

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

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AMAZING ACCOUNTS OF FIGHTING RELATED BY WOUNDED SOLDIERS

London, March 29.—Wounded men arriving in London all amazing stories of the fighting. Men in a front trench east of Lecatelet on the 21st knew what date and time the enemy attack was to be launched exactly and expected it any minute. In one semi-circular trench wherein were 100 machine guns the enemy in dense masses swarmed right and left all of Thursday and Thursday night, falling by the hundreds, by enfilading machine gun fire. Over piles of dead and wounded men and horses, the enemy kept pushing in, filling the gaps. Our men fought on without food or water, orders having gone out not to touch their rations, owing to the risks of poisoning from gas attack. Dawn Friday disclosed enemy dead thick on all the surrounding ridges. The narrator says: "Two things drove us from our trenches—the enemy's numberless men and our own exhaustion from want of food. We had had nothing to eat since Wednesday night. I got nothing until I reached Peronne Saturday except a little of my rations which I ventured to consume at the risk of being poisoned."

"It was between 10 and 11 o'clock Friday morning when two advancing columns threatened to take us, flanked on either side, that we began to leave our trench. As we left we continued to enfilade them and our fire reduced their numbers while our own ranks were getting thinner and thinner. We returned some more, fighting all the way, sometimes hand to hand, then decided to make for Saulcourt to reorganize there our forces. The two groups took different routes and as we retired we continued to take toll of the advancing column, which closely pursued, while every few minutes we could hear our mines blowing up and tearing holes in their formation. Our party, in charge of a sergeant major reached Saulcourt, but I did not hear what happened to the three other parties for I was knocked out by a bullet between Villiers and Faucon."

"At Saulcourt another division took over the rear guard action from us and we passed through their ranks to the rear walking over wounded, making for the casualty clearing station at Peronne. Three miles back on the way we saw our heavy artillery coming into play. Our division had 10 divisions opposing it and the battalion on the extreme right was badly cut up. The last time we saw them they were engaged in hand to hand fighting with two or three battalions of German infantry and cavalry. The division which took over the fighting from us repulsed four cavalry at

Commander of Division of American Troops



Gen. Peyton, commander of a division of American troops now stationed at an important base of X—, some where over there, has all the confidence of his men that he will lead them over the top to victory.

AMERICAN PATROL TO RECEIVE WAR CROSS.

With the American Army in France, March 29.—An American patrol which today captured four German prisoners has been cited in French orders of the day and will receive the French war cross. The Americans to be rewarded are:

Lieut. George Redwood of Baltimore, Sergeant Henry Monaghan of Cherry Valley, Mass., and Privates Edward Armstrong of Martins, Pa., Arson Shumate of Ada, W. V., and Bernard Bolt of South Bethlehem, Pa.

HEROIC INCIDENT OF WAR.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 30.—A spectacular British maneuver at Rouex after its capture by the Germans on Thursday became known today. When the place was enveloped, the body of defending troops went off and clung tenaciously to the village in the face of their punishment. Under cover of darkness on Thursday night, these gallant men were successfully withdrawn through a gap formed in the German line.

The fact that the Germans, according to the report, are encroaching along the Thiepval-Lafelle line is pointed to as a feat of the magnificent defense which the British maintained at this important gateway to the west.

