

HUNS LAUNCH TEMPEST OF FIRE ON BRITISH FRONT

TERRIFIC STORM OF ARTILLERY FIRE BURSTS OVER THE ALLIES LINE

Long-Expected Spring Offensive on Western Front May Have at Last Been Lunched—Attack Made Yesterday on British Lines Was on Largest Scale Known so Far During the Entire War—Differences of Opinion as to Whether Germans Are Really Beginning Great Drive or Are Making a Feint to Conceal Some Other Move.

Exactly 25 months after the Germans began the historic battle of Verdun, the thunder of their guns deepened into a tempest of fire along the British front in northern France and they began what may be the greatest battle of the war, a struggle which may lead to results which will shape the destinies of millions of people over coming centuries.

The attack was made on a scale hitherto unknown during this war of major offensives. It was over a front of 50 miles. Official reports are very brief, but correspondents at the scene tell of the terrific storm of artillery fire that burst over the lines held by Field Marshal Haig's men.

The bombardment began at five o'clock Thursday morning, just before the early dawn was breaking over eastern France. Shells of large and small calibres were rained upon the lines held by the British for about five hours. Then German infantry stormed out to make the first great assault. The Germans favored by the wind, moved forward under cover of a pall of smoke, which hid the assaulting columns from the eyes of the British holding the front lines.

No Need for Alarm. Describing the battle, Andrew Bonar Law informed the House of Commons that lightly held portions of the British line had been withdrawn, but said that there was no need for alarm on the part of the country. The Associated Press correspondent at the British front, reports that an attack there had been expected and that great preparations had been made to meet it. The Berlin official report says that the Germans have penetrated into some British positions.

Nor were the German efforts concentrated on the front held by the British. Early Thursday morning the Germans assaulted the French lines near the village of Ornes, to the northeast of Verdun, and claim to have penetrated a considerable distance. Near Rheims, too, the French were subjected to an assault, but here the artillery bore the brunt of the fighting.

The attacks at Verdun and Rheims, however, may be considered for the time being, as mere diversions to the principal attack, which has been loosed against the British. They would serve to keep French forces at Verdun and Rheims from being transferred to the British sector, if that part of the battle line should show any signs of bending back.

Nothing has been reported as to attacks on the lines held by the Americans. It had been expected that the Germans would make an assault on the American-held trenches in the Lorraine and Toul sectors, acting on the theory that troops which

have not had experience in engagements of the first degree, might be found to yield easier than veterans. That such an attack may yet be launched, and with only slight artillery preparation, is within the possibilities.

The activity in the American sectors during the past three weeks would indicate that the Germans have been concerned with the disposition of General Pershing's legions, their probable strength and the locations of the batteries supporting the infantry holding the lines.

The Germans have called upon the Austrian army for assistance in their efforts to carry the battle to the Entente Allies, for the official reports from Berlin say that Austro-Hungarian artillery is engaged along the western front. It is probable that the great Austrian howitzers or skodas have been used against the stronger sectors of the British lines.

BIGGERMAN FORCES THROWN AGAINST BRITISH

(By International News Service.) WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 22.—It is estimated that over half a million men and ten thousand pieces of artillery were engaged in the mighty battle in France where the Germans launched their offensive against the British over a 50 mile front.

This estimate includes reserve troops and artillery as well as those actually engaged in the fighting.

Since the collapse of Russia it is believed that the Germans have moved large numbers of troops from the East front to the West.

It is now estimated that the German army in the West numbers 3,000,000 men.

DEATHS

Mrs. Kate Brittain Dead.

Her many friends were shocked to learn that Mrs. Kate Brittain died at Tranquil Park Sanatorium, Charlotte, this morning shortly before eleven o'clock. Death was due to pneumonia which developed after she went to the hospital a few days ago for rest and recuperation following the shock occasioned by the death of her sister, Mrs. Frances Carpenter, of Stanley. At the time of going to press no arrangements had been made as to the funeral and burial. Mrs. Brittain made her home here with her son, Mr. Eugene Brittain, who was with her at the time of her death. Her brother, Mr. O. F. Mason, is confined to his home here by illness. A sketch of Mrs. Brittain will appear in Monday's Gazette.

MISS EMMA RICE.

