

TERRIFIC ATTACK OF FRENCH HURL BACK GERMAN LINES

Neville's Army Wins Tactical Victory, Capturing Considerable Territory—Teutons Bring Up Reserves, but Unable to Check Advance—Gain Said to Be from 500 to 1,000 Yards.

Grand Headquarters of the French Army on the French Front, April 30, Evening.—From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.—The Germans were forced to engage in battle again today along a front extending between six and seven miles to the eastward of Rheims. The French attack was delivered from a short distance southward of Beine to Moronvillers. Notwithstanding the difficulties of the task confronting them the French at the end of the day had won a tactical victory and captured considerable territory, although most obstinate fighting continued on grounds strongly fortified and offering every advantage to the defenders.

So serious was the French advance that at one period of the day the Germans were compelled to throw into the line another of the few remaining divisions of their strategic reserves, but still could not stay the French progress.

Weird Sight.
The correspondent of the Associated Press passed Sunday night on the battlefield, observing the artillery preparation for the attack, which presented one of the weirdest of sights. Even the brightly starlit sky did not permit one to observe the outlines of the objects aimed at, but throughout the night dozens of French batteries, cleverly concealed, poured out an incessant stream of shells against the German positions and gun stations.

Meanwhile, the location of the German and French front lines could be defined in consequence of the constant succession of flares on each side which were lighted for the purpose of observing any possible movement of the enemy infantry. Overhead could be heard at a low altitude the whirring motors of German aeroplanes trying vainly to locate the French batteries.

German Airmen Disappointed.
Numbers of tracing bullets bearing long tails of light were sent up in order to outline the fliers, but the artillery did not fire at them and the German airmen, evidently disappointed over their unsuccessful search for batteries went off to bombard the open towns of Chalons and Epemay.

When the French infantry attack began at 12:40 o'clock today the French line passed from just north of the Roman road near Prunay, through the Bois de la Grille and along the crests of Carnillet and Mont Hault to Moronvillers. In the west and the center the French advanced rapidly, but on the wooded mountain slopes the fighting was harder and the Germans counter-attacked frequently with fresh troops, at one point regaining a section they had lost, only to be driven out of it again later on.

General Gain.
The French staff at the close of the day recorded a general gain amounting to something more than 500 to 1,000 yards, and this in ground interlaced with trenches bristling with machine guns and strengthened here and there with block houses and redoubts.

Possession of this range of crests by the French menaces the German positions at Nogent L'Abessee and Berru, from which the bombardment of the Rheims Cathedral has been carried out. The German guns today relaxed in the punishment of Rheims in order to help defend the German positions where the French attacked.

A secret order, found on the field of battle, addressed to the commander of the Thirty-third German Reserve Brigade, warns German officers that the first line must be defended at all costs, and if lost the fighting must continue until it is rewon.

Principal Line.
"Our principal line of combat," says the order, "is the first line. This idea should be anchored in your heads to the exclusion of all others."
The order is signed "Von Schussler." This probably accounts for the desperate nature of the German defense in the recent engagement.

Indications show that the strength of the German forces totalled on the first of April 219 divisions, each comprising a maximum of from ten to twelve thousand combatants. Of these divisions 143 faced the French

EPWORTH LEAGUE CONFERENCE MAY 10-11

Sessions Will Be Held in Manning and a Large Attendance is Expected.

The Epworth League Conference for Sumter District will be held in Manning, May 10-11, beginning Thursday night and closing Friday night. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend these services. Following is the program for the Conference:

Thursday Night.
Service 8:30, conducted by Dr. Watson B. Duncan.
Song Service 8:30-8:45.
Addresses of Welcome: Town of Manning, Mrs. E. C. Horton; Baptist Young Peoples' Union, Miss Daisy Barrineau; Christian Endeavor Society, Mrs. Herman Huggins; Manning Methodist Church, Hon. Charlton DuRant; Manning Epworth League, Mr. J. B. Cantey.
Response—Mr. Archie Compton, Sumter, S. C.
Special Music.

Address—"The Place of the Epworth League in the Church," by Rev. John Paul Patton, College Place, S. C.
Appointment of Committees.
Announcements.

Epworth League Benediction.
Friday Morning Service 10 O'clock.
Devotional Service 10-10:15, led by Rev. G. F. Kirby, St. Matthews, S. C.
Business Session 10:15-11.
Institute:

First Department, Spiritual Work, led by Miss Eula Winn, College Place, S. C.
Second Department, Social Service, led by Miss Mamie Chandler.

Epworth League Finance, The Budget System, led by Dr. S. J. Summers, Conference President, Cameron, S. C.
Address—"The Recreational Life of Our Young People," by Mr. H. L. Birchard, Gen'l. Sec'y. Y. M. C. A., Sumter, S. C.
Epworth League Benediction.

