



WAR'S GREATEST BATTLE

PROGRESS DAY BY DAY IN BRIEF FORM.

Terrific Onslaught Made on British Front by Germans, Beginning Friday of Last Week.

The following are the reports in brief from the big battle raging between the British and Germans in France:

Saturday.

In a battle that has rivaled in ferocity any that preceded it during three and a half years of warfare, the British, on a fifty-mile front, have withstood a great German offensive in its initial stages. At some points the British line has been bent back but not as much as had been expected by military experts acquainted with the forces the Germans have brought up and the power of the guns they had upon and behind the line.

As the result of the struggle on that part of the front just west of Cambrai, where the fighting apparently was the hottest, the British line has nowhere been broken, and Field Marshal Haig's men have inflicted frightful casualties on the enemy.

As an indication of the sanguinary nature of the fighting, the Berlin foreign office states that 16,000 men and 200 guns have been captured. This may be compared to the British losses in the German counter-offensive on December 4, 1917, when 6,000 men and 100 guns were captured.

SUNDAY.

Assaulting the British lines on the south, the Germans have forced their way forward over a front approximately 21 miles in length, have penetrated to a depth of four or five miles west of Cambrai and have reached Ham, west of St. Quentin, a distance of about nine miles west of the British lines as they stood before the inception of the Teutonic offensive on Thursday. The German claim that the forces of the central empires are fighting on a line northwest of Bapaume, Peronne and Ham has not been substantiated by British official dispatches, but the British reports show that there has been a retirement at various points, especially at St. Quentin, where Field Marshal Haig says his forces have taken up their new positions.

According to a Berlin official dispatch "a considerable part of the British army has been beaten," but this is not borne out by any facts so far known. That 25,000 men have possibly been captured by the Teutons may be considered as a natural result of the slow British withdrawal. This number, however, is very small in comparison to the forces thrown into the fray.

The frightful combat continued all day Saturday.

The great German offensive on the Western front has developed as its salient feature an apparent desperate effort to break into the southwest of St. Quentin, drive a wedge between the British and the French and push on across the Somme Canal in the general direction of Compiègne and Paris.

Simultaneously, Paris has been bombarded at quarter hour intervals, beginning Saturday afternoon, with shells of about nine-inch calibre. The source of the bombardment has not been revealed. The nearest point on the front is 62 miles distant, more than twice as far as artillery fire has ever reached previously. One theory suggested is that the Germans have developed an aerial torpedo which can be fired from a long distance.

There was an admitted break in the British line in the St. Quentin region on late yesterday, the Germans forcing their way through the defensive system and compelling a British retreat to prepared positions within the area devastated by the Germans in their retreat in the spring of 1917.

A supreme effort by the Germans to cut the line in this region is forecast in the dispatches. They have put cavalry in the field to follow up the infantry and evidently intend to throw the Uhlans into the fray when the infantry columns open the breach the German high command is counting upon.

Farther north the British lines, while they have drawn back are holding well in their new positions. The maximum British retrogression there seems to have been about four miles at Mory, which has changed hands several times.

MONDAY.

On the battle line in France the

sanguinary struggle is still going on, with the British troops on the most of the sectors apparently holding their own, but the Germans at salient points still pressing forward.

The town of Chauny, southwest of St. Quentin, situated in the road to Compiègne, the gateway to Paris, has been occupied by the Germans and, according to the Berlin official communications, everywhere between the Somme and Oise rivers the Germans are pressing their advantage.

Throughout Sunday, along the entire fifty-mile battlefront, the fighting never ceased for a moment, and where Field Marshal Haig's men were unable to withstand the terrific onslaught delivered by greatly superior forces ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

The withdrawal of the British forces along the battle front in France was long ago planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the British front through the Associated Press correspondent, who describes the operations of the British army as a masterly withdrawal, made possible by gallant shock troops in the front lines, who checked the advance of the Germans, while artillery, machine gun and rifle fire worked appalling slaughter among the masses of German infantry as they were sent forward, thus enabling the main body of the British to fall back deliberately and without confusion.

Few Counter Attacks.

This army, it is declared, has been conserved, and up to the present very few counter-attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the German's newly acquired positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to the German artillery and infantry more and more difficult and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, so far as he may, wear himself out against a powerful defense.

More Than Million Huns.

It has now been definitely ascertained that considerably more than a million Germans have been brought to the western front in an endeavor to crush the British army holding the line from the region of Arras to the south of St. Quentin, but it daily becomes increasingly evident that his drive has met with opposition not counted upon and that he has been unable to realize to the full his objectives. In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of both Peronne and Ham, and to have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 30,000 in addition to six hundred guns and large stores of war materials.