Mr. J. C. McNeely received a message this morning from Mrs. McNeely stating that the latter's sister, Miss Emma Jane Rice, died in Watts Hospital at Durham this morning at 3 o'clock. Death was due to blood-poisoning and followed a very brief illness. Miss Rice was a student nurse at the Watts Hospital and would have been graduated from that institution in May. A letter to Mrs. McNeely a few days ago from one of the hospital nurses informed her that her sister was sick. It was not known, however, that she was in a serious condition until Wednesday when Mrs. McNeely received a telegram calling her to Durham.

Deceased was about 21 years old. Both of her parents are dead. Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. McNeely, of Gastonia; Mrs. J. H. Sapp, of Charlotte; and Mrs. N. C. Little, of Salisbury, and two brothers, Mr. Sidney Rice of the Coast Artillery stationed at Fort Caswell, and Mr. T. M. Rice, of Salisbury.

The body will be taken to Salisbury where the funeral will be held tomorrow at the home of Mrs. Little. Rev. John W. Moore, pastor of Trinity church, Charlotte, and formerly pastor of the First church at Salisbury, will conduct the services. Deceased was a loyal member of the Methodist church and a young woman of beautiful Christian character. Her death in the very bloom of her womanhood brings sorrow to many hearts.

Mr. McNeely will leave this afternoon for Salisbury to attend the funeral.

BOSCHEE'S GEEFMAN SYRUP.

Will quiet your cough, soothe the inflammation of a sore throat and lungs, stop irritation in the bronchial tubes, insuring a good night's rest, free from coughing, and with easy expectoration in the morning. Made and sold in America for fifty-two years. A wonderful prescription, assisting nature in building up your general health and throwing off the disease. Especially useful in lung trouble, asthma, croup, bronchitis, etc. For sale by Kennedy's Drug Store, 36 and 38 cent bottles.

REST ROOM SECURED FOR USE OF SOLDIERS

Following instructions given them by the conference of ministers and heads of women's organizations held Monday night, the committee appointed to secure and equip rooms up town for the use of the soldiers at the artillery camp has leased the Rankin building at the corner of West Main avenue and York street. The building will be equipped at once with shower baths, writing tables, chairs and other conveniences and a competent person will be placed in charge.

This building will be free to the soldiers and will be open for their use at all times. It is the committee's purpose to place in the reading room books, magazines and newspapers for the soldiers.

Mr. J. H. Separk is chairman of the committee. The other members are S. A. Robinson, D. M. Jones, J. M. Shuford and T. E. Summerrow.

MR. ALLEN ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Secretary Fred M. Allen of the Chamber of Commerce is spending the day in Charlotte attending a conference of Southern Educators called by United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton for the purpose of considering various problems pertaining to public school education. The conference is being held at the Selwyn Hotel and will continue through tomorrow. Prominent school men of this and other States are on the program, Dr. Claxton is present and presiding over the conference.

While in Charlotte Mr. Allen will make an effort to get Dr. Claxton to come to Gastonia to deliver an address.

Town and County.

—Prof. Joe Nixon, of Cherryville, was a visitor to Gastonia yesterday.

—Miss Macie Neill, of Clover, was in the city shopping yesterday.

—Rev. J. S. Wood, of Forest City, was a Gastonia visitor Wednesday.

—Mrs. J. Holland Morrow and Miss Mary Kirven are spending the day in Charlotte.

—Prof. J. H. Ramseur, of Bessemer City, was a visitor in Charlotte yesterday.

—Miss Lois Bass, of Semora, arrived Tuesday night to be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Armstrong.

—Mr. Marvin Ritch, of the Charlotte bar, was here yesterday in the interest of his candidacy for the solicitorship.

—Mrs. J. Leake Carraway, of Charlotte, spent Tuesday in the city as the guest of her mother, Mrs. E. F. Glenn.

—Mr. Leonard R. Neill returned Wednesday to Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., after a visit to non-folks in the Pisgah neighborhood.

—Rev. J. H. Henderlite and Mr. J. H. Kennedy returned last night from Greensboro where they attended a called meeting of the Synod of North Carolina.

—Mr. H. M. Keeney, architect, has returned to the city after spending two months at Albuquerque, N. M., and points in Colorado. Mr. Keeney is as yet undecided in the matter of permanently locating here.

