe already has been demonstrated.

It is permissible to disclose these facts now because it is known to the government that they are known in Germany.

BOLSHEVIKI ASKS TO MAINTAIN ARMY

London, April 10.—The Bolshevik government has asked Germany for permission to postpone the demobilization of the Russian army in consequence of the Japanese landing at Vladivostok, according to reports in circulation in Petrograd and forwarded by Reuters correspondent.

Alleged Pro-German Tatted. Ashland, Wis., April 11.—Masked men took Adolph Anton, a bar tender, from his home last night and tatted and feathered him because of his alleged pro-Germanism. This is the second episode of its kind in Ashland within two weeks.

L. Stevens, Warsaw; platform, R. A. Dunn, New Bern; State executive committee, Thomas D. Warren, New Bern; Nathan O'Berry, Goldsboro; E. J. Hill, Warsaw; G. D. Canfield, Morehead City; J. K. Dixon, Trenton; H. A. Grady, Clinton.

Fourth district—Vice president, R. S. McColin, Vance; platform, Walter Siler, Chatham; State executive committee, R. H. Hayes, Chatham; B. W. Ballard, Franklin; J. P. Bunn, Nash; Jno. M. Brewer, Wake; J. C. Kittrell, Vance; Ed. Abell, Johnston.

Fifth district—Vice president, Col. Benehan Cameron, Stagville; platform, Gen. B. S. Royster, Granville; executive committee, S. M. Gattis, Orange; S. C. Brawley, Durham; J. H. Vernon, Alamance; D. G. Brummitt, Granville; C. A. Hines, Guilford; N. L. Cranford, Forsythe.

Sixth district—Vice president, Frank Gough, Robeson; platform, Homer Lyon, Columbus; State executive committee, W. S. Cook, Cumberland; T. E. Cooper, New Hanover; George Bellamy, Brunswick; Bayard Clark, Bladen; Homer Lyon, Columbus; A. W. McLean, Robeson.

MESSINES RIDGE IS STILL IN POSSESSION OF BRITISH TROOPS

PERSHING'S CASUALTY LIST HAS 124 NAMES

Only One Was Killed In Action—List of Those Dead

Washington, April 11.—Today's casualty list from General Pershing gives 124 names. As announced by the War Department it shows one man was killed in action; two died of wounds, five died of accidents and 13 of disease. Sixty-nine men were severely wounded and 30 slightly wounded, and four men were reported missing.

The following officers were named in the list: Major Edwin R. Kimball, died of wounds; Captain Francis J. Cahill, missing in action; died of accident Lieutenant Charles D. Seward and Cadets William J. Whyte and C. A. Brader; slightly wounded, Lieutenants Patrick J. Dowling and Eugene Henill.

Killed in action—Private John Pelkey. Died of wounds—Major Edwin R. Kimball; Corporal Thomas J. Roberts. Died of accident—Lieutenant Chas. D. Seward; Cadets C. A. Brader, and William J. Whyte; Privates Frank Bellizzi, and Leland A. Mathews. Died of disease—Corporal Furman Peoples and Privates Leo Francis Farrell, Elmer William N. Shoemaker, Morgan Taylor, William F. Brackman, Isaac Simms; Bugler Andrew A. Dicks, Privates Bennie R. Sellin; Alton J. Durward, Charles W. Epple, Tom Brackette, Leland Johnson, Frank Sheppard.

LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS GROW BY MILLIONS

While Only \$212,005,250 Reported, the Total Is Much Larger

Washington, April 11.—Liberty loan subscriptions officially reported today from eight of the 12 Federal reserve districts for the first three days of the campaign amounted to \$212,005,250. The New York district contributed \$157,200,000. Districts not reporting were Dallas, Minneapolis, Richmond and Philadelphia.