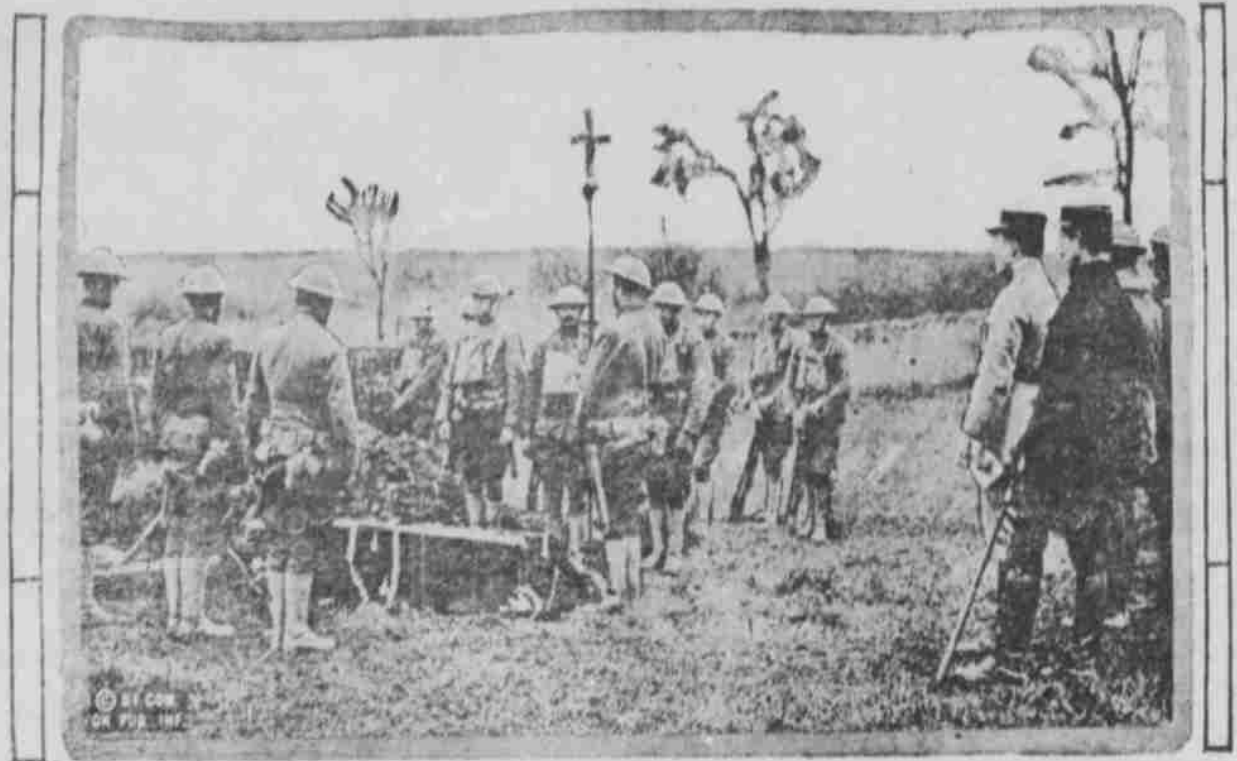
There has been another display of the British determination in this quarter. The correspondence knows of one large body of troops who dug themselves in along the vital sector in question and announced that whatever happened to the rest of the British line they were going to stick until they were either victorious or the last man was dead. They are still sticking, and from their past achievements it is safe to say they will continue to stick.

The sergeant of a regiment attached to the 24th division which held part of the front between Peronne and St. Quentin considered that the enemy in spite of his great numbers, could not have broken through this sector but for a gas attack. "I talked with the wounded of six divisions and they all agreed it was impossible to hold our front lines under the weight of the enemy's numbers and gas shells. All agree that in the German storming waves there was a big majority of young men. The enemy used for the first time a certain amount of dye in his gas shells. This dye stained the craters caused by the shells' explosion; as the gas hangs around the craters a few hours, the dye stain was intended to apply as an act of warning to Germans to keep clear of them as they advanced. An artillery sergeant told men that his battery forced open sights on masses of Germans advancing at short range and literally cut lanes in their ranks. His battery continued to fire until the enemy got within 200 yards, then got their guns away. I also was told of some Germans who actually danced in front of our machine gun fire as if they had been drugged and of others who walked as if drunk. No living creature could have faced such terrible fire if he had not been either drugged or drunk. Our machine gunners fired until they were sick of killing."

The latest wounded arriving include some South Americans, including officers gassed. They describe the terrible fight in Delville wood, where the South Americans held three enemy divisions for 24 hours. They say the gas mist was so thick that advancing masses in close formation could not be seen until within 20 yards. The gas, which is called "blue cross," is a new kind and is odorless. The enemy also used smoke barrages.

One of these officers said that on one farm the enemy massed 1,500 men, our field and machine guns caught them and scarcely a man survived.

RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY SERVICES OVER THE REMAINS OF FIRST AMERICANS TO DIE IN FRANCE



Tragic rites marked the burial of Corp. James B. Gresham, Private Thomas F. Enright and Private Merle D. Day of Company F, Sixteenth Infantry, who were interred with religious and military ceremony at Bathelme on the afternoon of November 4. Throughout the ceremony at the graves, French batteries, from their positions, fired salute guns over the village at the German trenches. General Bordeaux, who officiated at the services in the name of the French army, "bid farewell to all that was mortal of the three heroes."

AMERICAN DESTROYERS SINK TWO GERMAN SUBMARINES

London, March 30.—Encounters in which American destroyers sank two German submarines are thus described in accounts of successful submarine battles published today:

"The first American destroyer sighted the enemy submarine on the port bow and proceeded at full speed in the direction of the enemy, who submerged. The American destroyer could see the enemy's wake which showed he was running underneath the surface from starboard to port. As the German passed under the stern of the American boat the latter dropped a depth charge. The wake which had been plainly visible on the starboard never appeared on the port side of the destroyer. Instead, large quantities of oil came to the surface.

"The second American destroyer, engaged in night convoy duty, sighted an object a mile away by the light of the moon. Full speed was ordered, but the submarine dived while the American vessel was still a few hundred yards distant. Two depth charges were dropped and oil came to the surface. This submarine was apparently lying in wait for another convoy which was approaching from an opposite direction."