Friday Afternoon Service 4 O'clock.
Devotional Service, 4-4:15, led by Rev. J. S. Rice, Sumter, S. C.
Business Session 4:15-4:30.
Institute:

Third Department, Recreation and Culture, led by Dr. W. B. Duncan, Manning, S. C.
Fourth Department, Missions, led by Miss Anna Brown, Sumter, S. C.

The Epworth League Council, led by Dr. S. J. Summers, Conference President, Cameron, S. C.
Address—"The Epworth League in the Rural Community," by Rev. S. W. Henry, Oswego, S. C.

Special Music.
Junior League Demonstration, By Trinity Junior Leaguers, led by Mrs. W. B. Sassnet, Junior Supt., Sumter, S. C.
Epworth League Benediction.

Friday Evening 8:30 O'clock.
Devotional, 8:30-8:45, led by Rev. G. P. Watson, Bishopville, S. C.
Unfinished Business, 8:45-8:55.
Address—"Our Africa Special," by Dr. J. W. Wolling.

Special Music.
Address—"Our Motto: 'All For Christ,'" by Dr. R. S. Truesdale, Sumter, S. C.

Conservation Service.
Adjournment.

RIOTING IN PETROGRAD

High Army Officer Killed by Unknown Party.

Petrograd, via London, May 1.—There were street disorders here yesterday, during which bombs were thrown. Major Gen. Kashtalinski was killed.

The executive committee of the workmen's and soldiers' delegates today placarded the city with the following proclamation:

"Yesterday many regrettable incidents occurred in the capital, notably an unknown young man killed Gen. Kashtalinski. Shots were fired on a group of political demonstrators and bombs were thrown."

Bombs were thrown. "Some individuals, posing as members of the executive committee, arrested landed proprietor Lody Jensk.

and British, but only ninety-nine were in the actual line, the others being held in strategic reserve. The remaining seventy-six divisions were then on the Russian, Rumanian and Macedonian fronts. Many of the strategic reserve divisions have since been thrown into line and owing to losses were later sent to the rear for re-constitution.

AMERICAN, ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLAGS FLOAT OVER WASHINGTON'S TOMB

Joffre Salutes and Places Palm as France's Tribute to Great Soldier.

BALFOUR PAYS TRIBUTE

Great British Statesman Places Wreath of Lilies and Oak Leaves on Grave.

Mount Vernon, Va., April 29.—The flags of Great Britain, France and the United States floated proudly together today over the tomb of George Washington. Beneath them spokesman of the three great democracies paid homage to America's soldier and statesman, and pledged themselves each to the other in the name of the dead, to prosecute the present mighty struggle against autocracy on the lines he himself had followed in bringing America into being.

Nature was in her most bounteous garb. The evergreen, eternal sentinels before the tomb, stood out boldly in the new life just blooming. The only sign of human change since Washington was laid to rest so long ago was the flags of three allies over the arched entrance to the tomb itself.

In groups of twos and threes an eminent gathering, including the members of the French and British war commissions, the President's Cabinet and members of Congress had strolled up through the sloping grounds of the river bank until perhaps half a hundred people stood with bared heads in a semi-circle before the tomb.

Without formality, Secretary Daniels motioned to M. Viviani, minister of justice and former premier of France, who advanced slowly into the center. Before the tomb of Washington, whose efforts towards liberty his own ancestors had gloriously aided, M. Viviani, delivered an address in which the whole force of his emotional power, deepened by the significance and solemnity of the occasion, fought for expression.

The spectators, though most of them could not understand French, caught the suppressed feeling and fire of the orator, and followed his words spellbound as they quickened under the thrill of his imagination.

And as he finished, the silence became supreme with the general realization that no applause could express the emotions aroused. M. Viviani said:

Text of Viviani's Speech.
"We could not remain longer in Washington without accomplishing this pious pilgrimage. In this spot lies all that is mortal of a great hero. Close by this is the modest abode where Washington rested after the tremendous labor of achieving for a nation its emancipation. In this spot meet the admiration of the whole world and the veneration of the American people. In this spot rise before us the glorious memories left by the soldiers of France led by Rochambeau and La Fayette; a descendant of the latter, my friend M. de Chambrun, accompanies us. And I esteem it a supreme honor as well as a satisfaction for my conscience to be entitled to render this homage to our ancestors in the presence of my colleague and friend, Mr. Balfour, who so nobly represents his great nation. By thus coming to lay here the respectful tribute of every English mind he shows, in this historic moment of communion which France has willed, what nations that live for liberty can do."

