

ALLIES THREATEN OFFENSIVE MOVE

SPIRITED ACTION MARK PRACTICALLY EVERY SECTOR OF THE WESTERN FRONT.

AIR FORCES ARE VERY ACTIVE

America and Allies Control Entire Western Front—Superior in Guns, Men, Shells, and Planes.

As the allied world has, day after day, read the official reports from the allied and Teuton war offices in the hope that some inkling of the real situation would present itself, the realization has come home that the Americans, French, British, Belgian and Portuguese troops are maintaining their control over the front running from the North Sea to Switzerland. Artillery fire, at some points growing in intensity, is reported, but the allies have held their own and their raiding parties are everywhere busy in the enemy's trenches. The long expected and confidently awaited German drive has not materialized and the allies threaten to start an offensive of their own at various points against the Teutonic legions.

There is hardly a sector on the western battle line which is not being marked by spirited actions, but Verdun and the Vosges regions are apparently storm centers where big events may develop. At Verdun the opposing artilleries have been thundering for several days, especially on the right bank of the Meuse.

In the Vosges mountains, the artillery fighting is reported to be very heavy, although no infantry actions have been mentioned in the war office statements issued at Paris and Berlin.

One of the most encouraging features of the war news may be found in the fact that the Belgian army, reorganized and ready for battle, has taken over the important coast sector in Flanders. This part of the western front has heretofore been held by the French, although British troops have made their appearance there at various periods. That the Belgian army, which is said to be excellent in morale, has freed the French and British forces for action elsewhere on the front demonstrates that the past winter has been one of constructive work on the part of the Belgian and allied army staffs. The latest official report said that attacks by German shock troops have been repulsed by the Belgians.

100 AIRPLANES IN ACTION ALL DRIVEN BY AMERICANS.

In the headquarters of one of the American aviation centers, Secretary Baker inquired if all of the host of aviators, sent first from America were first to complete their training in France and if all of them had been commissioned. The chief of the aviation told the secretary that all of them had not yet, because of reasons which he explained, had no chance to take their final training.

When the secretary's train came into the aviation region, the sky was darkly overcast and the clouds were of a blue gray color, which the aviation observers say constitutes the finest background for seeing air work. Many monoplanes and bi-planes awaited the secretary's arrival upon the field; then with a rush one after another took the air until toward the end of the morning, a hundred machines were in flight and every machine was driven by an American. Individual aviators practiced maneuvers used in combat, such as reversing the director of the flight by turning edgewise upon one wing, or spinning in nose-dives. Then there were evolutions in fittilla formation of fives, after that in squadrons of 15.

"With all these machines in the air," remarked a French officer, "we see no more than a tenth of what America has in this one school. You will soon have no more need for French instruction."

"THE FINISHED MYSTERY" HAS FOUND ITS FINISH

Washington.—Because "The Finished Mystery," a Bible study textbook, described patriotism as "a certain delusion" and a "narrow-minded hatred of other peoples" and war as "a work of satan," distribution of the book was forbidden by the department of justice, acting under the espionage act. Thousands of copies of the book have been seized in many states, but it was not until recently that the department prohibited its distribution.

SERG. MAJ. FLORA SANDES



Sergt. Maj. Flora Sandes, who was wounded while fighting in the Serbian army, receiving therefor the Serbian V. C. medal, photographed while selling programs at the war exhibition at Burlington house, London, in aid of the British Red Cross.

DUTCH SHIPS ARE TAKEN OVER

VESSELS WERE TAKEN OVER MONDAY, MARCH 18, UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Her Plea of Germany's Submarine Menace Availed Her Nothing—According to Law.

One million tons of Dutch shipping which will be used in sending supplies to the armies of the allies or in transporting troops to the war zones, were taken over by the United States and Great Britain Monday, March 18, thus relieving in great measure a dire need of the countries at war with the Teutonic allies.

Holland's hesitancy to come into an agreement with the United States and Great Britain which would permit of the use of ships flying her flag, many of which are now lying in American and allied ports, no longer is to be tolerated, and next Monday, whether she be willing or not, the vessels will be taken over under the provisions of international law and put into uses which are highly essential to the success of the allied cause.