IREDELL WOMAN HANGS HERSELF IN BARN

Statesville, March 30.—Mrs. John L. Shoemaker, whose home was in the northern part of the county, near Jennings, committed suicide yesterday morning about 5 o'clock by hanging herself to a beam in the barn. Mrs. Shoemaker, who was the widow of John L. Shoemaker, a prominent lumberman and farmer, who was killed about a year ago when his team ran away with him, had been living alone at the old home for sometime, but Thursday went to the home of her daughter, who resided nearby, and spent the night. She arose early Friday morning, telling her daughter that she was going to her home for a little while and would return shortly. When she did not return by breakfast time, one of her grandchildren was sent to call her and found her body dangling from the end of a rope in the barn. She had climbed into the loft, tied the rope to an overhead beam, and after tying the noose about her neck, jumped through an opening in the floor.

The county coroner was called to the scene, but after making an investigation decided that it was a plain case of suicide. The only motive her relatives can assign for the rash deed is that she was brooding over the death of her husband. She had also been in some litigation recently that had given her considerable worry.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Rover Wright and Mrs. Pearl Henderson.

AMERICANS NOW RECEIVE ORDERS FROM GENERAL FOCH.

With the American Army in France, March 31.—The acceptance by France of General Pershing's offer for all American men and material for the present emergency has in effect virtually resulted in a unified army command, so far as the French army and American forces are concerned. This is shown by the fact that the orders issued to the American troops are of French origin.

Great activity continued Sunday throughout the zone where the American troops are quartered, etc., as sent. Even more activity was observed behind the German lines opposite the American front on the Toul sector today. An entire battalion was seen on the march this morning. Infantry at other points was being shifted about, while the cavalry also was seen again. Numerous automobiles of members of the German staff made their appearance behind the lines.

Throughout Saturday night signal lights were flashing from Montsec.

Three American patrols penetrated the enemy's lines last night. One patrol went in until electrically charged barbed wire was encountered. This was cut. Enemy sniping posts took warning and opened fire on the Americans, who were forced to retire. No casualties were suffered.

Another patrol inspected German front line trenches, but did not encounter a single German. The third patrol penetrated the enemy's wire field to a French airplane which fell there last week. The engine of the plane was found to have been removed.

The American artillery has kept up a harassing fire on the Germans as effectively shelling work parties and still targets. The enemy gas shelled the American batteries today but without effect.

Washington, March 31.—The announcement that American soldiers actually are on their way to the fighting lines to take places beside their hard-pressed British and French allies, sent a thrill throughout the national capital. It was the first positive statement that General Pershing's forces actually are on their way to the battle lines to help stem the tide of the German drive.

The American soldiers previously referred to in the official dispatches being in the fighting are believed to have been the engineers or other auxiliary troops which probably were caught at their work, as they were a few months ago at Cambrai when the Germans suddenly enveloped their lines in a swift turning movement.

The sending of General Pershing's fighting troops to places in

the British-French line has been expected by military experts to follow the creation of a unified command under the French chief of staff, General Foch, and General Pershing's formal offer of all the available American sources.

Too much may not be said about the number and position of the American troops, because of military reasons. It is no violation of the censorship, however, to say that more than 100,000 American fighting men, fully equipped and intensively trained in the school of actual battle conditions, are available at once to be thrown into places to strengthen the British and French lines wherever they threaten to buckle under the unheeded ferocity of the German onslaughts. It is also no violation of the censorship to say that the American government fully realizes that the second battle of the Somme may continue for some time and that the American forces possibly might be the means of tipping the scales.

It does not necessarily mean that by sending American troops to the reinforcement of the British or French that the sectors they have been holding will be abandoned. Other means of caring for that part of the line are available.

Every officer of the American general staff and every member of President Wilson's administration has been looking forward to the day when American troops would actually take their places in the big battle now raging."

FOCH IN COMMAND OF ALLY FORCES IN WEST.

London, March 30.—Premier Lloyd George today announced the appointment of General Foch as commander of the allied armies on the western front.

In making the announcement the premier said:

"For the first few days after the German army had launched upon our lines an attack unparalleled in its concentration of troops and guns, the situation was extremely critical. Thanks to the indomitable bravery of our troops, who gradually stemmed the enemy advance until reinforcements could arrive and our faithful ally could enter into the battle, the situation now is improved. The struggle, however, is only in its opening stages and no predictions of its future course can yet be made.

"From the first day the war cabinet has been in constant session and in communication with headquarters and with the French and American governments. A number of measures have been taken in concert between the governments to deal with the emergency.