Wilson, Worthy Heir.
"When we contemplated in the distant past the luminous presence of Washington, in nearer times the majestic figure of Abraham Lincoln, when we respectfully salute President Wilson, the worthy heir of these great memories, we at one glance, measure the vast career of the American people proclaimed and won for the nation the right to govern itself, it is because it proclaimed and won the equality of all men, that the free American people at the hour marked by Fate has been enabled with commanding force to carry its action beyond the seas. It is because it was resolved to extend its action still further that Congress was enabled to obtain within the space of a few days the vote of conscription and to proclaim the necessity for a national army in the full splendor of civil peace."

"In the name of France I salute the young army which will share in our common glory."

For the Same Ideal.

"While paying this supreme tribute to the memory to Washington, I do not diminish the effect of my words when I turn my thoughts to the memory of so many unnamed heroes. I ask you before this tomb to bow in earnest meditation and all the fervor of piety before all the soldiers of the Allied nations who for nearly three years have been fighting under different flags for the same ideal."

"I beg you to address the homage of your hearts and souls to all the heroes, born to live in happiness, in the tranquil pursuit of their labors, in the enjoyment of all human affections, who went into battle with virile cheerfulness and gave themselves up not to death alone, but to the eternal silence that closes over those whose sacrifices remains unnamed, in the full knowledge that save for those who loved them their names would disappear with their bodies. Their monument is in our hearts. Not the living alone greet us here; the ranks of the dead themselves rise to surround the soldiers of liberty."

"At this solemn hour in the history of the world, while saluting from this sacred mound the final victory of justice, I send to the Republic of the United States the greetings of the French Republic."

Balfour Speaks.

Then came forward Arthur James Balfour, foreign secretary of Great Britain, who stood for a moment in silence, a tall, erect, kindly figure. Overcome with all that the situation meant in the lives of the two great Anglo-Saxon countries, Mr. Balfour abandoned his decision not to speak and gave expression to a few poignant sentences, evidently straight from the heart. England had honored Washington as she never had before.

Governor Stuart, of Virginia, spoke as the host on Virginia soil. "Washington," he said, "originally belonged to Virginia, but his priceless memory has now become a common heritage of the world."

Marshal Joffre, victor of the Marne and idol of the French people, next came forward in field marshal's uniform.

Simply, earnestly, he spoke in French two brief sentences:

"In the French army all venerate the name and memory of Washington. I respectfully salute here the great soldier and lay upon his tomb the palm we offer our soldiers who have died for their country."

Two French officers came forward with the bronze wreath from the French mission, the humblest and the highest mark of honor which the French nation can accord the dead. Bending over, the marshal passed through the narrow entrance and solemnly placed the wreath upon the stone coffin. He then stood silently at salute, the general who is accredited who won the liberty of the United States.

As Marshal Joffre passed back among the spectators, Mr. Balfour came forward with the British wreath of lilies and oak leaves tied with the colors of the three allied nations. He, too, entered the tomb and placed the British token beside the French, while Lieut. Gen. Bridges stood outside at salute.

There was neither music nor applause. As Mr. Balfour withdrew the spectators felt without being told that the ceremony was over. The party again broke into groups and filed up to the lawn of the Mount Vernon home.

Never was Mount Vernon more beautiful than today as it stood out in all its stateliness amidst the new spring foliage. The visiting statesmen passed in and out about the rooms, examining all the heirlooms of Washington. Mr. Balfour was the last to leave when the time came to start back to Washington.

The party included the members of both the French and the British missions, their American military and naval aides, the Cabinet, Senators Swanson and Representatives Padgett, chairmen of the House and Senate naval committees; Col. E. M. House and a few government officials. The trip was made on the Presidential yacht Mayflower. Both on arrival and departure the whole company stood at salute as a bugler played taps and the band "The Star Spangled Banner."

U. S. AWAITING OUTCOME OF LABOR STRIKE

Political Unrest in Germany to Determine Attitude of America in Steps for Active War.

Washington, April 29.—The most decisive political step of the general war against Germany will be reached Tuesday, state department officials confidently believe here today. On the outcome of the threatened general strike of food producers and munitions workers in Germany on May Day will depend whether Germany must bow to defeat at an early date or will be able to fight on for months longer.

Officials admitted today that should Germany survive the anti-war demonstrations planned by the German populace on May 1, the empire will be able to fight for a far longer time than is generally believed in America. This belief was based upon official reports upon conditions in Germany from Switzerland, Denmark and France.

The unrest in Germany and the dissatisfaction with the present conditions has reached its climax, the reports state. If German officials can pass safely through this crisis it is believed here that the government will be secure for another year of war. In the meantime, Germany's submarines will probably continue to play havoc with the shipment of food supplies and munitions this government is to furnish the entente allies.

By War Address.