Claim Americans Repulsed.

It is claimed also by the Germans that American and French regiments which were brought up to reinforce the British have been defeated.

TUESDAY.

Battling for every point of vantage, giving ground only when overwhelmed by numbers, and exacting a frightful toll of lives for every foot of ground abandoned, the British line in Picardy is still intact. While the German onslaught gained ground at a number of points on Monday, there was no sign of disintegration in the British forces, which at many points, especially on the northern end of the long line of battle, are standing firm. The largest gains by the Germans have been west of St. Quentin, where they have captured Nesle and Guiscard. The points which are at the tip of the Teutonic attack are more than ten miles from the front as it stood March 21.

Military observers discern in the scheme of German attack a repetition of the German pincer system of attack, which was used by Von Mackensen in Russia, Rumania and Siberia. This attack consists of two attacks some distance apart, which after progressing to some depth, turn toward each other, compelling the forces caught between them to fall back or be in danger of capture.

The British have foreseen this danger and have met it by first checking, and then forcing the northern jaw of the pincer southward, while they have dropped back on the center and have not fallen into the German trap. The pressure of the defenders of the Somme front seems to be bending the whole German attack to the south, where it is hoped its force will be dissipated.

The French positions join the British south of St. Quentin.

In the mean time, the British strategy seems to be devoted to the task of meeting the attack so that it is directed no longer straight at the line, but diverted toward the Oise,

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading.—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

Mrs. Helen T. Converse, widow of the late D. E. Converse, founder of Converse college, died at her home in Spartanburg last Tuesday, aged 80 years.

Hugh McGregor Mustard, the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Mustard of Hopkins fell from the Southern railway trestle below Hopkins and was drowned Friday afternoon.

One Marlboro county farmer, of which the Enquirer has information has cleared \$80,000 on his last year's cotton crop and he will be liable to about \$25,000 war taxes.—Yorkville Enquirer.

The Eagle Roller mills at Greenville, were destroyed by fire Sunday with a large quantity of grain and on Tuesday a warehouse in which 250 bushels of corn was stored was destroyed by fire.

Thursday afternoon as the Atlantic Coast Line railroad's southbound freight train was shifting in the yards at Cheraw, John Taylor, colored, aged about ten years, was run over and instantly killed.

The food administration announces that they do not approve of the contracts that supply wheat without substitutes, and that the promise to buy substitutes should not be accepted, but that they should actually be bought.

Failure of the State senate to confirm the appointment of Wade Hampton Gibbes, chief game warden, is held by Thomas H. Peebles, attorney general, to disqualify for the office. This opinion was given by Mr. Peebles to Dr. E. C. L. Adams, president of one of the audubon society factions.

where the German advance has been most rapid.

French Relieve British.

French troops have taken over sectors of the front and have released British units for work further north. Berlin states that Americans have also joined in the fighting, but nothing has as yet been officially reported on this point.

The fall of Bapaume early Monday was a blow to the British, but it was the result of a determination to fall back slowly all along the line that is being attacked.

Berlin claims that 45,000 prisoners have been taken. These were probably units which were left to hold the easier defended points while the main portion of Field Marshal Haig's army fell back.

Huns Heaviest Losers.

The British losses have been heavy, but it is officially announced that considering the magnitude of the struggle, they are not unduly so. On the other hand, the Germans have suffered terribly, even Berlin admitting that the Teutonic casualties before Peronne were "comparatively heavy."

Paris Again Bombarded.

Paris has again been bombarded by the mysterious German cannon, which is said to have been located in the forest of St. Gobain, south of La Fere. An interruption in the bombardment on Monday was considered as an indication that the mysterious gun, or possibly a battery of them, had been located by the French aerial forces. In the face of reports of continued falling back on the part of the British, the people of London and Paris have preserved a remarkable calm.

WEDNESDAY.

After six days of terrific fighting the German offensive in France is beginning to show signs of losing its momentum. The plan of the enemy has materially slackened and the form of the dent made in the allied line west of Cambrai has begun to resemble the familiar wedge-like salient, instead of the broad straight forward movement of an offensive which carries all before it.

As its apex this wedge has gone beyond Albert and is to the westward of the old allied line as it stood a year ago when von Hindenburg began his "strategic retreat."

From this point the line runs off to the northeast as a gentle angle, with the line to the south running back until it reaches the Oise river.

British Stand Firm.

In spite of the stupendous exertions and terrible losses, the German

REINFORCEMENTS ON WAY.

Lloyd George Sends Good News and Praises Gallant Army.