Holland yet has time to acquiesce in the demands of the United States and Great Britain and sanction the use of her shipping, but her plea of Germany's menace no longer will avail, and there is to be no modification in the decision of the United States and the allies to seize all Dutch vessels in their respective ports throughout the world and use them. Liberal compensation is to be awarded owners of the vessels and all their rights will be safeguarded. In addition the export of foodstuffs to Holland will be permitted and coal by which Holland may resume her interrupted trade with her colonies will be guaranteed.

Washington (deleted).—A million tons of Dutch ships, now held in ports the world over, through Holland's fear of Germany's threat to sink them if they venture out, will be brought into the service of the United States and Great Britain on March 18.

Unless the Netherlands government braves the menace of Germany's pressure and voluntarily accepts an agreement under which the ships would be put in trade, the United States and Great Britain will take them over under international law, availing themselves of a sovereign right which Germany herself has hitherto exercised under the same authority.

GAS PROJECTILES ARE BLOWN TO PIECES

Four groups of German gas projectors in addition to the group of 200 projectors already discovered and likewise blown to pieces by the American artillery. Probable German plans for gas attack on a comparatively large scale against the American positions northwest of Toul have thus been upset.

The new group of projectors were discovered from aerial photographs taken by American observers in French airplanes. The effective action taken against them was due to the quick work of the observers, the intelligence officers and the artillerists in

STRONG RAID MADE UPON AMERICANS

PERMISSION NOT GIVEN TO PUBLISH THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES.

APPARENTLY AFTER PRISONERS

Purpose of Raid Was Quickly Accomplished: Was After Information from Captured Americans.

After a terrific artillery preparation large numbers of the enemy crossed No-man's-Land on the extreme right of the American sector, northwest of Toul. Apparently the purpose of the raid was quickly accomplished and only a comparatively small number entered our lines. Permission has not been given to mention the number of casualties.

This raid, like most of the others carried out all the way, from the sea to Switzerland, was designed to gather information by means of taking prisoners.

East of Luneville our patrols have explored part of the German trench which our artillery forced the enemy to abandon. Patrols proceeded laterally until they established contact with the Germans. Our reconnaissance and wire patrols found snipers' posts, listening and nests from which machine guns had been firing on our lines. The artillery attended to all these posts. The German positions have been so uncomfortable at several places that they now are trying to regain a foothold by connection shell holes. Our troops have been subject to an extraordinary heavy artillery fire. More than 240 shells, which make craters 20 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter, fell in one section of the line. In another section batteries have been shelled heavily. More gas shells have fallen in both the Toul and Luneville sectors, but the larger number in the former.

500 ARMY HORSES OUT OF 726 WERE POISONED

Ten Thousand People Join in Remarkable Demonstration.

Covington, Ky.—A crowd estimated at 10,000, which included men, women and children here, participated in a remarkable demonstration of patriotic protest against what is believed to be pro-German propaganda in Covington as exemplified by the poisoning of 500 of 726 government artillery horses shipped from Camp Grant, Illinois for an Atlantic seaport.

Ten thousand others were unable to get near the field outside of the stockade of the Covington stockyards where lay the carcasses of hundreds of animals and the steadily diminishing number of survivors of the poison plot.

Emotions of the throng had been aroused to a high pitch of patriotic fervor when an interruption from a man giving the name of Richard Schmidt, 23 years old, nearly brought about his lynching. As it was, he was severely beaten before police locked him up. The mass meeting of protest was held under the auspices of the Citizens' Patriotic League of Covington. The meeting decided to send a memorial to congress calling upon the congressional law-makers to enact a law internment every enemy alien within the borders of the United States and making more stringent the laws governing all seditious and traitorous acts.

An investigation of the poisoning of the horses is being conducted by federal agents.

Acquire Egyptian Cotton.

London.—The British and Egyptian governments have decided jointly to acquire the entire Egyptian cotton crop beginning next August. A commission has been appointed to take control of the regulations.

MESSAGE CABLED FROM THE HAGUE TO LONDON.

The Hague.—After a cabinet council lasting into the night, the government cabled to London a message which, according to reliable information, probably will lead to a satisfactory conclusion of the shipping difficulty. An Amsterdam dispatch said it had been learned on excellent authority that the Dutch government had accepted the demand of the entente allies relating to the use of Dutch ships in the danger zone.

GEN. SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON



Gen. Sir William Robertson, who resigned as chief of the British general staff, has been given the rather unimportant command of the eastern part of England.