The present critical condition in Germany has been largely brought about by President Wilson's war address to congress, the state department has been officially advised, it was learned today. Reports show that more than 300,000 copies of the messages, in which the president showed that "the United States has no quarrel with the German people" themselves, have to date been translated into German and dropped behind the German lines by French British and American aviators on the west front.

These copies have been distributed among the civilian population to a large extent by Socialists and other anti-war organizations it has been learned and are said to be in large measure responsible for the sudden acceleration to the sullenness of the German people against the government.

A stronger national movement for a republican form of government is expected to result from the strikes Tuesday. Steps leading to the early overthrow of the kaiser's government may result.

The admitted difficult situation of the German cabinet at present is causing deep interest among officials here. The situation has been talked over informally between state department officials and members of the British and French missions.

The spread of the Socialist doctrines in Germany is known to be fast and peremptory demands for the formation of a democratic government are expected to result Tuesday unless the German officials are successful in stemming the Socialistic tide.

Considerable light upon the Russian situation has been given this government by the entente commissioners during their conference with President Wilson and officials of the state department.

The political trend of Russia is as yet undefined. That is about the most that has been said. No conclusive evidence has been obtained that there is any important undercurrent of desire for a separate peace, but the apparent inability of the Russian political leaders to form into a solid, organized government, if continued, might result in such dissatisfaction that a general desire for "peace at any price" might result. This condition is expected to be greatly improved through the efforts of the future American commission's work.

MANY WORKMEN ON STRIKE

Labor Troubles General in German Border Towns.

London, May 1.—"In the Rhine provinces more than half the munition workers decided to strike today," wires the correspondent at The Hague of the Exchange Telegraph Company. "Essen (home of the great Krupp works) is shut off from the rest of Germany and completely isolated from the world in order to prevent the slightest information about strikes at the Krupp works from leaking out. Strikes are general in small towns near the Dutch frontier."

U. S. WILL SEND ARMY WHEN VESSELS ARE AVAILABLE

Expeditionary Force From the United States Will Go to Europe When Allies Can Spare Ships. French Likely to Put up With Any Sacrifice to Have American Force on Firing Line.

Washington, May 1.—The United States stands ready to send an army to Europe whenever the Allies deem it wise to divert the necessary shipping from transporting food to transporting men.

It became known definitely today that the government has offered the Allies troops, but has suggested that the alarming shortage of world shipping may make it impractical to send them at once. In spite of objections of the general staff to putting any American force on the firing line before the great war army has been raised and trained, the administration has determined that the small contingent earnestly desired by France for moral effect shall be sent as soon as possible. The general belief here is that the way soon will be found.

Composition of Army.

Whether the force first to carry the Stars and Stripes into battle in France shall be made up of regulars or National Guardsmen, or both, has not been worked out. The subject was not discussed at today's Cabinet meeting, but Secretary Baker remained afterward for a conference with President Wilson.

Little doubt exists that the French will gladly put up with any sacrifice necessary to have American troops in France, as the great plea of their mission has been for troops with the American flag. They have pointed out that this is needed to convince the Germans beyond a doubt that all America's resources have been thrown into the battle.

British Anxious, Too.

The British also are known to be anxious to have American troops in France as a final earnest of American participation, but there is reason to believe that they have taken a somewhat more detached view than the French. Overcome by the wholeheartedness of American cooperation in the war, they believe that the one essential is to marshal the common resources to the greatest advantage. With the responsibility for tonnage their decision about the advisability of sending an expeditionary force is uncertain.

NATIONAL PROHIBITION DURING THE WAR

Washington, April 29.—A determined effort to bring about national prohibition for the duration of the war will be launched here tomorrow at a meeting of representatives of various political parties and of farmers' organizations, including several State Governors, who will seek to influence President Wilson and members of Congress.

Leaders in the movement have sent out word that an interview with President Wilson on the question will be held tomorrow, but it was said at the White House tonight that no engagement had been made. War time prohibition has been taken up by members of the Council of National Defense as a possible way of conserving the grain supply of the nation, but no conclusion has been reached.

Among the men mentioned as being interested in the conference tomorrow are Governor Harris, of Georgia; Governor Capper, of Kansas; Victor Murdock and William Allen White, of Kansas; Judge Ben Lindsey, of Denver; Senator Cummins, of Iowa; Henry Ford, Charles Edward Russell, of New York; Senator Smith, of South Carolina, and Representative Park, of Georgia.

STRIKES ON IN GERMANY

Military Authorities Forbid Newspapers Leaving Country.

London, May 1.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from The Hague says:

"Travelers from Germany announce that strikes have been going on for the last ten days in Westphalia and the Rhine provinces, especially in the steel industry. The military authorities consequently have forbidden newspapers to be sent out of the country."