Subscriptions by districts were as follows: Atlanta, \$1,411,400; Boston, \$20,483,000; New York, \$157,200,000; Cleveland, \$6,650; Chicago, \$29,135,000; St. Louis, \$1,394,100; Kansas City, \$1,251,450; San Francisco, \$1,123,850. Many of these reports, officials admitted, included only a small proportion of subscriptions actually made in the districts. In many cases, however, initial payments have not been made or banks have been slow in reporting them. It is expected that figures to be compiled later today will show a much higher total.

CUBA TO FURNISH A MEDICAL UNIT

Havana, Wednesday, April 10.—Voting under a suspension of the rules, the Senate late today adopted the resolution providing for the sending to the battlefields of France a medical unit consisting of 100 doctors and an equal number of nurses to represent the Cuban Red Cross. The bill must now go to the lower House for consideration.

The Senate also passed a resolution empowering the President at any time he deems the food situation in Cuba warrants such action to suspend all duties on cattle or fresh meats entering this country. The maximum period of suspension as fixed by the measure is two years and may be withdrawn at the discretion of the chief executive.

NEW YORK STILL BUYING BONDS

New York, April 11.—The New York Federal Reserve district subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan had reached \$174,380,500 today, it was officially announced, an increase of approximately \$17,000,000 over last night's total of \$157,000,000 at the close of business.

A crowd estimated at 30,000 persons jammed the streets about the sub-treasury building today to hear Mary Pickford appeal for subscriptions. A sea of hands went up when she asked how many intended to subscribe.

The Positions At That Point Have Changed Hands Several Times

BRITISH WITHDRAW FROM ARMENTIERES

Gas Clouds Forced Evacuation of That Position—Violent Fighting From LaBassée to Ypres.

London, April 11.—The British have withdrawn from Armentieres on the northern battlefield, the war office announced. Violent fighting continues all along the front from LaBassée canal to the Ypres-Comines canal.

On the front, north of Armentieres heavy fighting was continuing late last night. There was little change in the British positions. The statement follows: "The battle is continuing on the whole front from LaBassée canal to the Ypres-Comines canal."

"Severe fighting has taken place in the neighborhood of the Lawe and Lys canals from about Lestrem to Armentieres. Our troops have been withdrawn from Armentieres, which is full of gas.

"North of Armentieres there is little change in the situation. Heavy fighting was continuing at a late hour last night in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert, Messines and Wytschaete.

FIGHT ON NEW PLAN FOR SELECTING QUOTAS

Opposition to Making Number of Men in Class the Basis

Washington, April 11.—A fight over the Administration's plan to base selective draft quotas on the number of men in class on rather than on population as is done at present, was imminent in the House today in the calling up of the Senate resolution providing the change. Efforts to reach a unanimous agreement in the House Military committee failed recently and members decided to thresh out the differences on the floor.

Representative Dent, of Alabama, chairman of the committee, and a majority of the members agreed to the administration plan while a minority led by Representative Shallenberger, of Nebraska, maintained that the quota should be based on the number of registrants in all cases and also that credit should be given for draft eligibles who have enlisted. It is understood that Provost Marshal Crowder does not object to the credit feature, but he has insisted that the quota should be based on the number of men in class one.

WILL ADDRESS THE CHAMBER

Mr. C. N. Wiley Also Speaks to the Public at the Hemenway Tonight

An address by Mr. C. N. Wiley, district engineer for the Portland Cement Association, who speaks at the Hemenway school tonight on concrete shipbuilding, will feature this afternoon's regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. The chamber was instrumental in having Mr. Wiley come here and because of the fact that the government had definitely determined upon this city as a point for concrete shipbuilding interest in cement and cement mixtures is very high. He has many friends here and all members of the chamber are expected to hear him this afternoon. The public is invited to attend his lecture tonight at 8 o'clock in the Hemenway auditorium.

Columbia Honors English Prelate

New York, April 11.—The authorities of Columbia University today conferred the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon the Most Rev. Cosmo Gordon Lang, archbishop of York and primate of England, who is now paying his first visit to America. The degree was conferred by President Nicholas Murray Butler in the presence of the trustees and faculty and a large number of guests. Included among the latter were many bishops of the Episcopal Church in the United States who are holding a session in this city.