PLANES HAVE LIBERTY MOTOR

FIRST ONES THUS EQUIPPED ARE TRIED OUT AND ACCEPTED BY DEPARTMENT.

Advance Guard of New Craft Being Delivered or Use in Submarine Hunting.

Washington.—America's first fighting seaplane equipped with Liberty motors has been tried out and accepted, it was learned, and a number of the craft are now being delivered for the use of the naval air service. They are the advance guard of a big fleet which will be added to the forces engaged in submarine hunting in the war zone.

A second type of fighting plane for the American army known as the "Bristol model" also has now reached the production stage and a considerable number will become available during the present month. Still another type, a two-seated machine, also is being manufactured.

Construction details of these planes have never been published. It is known, however, that the seaplanes are substantially similar to the British flying boats and are equipped with two Liberty motors, which provide approximately 700 horsepower to drive the ship. This is understood to be much in excess of the power used by similar British craft and their performance is expected to be proportionately better.

In this connection, it was learned that engineers of the aircraft now have overcome the last minor defect of the Liberty motors, having to do with the lubricating system. A number of motors taken haphazardly from the quantity production supply have been operated continuously for many hours without any trouble developing.

Officials in close touch with progress being made on production of fighting planes in this country are still satisfied that the output will tax shipping facilities before July.

BOLSHEVIKI CREW IS MENACE TO VESSEL

Norfolk, Va.—Bolshevism struck Norfolk in the shape of the crew of the Russian steamship Omak and it raged with more or less intensity from 11 o'clock in the morning in and out of federal offices back and forth from ship to shore until finally at a late hour the whole crowd of malcontents, to the number of 49, were taken into custody by a force of 35 Norfolk police acting under the personal direction of Major Ford and marched from the steamer to police headquarters where they were locked up.

BALLOON FALLS 3,200 FEET; THREE INJURED

Temple, Texas.—Capt. B. H. Fournier, of San Antonio, suffered a severe scalp wound, Cadet G. W. Adams, received a broken leg and Cadet E. M. Hawley sustained a sprained back when the balloon in which they were making a trial flight from San Antonio fell from an altitude of 3,200 feet near Killen, this county. Something went wrong with the valve in the top of the bag, it was said.

HAVE PEACE TERMS COME TO BRITAIN?

LORD CECIL SAYS THAT NO SUCH PROPOSALS ARE BEING "CONSIDERED."

PEACE IS OFFERED SERBIA

Holland in "Perilous" Situation, on Account of Allied Nations Taking Over Her Ships.

That peace terms have been offered Great Britain by Germany may possibly be inferred from several significant statements given out.

Lord Robert Cecil, British minister of blockade, when asked if proposals "had been received for a peace at the expense of Russia" answered that "no such proposals are being considered or will be considered."

A little earlier an Amsterdam dispatch quoted Field Marshal von Hindenburg as saying that "the entente has shown an unresponsive attitude toward Germany's peace intentions and the great German offensive must therefore go on."

Later General von Ludendorff, the German quartermaster general, was reported as saying: "Since the enemy is not inclined to make peace, we will have to fight, and this fight will, of course, be the most tremendous of the whole war."

Ludendorff Boasts Strength.

General von Ludendorff continued: "We are stronger than the enemy as regards men, material, aerial forces, tanks. Everything, in fact, of which he boasted is standing in readiness on our side in the greatest abundance."

The treaty of peace submitted by Germany to Russia at Brest-Litovsk, which makes Russia an outpost of the central empires, has either been ratified by the all-Russian congress of soviets or its ratification apparently is imminent.

Reports from Moscow are not clear on the situation, but it seems certain that the bolshevik element has voted by a large majority to affirm the treaty. As this element dominates the congress, the hard terms will doubtless be accepted, notwithstanding reports that Leon Trotsky, the mouthpiece of the bolsheviks, is opposed to their provisions and is willing to try to reorganize the Russian army to fight the German invaders.

Holland stands in a perilous situation, according to the German newspapers, which are printing editorials, evidently inspired, on the taking over of Dutch ships by the United States and Great Britain. "Drastic measures" are advocated if Holland "gives way" to the allies.

FIFTY HORSES ARE DEAD; RESULT OF GERMAN HAND

Covington, Ky.—Fifty horses are dead of poisoning in Covington and many more are expected to die out of a government shipment of 736 horses from Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill., consigned to Newport News, Va. Dr. I. E. Crisler, veterinary surgeon, Covington, pronounced the death of the animals to be due to belladonna and croton oil poisoning.