"The enemy has had the incalculable advantage of fighting as one army. To meet this, the allies have, since the battle began taken a most important decision. With the cordial co-operation of

ONE GERMAN DIVISION VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT

Washington, March 30.—Regarding the losses sustained by the Germans in the battle in Picardy an official dispatch from France today said:

"Although as yet our information is very incomplete, it is certain that the German losses in the battle of the Somme have been enormous. Prisoners who were questioned on the 25th of March reported, for example, that the 88th division suffered heavily. The losses are chiefly due to the machine guns, which installed with determined men in shell holes, now down to the very last the dense enemy formations.

"The bodies of both friends and enemies are stripped as soon as possible by the Germans and left entirely nude. The booty thus obtained by seizing the equipment and clothing is collected and sent to the rear, so great is the scarcity of clothing and leather."

LIBERTY DAY TO BE CELEBRATED

Washington, March 30.—"Liberty Day" will be celebrated in all ship yards April 6th, the first anniversary of America's entrance into the war. Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board, tonight sent a message to all yard managers, urging that the occasion be observed with patriotic addresses. The new shipping board flag will be raised for the first time over all yards.

"The inspiration of the day should be used to arouse our working men to their full responsibility and to bring their effort up to tip-top," Mr. Hurley said. "Our problem is at heart a labor problem and any means that tend to bring about an understanding of this problem increase the production of the laborers."

The British and French commanders-in-chief, General Foch has been charged by the British, French and American governments to co-ordinate the action of the allied armies on the western front.

"In addition to the action taken to meet the immediate needs of the moment it will be necessary to bring into operation certain measures which have long been in contemplation should a situation such as the present arise.

"It is clear that, whatever may happen in this battle, the country must be prepared for further sacrifices to insure final victory. I am certain that the nation will shrink from no sacrifice which is required to secure this result, and the necessary plans are being carefully prepared by the government and will be announced when parliament meets."

Plot to Assassinate Gen. Tuan Discovered

Gen. Tuan Chi-Jui, former premier and now war commissioner of China. A conspiracy to assassinate General Tuan has been discovered by the authorities. A number of arrests, including three Japanese, have been made. The plot is alleged to have been promoted by monarchists for the purpose of avenging General Tuan's defeat of Gen. Chang Hsun, who led the Manchurian restoration last July.



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PERSHING'S TENDER OF U. S. TROOPS PLEASES MR. BAKER

With the American Army in France, March 30.—"I am delighted at General Pershing's prompt and effective action in placing all the American troops and facilities at the disposal of the allies in the present situation," said Secretary of War Baker in a statement given out at headquarters today.

"It will meet with hearty approval in the United States, where the people desire their expeditionary forces to be of the utmost service in the common cause," the secretary continued.

"I have visited all the American troops in France, some of them recently, and had an opportunity to observe the enthusiasm with which officers and men received the announcement that they would be used in the present conflict. One regiment to which the announcement was made spontaneously broke into cheers."

Secretary Baker, for obvious reasons, declined to discuss just what part the American expeditionary forces may play or are playing. This will become known in due time.

The news that the force was to participate at all was met with cheers and shouts of delight from one end of the American zone to the other, even at the front.

The officers and men had about come to the conclusion that they were to be forced to sit back and watch the progress of events, and they were glad. Today they are smiling and demonstratively congratulating each other. There was much slapping of each other on the back, while some of the troops tossed up their hats and danced when the news reached them.

There is still no news from the fighting engineers.

Secretary Baker, having conferred with the allied commanding officers and statesmen, desires to return to the United States as soon as possible and make available the information he has secured from his observations and conferences. He has completed the inspection of men and material.

TO BUILD MOTOR DRIVEN SHIPS OF 3,000 TONS EACH

Washington, March 30.—Chairman Hurley, of the shipping board, late today gave permission to vacant wooden shipyards in Oregon to accept contracts from the Atlantic and Pacific Steamship company for the construction of 150 motor driven ships of 3,000 tons each.

The ships probably will cost \$350,000 to \$400,000 each. Their construction will not interfere with the shipping board's building program either in timber or in machinery. The vessels probably will be put into the Pacific coast and China trade.

Officials of the shipping board were enthusiastic over the new building program, as the most progressive step since the board's program was started.

AMERICAN HELLO GIRLS ARE SERVING IN FRANCE

Paris, March 30.—Thirty-three American telephone girls, who speak English and French equally well, have just arrived to operate the switchboards in the various army headquarters. They have been divided between the principal army centers, Paris, General Pershing's headquarters in the field, and the headquarters lines of communications.

American officers have been pleasantly surprised when taking up the telephone receiver to hear the familiar "number, please," or "line's busy." Although the French telephone equipment is not as modern as that in America, the girls are fast becoming used to it and officers remark that they already notice an improvement in service.

The garden is your physician's most trusted assistant.