London, March 25.—In a message to Field Marshal Haig, David Lloyd George, the British premier, says that the men necessary to replace those lost are either in France or already on their way. All guns will be replaced and still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to enter the battle.

The premier's message follows:

"The British cabinet wishes to express to the army the nation's thanks for its splendid defense. The whole empire is filled with pride as it watches the heroic resistance offered by its brave troops to overwhelming odds.

"Knowing their steadfastness and courage whenever the honor of their country depends on their valor, the empire awaits with confidence the result of this struggle to defeat the enemy's last desperate effort to trample down the free nations of the world.

"At home we are prepared to do all in our power to help in a true spirit of comradeship. The men necessary to replace all casualties and cannon and machine guns required to make good all those lost are either now in France or already on their way and still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to be thrown into the battle."

War Risk Insurance.

Soldiers, sailors, or their beneficiaries under the soldiers and sailors' insurance law need not employ attorneys or claim agents to collect the insurance, according to the Treasury Department. Circulars have lately been sent out by claim agents and attorneys offering to assist persons entitled to the benefits of this insurance in collecting their claims.

The procedure for the presentation and collection of insurance claims is simple. Blanks may be secured from the Bureau of War-Risk Insurance at Washington. The name of the person in service who was killed or injured, and the relationship which he bore to the person making the claim, should be given.

Somewhat Spineless

Letret: What about that boy you were going to adopt?

Yadilloh: Fired him back to the orphans' home. When a kid kicked him on the shins and dared him to put up his mits, he blubbered that fighting was wicked and offered to arbitrate.—Exchange.

efforts to widen the tip of this salient were defeated on Tuesday. The British lines have stood firm to the north and have forced the Germans to turn southward towards the point of least resistance.

Official statements issued at London confirm the report from Berlin that American forces are engaged in the struggle. There has been no official report to Washington as to the identity of these troops who are taking part in this greatest battle in history.

With the slackening of the German pace there come indications that the allies are ready to strike back somewhere along the front. Just where this blow will be launched will not be known until it is struck, but it may be expected that its impact will be terrific.

Each succeeding day reveals the plan of the Germans absolutely to crush the allies' lines west of Cambrai, terrain which could not be defended by von Hindenburg a year ago.

Each official report shows that this sector is valueless from a military standpoint and that the Germans have paid a terrible price for their advance to the lines established by the allies during the first two years of the war. It is officially reported that 70 German divisions, or 840,000 men, have taken part in the fighting.

Observers at the front say that the German losses have been frightful, and that the enemy has lost from 10 to 20 per cent. of his men by the most conservative estimate.

Repeat von Kluck Tactics.

The situation as it stands seems to be a repetition of the dash of General von Kluck on Paris in 1914, when the German artillery and transports could not keep up with the infantry and the French were able to turn back the invaders at the Marne.

Reports from various sectors in the last two days have indicated that the German infantry, relying on its mass attacks, has fought without the customary assistance of artillery. To bring up heavy guns requires time and the German advance will steadily become more painful and costly.

AMERICANS IN THE BATTLE

THREE REGIMENTS OF THEM WITH THE BRITISH.

Army Officials Believe Engineers Are Giving Good Account of Themselves.

Washington, March 25.—Gen. Pershing cabled the War-Department tonight that two regiments of American railroad engineers are attached to the British forces on the front attacked by the Germans. Three companies of the engineers, he said, were working in the areas in which the German official statement mentioned the presence of American troops, and no report has been received concerning them.

This message, announced tonight by Major Gen. March, acting chief of staff, definitely disposes of reports that Americans had been sent into the battle. Gen. Pershing said there was nothing unusual to report from the American sectors.

The dispatch follows: "Summary of activities from noon, March 24, to noon, March 25.

"Nothing to report but usual patrol and trench activities, with some gas shelling by the enemy north of Toul. Reference to German communiques of March 24 and 25, regarding American troops, two regiments of railway engineers are with the British armies involved in this battle. Three companies of engineers were working in the areas mentioned in the communique in the vicinity of the Crozat canal. No report other than the German communique reported yet regarding these troops."

BYRNES SCORES LONGWORTH.

Says Attack on Wilson First Partisan Speech of Session.

Washington, March 18.—Representative Longworth's speech last Saturday criticizing the President for seeking great powers was answered today by Representative Byrnes, of South Carolina, who described it as "the first partisan, political speech made this session during the consideration of a war measure."

"It is true," Mr. Byrnes continued, "that during the entire speech he waved the flag, but while he energetically waved the flag with one hand he skillfully wielded the stiletto with the other. Not content with criticizing the president and the secretary of the treasury, to discredit them in the eyes of the American people as autocrats seeking vast autocratic powers at the expense of the people, he sought to reflect upon the patriotism and membership of this house on the Democratic side.