The consignment of horses reached Covington in charge of Lieut. Frank Lilley and 16 soldiers. Doctor Crisler said he believed the poison had been placed in water given to the horses in Covington. Government authorities were notified. An agent of the department of justice began an investigation. Deaths of the horses generally are said to be ramifications of German plots.

Bow to Germany's Will.

Washington.—The decision of the all-Russian congress of soviets at Moscow to ratify the German peace terms, announced in press cables was reached after receipt of President Wilson's message to the Russian people assuring them that America would take the first opportunity to help them regain their complete sovereignty and independence.

TROOPS ENJOY SUNSHINE AFTER WEEKS OF RAIN

After weeks of rain, snow, wind and murky weather there came to the American front its first bath of genial spring sunshine. The skies were cloudless, and in the moderate temperature that prevailed sweaters were discarded by the men for the first time since last summer, while in the villages where they are billeted and in the cantonments in the training area, the camps were decorated with rolls of bedding, being given an airing.

JESSE BOWDEN TO DIE IN THE CHAIR

CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE BURGLARY IN CRAVEN COUNTY LAST FALL.

UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT

Bowden Says He and Another Negro Started Out to "Have a Little Fun"—Will Get It.

Raleigh.—Jesse Bowden, a Craven county negro, must die in the electric chair for the crime of first degree burglary, the Supreme court handing down a decision affirming his conviction in the Superior court of Craven county.

The crime was committed last August. Lee Perkins and Jesse Bowden, both negroes, broke into the home of Mr. W. A. Wilson, near the town of Dover, Bowden entering a room occupied by two daughters of Mr. Wilson and Perkins going into a room occupied by another daughter. The latter was awakened and cried out, and at the noise the Bowden negro crawled under the bed on which the two girls were asleep and was found there by the father a little later. In his defense he maintained that he was drunk and that he did not know where he was at the time or what he was doing there, further than that he had started out with the Perkins negro to "have a little fun." Both the negroes were convicted of first degree burglary, and Bowden appealed. The Supreme court finds no error in the trial below, at which Judge Thomas H. Calvert presided.

Wandering Child Nearly Starved.

Washington.—After having been missing for two days, Sarah Griffin, the nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Griffin, of Thompson's Creek, was found almost starved to death and completely exhausted, seven miles from home in the woods.

Sarah wandered away from home while at play. She strayed off into the woods, looking for violets. Paying no attention to where she was going, she lost all sense of direction and soon found herself completely at a loss as to the location of her home. She ran until completely exhausted and at last fell down and slept at the foot of a tree. The next morning she continued her search for home. She went all day without a thing to eat, although she managed to secure water from the shallow places in the woods where the rain had made puddles. The second night was also spent in the woods. When the searching party of ten men found her the next morning she was in a pitiable condition. It is believed that she would have died before nightfall. She was taken home and medical attention summoned.

Prominent Man Drowns Self.

Salisbury.—J. N. Ledford, aged 45, living in the northern part of Rowan county and manager of the Irvin Mill Company's large store at Coolemees committed suicide by drowning in the mill race at Coolemees. He left a couple of notes, in one of which he told where his body would be found. In another note, addressed to his brother-in-law, J. B. Ivey, of Charlotte, he told where his money was and asked Mr. Ivey to act as his administrator. No motive for the deed has been disclosed.

To be sure of a successful job, Mr. Ledford tied an iron weight about his neck. A widow and six children survive.

Get 20 Per Cent Increase.

Monroe.—The teachers in the Monroe graded schools have been allowed an increase of 20 per cent in salary. This matter had been up for consideration before the aldermen not long ago. The increase was not allowed then, the aldermen claiming that the city did not have the necessary funds. At the last meeting of the aldermen the teachers' demand for higher pay was again taken up and this time an increase of 20 per cent was allowed.

A New Gun Sight.

Monroe.—I. S. Noles, a young man of Indian Trail in this county, has invented what he claims is an improved machine gun sight. He has been working on it for the past 18 months. This improved sight as planned by him will enable the man who is firing the gun to do his own sighting and will also make the gun more effective at short range. The invention has won the consideration of the national council of defense and the war department. Noles has forwarded one of his sights to them.