—Mr. James Bracey and Mr. J. E. Phillips, who have been quarantined because of smallpox, were released today by City Physician Anderson. They have been occupying a house in the extreme western edge of the city which was rented for this purpose and have had the services of trained nurses throughout their illness.

—Dr. Fellows, of Charlotte, connected with the United States Public Health Service, spent Wednesday in the city with City Physician Anderson examining the city's water supply, the sanitary conditions around the cafes, hotels and other public places and looking the town over generally from a health standpoint.

—Cleveland Star: Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Davis, formerly of Shelby, now living at Gastonia, came over Saturday to attend a birthday dinner on Sunday at the home of his son, Mr. Cleve Davis, who lives on the old Hartness place west of Shelby. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Davis and her father, Mr. Hambricht Black, were all born in the month of March and enjoy a birthday dinner each year.

—Messrs. Michael & Bivens and Dane S. Rhyme have leased from G. E. Hathcock the Royal Cafe quarters and have opened up a restaurant. It is under the supervision of Mr. Rhyme. Mr. Vernon Upton, formerly with Bynum's, is with the cafe, which will be known as Rhyme's Cafe. The interior has been renovated and remodeled and put into first-class shape. The location is a splendid one, being just opposite the post-office.

Try This For Sour Stomach.

Eat slowly, masticate your food thoroughly. Eat but little meat and none at all for supper. If you are still troubled with sour stomach take one of Chamberlain's Tablets before going to bed.

ARTILLERY CAMP NAMED FOR MAJOR CHRONICLE

General Babbitt, in charge of the artillery range here, issued an official order this morning designating the name of the camp as Camp Chronicle in honor of Major William Chronicle, one of the outstanding figures among the American forces in the famous Revolutionary battle of Kings Mountain which was fought almost within a stone's throw of where the artillerymen are now practicing. The name is most appropriate.

In reply to a request from General Babbitt for the names of some of the North Carolina heroes of the battle of Kings Mountain, for some one of whom the camp might be named, Secretary Fred M. Allen, of the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday addressed the following communication to the general:

Mar. 14, 1918. Edwin B. Babbitt, Brigadier-General, Commanding Artillery Range Camp, Gastonia, North Carolina. Dear General:

Referring to the question of a name for the camp, the understanding being that you desire that of a North Carolina hero of the Revolutionary War:

We would like to have used one of the names of the heroes of King's Mountain, especially as the range borders on the battleground and as many of our families are descendants of the men who routed Ferguson's troops on the mountain that day.

General Shelby was a Marylander and a camp is named after him. General Sevier was a Tennessean and a camp is named for him. But some of the hardest fighting was done by a regiment of men from this section of which the officers were Colonel Wm. Graham of Virginia, Lieut. Colonel Frederick Hambricht of this section and Major Wm. Chronicle, born and reared on the South Fork a few miles below where the Fourth Brigade crossed it at McAdenville, Monday. Colonel Graham was kept away from the battle by illness in his family. Lieut. Colonel Hambricht preferred that Major Chronicle take the lead with the regiment, over his head, because of the Major's better knowledge of the country. Colonel Hambricht was himself wounded in the battle.

Major Chronicle led his forces into battle accordingly, shouting, "Come on my boys, never let it be said that a York boy ran!" A few moments after a Tory, hiding behind a rock which I could show you, fired at the Major, the ball striking him in the breast and killing him.

So Hambricht and Chronicle were both local men taking part in the battle and Chronicle was really the hero of the battle. The Chronicle Mill at Belmont was named after him.

If you could use one of these names, it would be most pleasing to the people of this section of the State.

If you desire any further recommendation kindly advise me by telephone.

Very truly yours, FRED M. ALLEN, Executive Secretary.

GERMAN NAVAL WORKS AT OSTEND DAMAGED.

(By International News Service.) AMSTERDAM, March 22.—Damage was done to the German naval works at Ostend harbor by a bombardment from British airships Friday, say Belgian dispatches.

WILL PREACH SPECIAL SERMON TO SOLDIERS.

The congregation of the Loray Baptist church is planning to celebrate next Sunday, March 24th, as "Soldiers' Day." A special feature of the service will be the "Honor Roll," containing the names of the more than 60 boys from the West Gastonia community who are now in the service of Uncle Sam, which have been written on a canvas scroll.