"It was a mere diversion from an attack aimed at the secretary of the treasury. How startling it was to the American people to have learned that the bill (the war finance bill) as it was presented to the committee on ways and means contained an authority on the part of the secretary of the treasury, an ambitious man, as he calls him, to gather unto himself autocratic powers greater than any kaiser or war lord ever sought. That was the language he used.

"What about the power? Why, he says he saved it. He saved the Republic, which was about to be wrecked. Saved it, how? By taking from the secretary of the treasury the right and power to name the directors. How did he save it? By giving that power to the president. Was the gentleman sincere in believing that the president would appoint directors who would not work in harmony with the secretary of the treasury?"

Coker College to Get \$150,000.

Hartsville, March 22.—Founder's day was celebrated at Coker College today. The leading address was made by Maj. Ullern of the French army. His address was a forcible presentation of what France had done during the war. He commended most highly the preparation that America had made to enter the struggle.

At the close of the exercises it was announced that the General Education Board of New York had offered to give Coker College \$40,000 on condition that the trustees raise \$110,000 more. The treasurer of the college then announced that Maj. James L. Coker, the founder of the college, had just given \$100,000. This leaves only \$10,000 to be raised by friends. The entire \$150,000 is to be used as a permanent endowment fund. This makes the endowment of Coker College over \$400,000.

HOW TO GET COAL.

Bamberg Citizens Must File Applications With the City.

In order to secure coal for the citizens of Bamberg, Mr. J. A. Wyman, county fuel chairman, is making contracts for the city of Bamberg for a certain number of cars of coal, which will be distributed among the citizens of the city. This coal will arrive during May and June probably, although the date of arrival of the cars has not been fixed, and will depend to a great extent upon the ability of the mines to ship as requested. A good grade of domestic coal will be secured, although it is impossible to always secure the exact quality of domestic coal preferred, as the demand for coal is great all over the country, and as the government will not permit cross shipments of coal. It will be necessary, therefore, that the city of Bamberg take domestic coal from the mines which are nearest to it, but in this connection it is stated that a good grade of coal will be available.

As the price per ton of the coal which the city expects to secure has not been communicated to the city officials, it has been suggested that those citizens who expect to secure coal from the city as set out below, wait until next week before filing applications, so that they will know exactly what sum of money to deposit to cover the cost of the coal they will require.

The county fuel administrator has made arrangements with the city officials to handle the coal which will arrive so that those desiring it may secure their supply for winter during the summer months. The city of Bamberg has made arrangements with the clerk of the council, Mr. H. D. Free, to take charge of the distribution of the coal, and those who expect to secure a supply of fuel through Mr. Free will obtain from him an application blank, which will be filled out by the applicant as far as possible, and it may then be filed with Mr. Free, but it must be accompanied by a check or cash covering the total amount of coal desired. In handling coal for the community the city does not desire to make money in this way, neither does the city expect to lose money, and the price paid the city per ton for coal will be the cost of the coal delivered at Bamberg, plus a small sum to cover handling charges, etc.

The county administrator states that any citizen or group of citizens who desire to order coal independently of the method above outlined are at perfect liberty to do so, and that he will approve any contracts for coal so ordered, provided that the parties so securing a supply of coal execute the applications showing their individual requirements for the year ending March 31st, 1919. Mr. Wyman states that he will not be able to secure cars of coal for individuals or groups of individuals but that if the individuals or groups of persons succeed in placing contracts he will approve them as stated above.

The city officials, however, will secure cars for a group of its citizens who desire to obtain their coal in this manner, and those who so prefer to obtain coal by groups, may make applications to Mr. Free. Mr. Wyman is taking up the matter of supplying other sections of the county with coal through the committeemen of these sections.

Wood.

The citizens of the county are again reminded that the supply of fuel for the next winter may be short unless they make arrangements to secure coal or wood during the summer months. It is well known that there may be a coal shortage next winter unless adequate provision is now made. This county being so plentifully supplied with woodlands the chairman of the fuel committee for the county believes that there need be no discomfort among our citizens, if a little forethought is exercised, and arrangements made for the cutting of wood this summer. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Secretary Baker in London.

London, March 23.—Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, visited King Albert, of Belgium, and the Belgian front yesterday.

Secretary Baker arrived in London from Calais at 5 p. m. He was accompanied by Major Frederick Palmer. The Secretary was met by Ambassador Page, Gens. Biddle and Bartlett and by Col. Lord Duncannon, representing the British war office. Mr. Baker drove to the house of Ambassador Page, whose guest he will be during his stay in London.