The pastor, Rev. G. P. Abernethy, will preach a special sermon on the subject, "The Bible, the War and Your Country." A large number of the West Gastonia boys who are in Camp Jackson and Camp Sevier are expected to be present for this service, and a special invitation will be extended to the soldiers from the artillery camp just west of the city.

—Mrs. C. J. Thompson and Mrs. J. B. Wylie, of Charlotte, spent the day yesterday at the home of Mrs. Mack Wilson. Mrs. Wylie will remain with Mrs. Hal Little, of McAdenville. Mrs. Wilson's daughter, until the return of her mother, Mrs. Wilson, who is in Atlanta, Ga., visiting her daughter, Miss Mary Wilson.

It is expected that the case of Aaron and Garfield Pitts, on trial at Morganton for the murder of Dr. E. A. Hennessee at Glen Alpine, will go to the jury either today or tomorrow. Argument by attorneys was commenced yesterday morning.

Bad Taste in Your Mouth.

When you have a bad taste in your mouth you may know that your digestion is faulty. A dose of Chamberlain's Tablets will usually correct the disorder. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels. You will find this to be one of the best medicines you have ever become acquainted with.

FIRING GUNS ON RANGE THIS AFTERNOON

Three batteries of artillery, one from each of the regiments stationed at Camp Chronicle west of the city, are practicing on the artillery range, six miles west of the city, this afternoon. From now on, it is understood, there will be practice each day on the range and Gastonians will no doubt hear the roar of the big guns.

MR. WATSON TO MANAGE NATIONAL REALTY CO.

Mr. J. W. Watson and family have arrived in Gastonia from Newbern and will make their home in Gastonia in the future. Mr. Watson having accepted a position as manager of the National Realty Company. They will occupy the Dr. Hoffman residence on East Airline avenue. Mr. Watson succeeds Mr. J. Stacy Boyce, who leaves soon to enter the military service of the United States. Mr. Watson is a brother of Mrs. Thomas L. Craig. He and Mrs. Watson and their five children will be accorded a cordial welcome to Gastonia.

Speaking of Mr. Watson's departure from Newbern The Sun-Journal of that city of Wednesday says:

"Of interest to his friends in this part of the State is the announcement that Mr. J. W. Watson, who has for 20 years been a valued employee in the New Bern postoffice, ranking as chief clerk with the duties of money order and registry clerk, has resigned his position and will leave on March 20th for Gastonia, where he will act as manager of the National Realty Company, of that city.

"Mr. Watson, who is one of New Bern's best-known citizens, recently disposed of his residence on New street to Mr. A. H. Bangert and the latter will occupy that property after April 1st. Attached to this property is a flower garden which is one of the finest to be found in this part of the State. Mr. Watson having a penchant for growing flowers.

"He and his family will be missed from the life of the community but their friends wish for them much success in their new home."

The Newbernian of last Friday, under the heading "A Distinct Loss" says editorially of Mr. Watson:

"It is always with regret that we are compelled to publish the departure of one of our good citizens to other fields. We wish that it was different, for no city can afford to lose a single one of its citizens. They are our assets and when they are gone we lose just that amount of assets.

"If there is a reason for it, and it could be remedied, it should be done at once, and when a man who has lived here most of his natural life, pulls up stakes and leaves, there must be a reason.

"The last one to leave us, or rather making preparations to do so, is Mr. J. W. Watson, a decided asset to any town in which he resides. He is a good citizen, a consistent member of the Methodist church, and by the way, he is on the official board of stewards, and a member of the choir. For over 15 years he has been connected with the New Bern postoffice, as money order clerk, and was in complete charge of the office many times when the postmaster was unable to attend to the duties of his office.

"Mr. Watson will be greatly missed for his production of flowers. He was a great horticulturist, and it was a treat to visit his gardens and view the many splendid productions of his pains and efforts.

"Mr. Watson and family go to Gastonia, where he will fill a responsible position and the wishes of the New Bern people and The New Bernian is, that he and his many greatly profit by the move and wish them unbounded success in their new home."

MUSIC CLUB MET WITH MRS. RUTER.

The Gastonia Music Club met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. H. Ruter at her home on South Marietta street. In the absence of the president, Mrs. F. D. Barkley, Mrs. J. M. Holland, the first vice-president, presided.

A program on Indian Music was greatly enjoyed. A report from the finance committee on the concert which the Music Club gave recently, presenting Miss Jane Morris and Mr. Marion B. Walker as artists, was heard. The nice sum of \$84 was realized for the Red Cross.

The body of Mrs. J. L. Anderson, a prominent Morganton woman who disappeared from her home two weeks or more ago, was found Wednesday in the Catawba river several miles below Morganton, near Drexel. This discovery confirmed the theory that Mrs. Anderson had committed suicide by drowning herself in the river.

One thousand carpenters will be put to work within a few days on the huge government hospital which is to be erected at Azalea, near Asheville, at a cost of \$1,700,000. The contract was awarded to Gude & Co. of Atlanta. The hospital will be for convalescent soldiers sent back from the European battle fronts.

GERMANY MAKES THREATS AGAINST HOLLAND

(By International News Service.) LONDON, March 22.—Dispatches from Amsterdam today declare that Germany is increasing her coercive measures against Holland even to the point of threatening war. It is reported that Germany has warned Holland against abandoning the remaining restrictive causes in her long-term agreement. Germany is ruffled over the Dutch attitude in the shipping controversy.

CENSUS REPORT ON COTTON.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, March 20.—The census report shows that the cotton crop of 1917 was 11,281,263 bales as against 11,368,915 in 1916. Alabama produced 517,279, Mississippi 903,237, North Carolina 655,245.

WON'T ADJOURN BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, March 20.—Congress will not adjourn before September, Speaker Clark predicted today. The present disposition to dawdle and the imposing stack of important legislation remaining to be passed upon is responsible for the late adjournment.

Mr. Long Promoted.

Friends of Mr. R. E. Long, who has been for the past year or more in the sheet metal shops at the big Dupont powder plant at Hopewell, Va., will be glad to know that he recently received a promotion to foreman of first shift in his department. This appointment carries with it a substantial raise in salary, and he writes that the work is well organized and agreeable. He says a large number of men from Gaston county are working in the various departments of the plant.

HOUSE PASSES WAR FINANCE CORPORATION BILL.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, March 21.—The war finance corporation bill, creating a federal agency for financing industries during the war, passed the House this afternoon. Senator Chamberlain this afternoon introduced in the Senate a bill sent to Congress by the War Department, giving the President practically blanket power to take over all real and personal property in the United States. The bill was referred to the military committee. Because of the unlimited power it confers on the President it will probably meet with great opposition. The President this afternoon signed the railroad bill which made such a stormy voyage through

MEETING IN RALEIGH.

Mrs. George W. Ragan, chairman of the Woman's Liberty Loan Committee of Gaston County, will go to Raleigh Saturday to attend a meeting of Liberty Loan workers. All chairmen in the State are expected to be present.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE CITY REAL ESTATE.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale conferred upon the undersigned trustee by that certain deed of trust executed by J. D. Sparks and Mattie Sparks, his wife, to J. W. Timberlake, as Trustee for the State of North Carolina, dated March 1st, 1918, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Gaston county, North Carolina, in book No. 121 at page 206, and under and by virtue of an order made by his Honor, B. F. Long, Judge Presiding, at the March 1918 term of the Superior Court of Gaston county in the action therein pending entitled "State vs. J. D. Sparks", same being default No. 72 on the Criminal docket, action having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust and in the compliance with the provisions thereof, the undersigned trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the COURT HOUSE DOOR, in the city of Gastonia, N. C., at 12 o'clock, noon on

Monday, April 22nd, 1918.

all that certain lot or parcel of land, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on the South side of East Franklin Avenue, in the city of Gastonia, Gaston county, N. C., adjoining lands now or formerly belonging to P. J. Lineberger, L. J. Johnson and others, and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stone on the South side of East Franklin Avenue, the Northeast corner of said lot, and runs South 1-2 East 250 feet to a stone on what was formerly P. J. Lineberger's line; thence 32 West 77 feet to a stone, L. J. Johnson's corner; thence North 1-2 West 250 feet to a stone on the South side of Franklin Avenue; thence with said Franklin Avenue 77 feet to the beginning, by estimation 3-8 of an acre, and being the lot or parcel of land on which is situated the residence and garage of said J. D. Sparks.

This 21st day of March, 1918.

J. W. TIMBERLAKE, Trustee.

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