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GERMANS LOSE 100,000 IN A DAY

CRUSHING BLOW IS DEALT ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Desperate Fighting Results in Magnificent Victory for French Troops. Success is Greater than Somme Offensive Viewed from the Standpoint of Destruction Done to Enemy's Armed Forces and Damage to His Military Prestige. Fighting Continues.

(Spartanburg Journal)

Paris, April 17.—Germany suffered another crushing blow upon the Western front yesterday when forty miles of the strongest part of her line was wrested from her with an estimated loss of nearly 100,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. All France hails the victory as a brilliant demonstration of the skill of her generals and the courage of her troops.

Measured by the amount of territory freed, the victory does not compare with the Somme offensive which opened a month ago, but viewed from the amount of destruction done to the enemy's armed forces and the damage to her military prestige, it is a far greater success. There can be no question either of a previous planned retreat or a surprise. The enemy expected an attack and made every preparation to defeat it.

From Soissons to Craonne the German line runs along a series of hills of an average height of 500 feet, with deep valleys between. The attackers advanced up the valleys under a cross fire from each flank but the artillery curtain, on a new plan invented by a British general, was so effective that the operation was carried out at less cost than might be expected.

The weak point of the German line is from Craonne to Rheims, where the ground is more level. Here the attack made more progress and the danger of a rupture of the line became so imminent that the Germans brought in all available reserves. The reserves were smashed by the French field artillery which kept close on the heels of the waves of infantry. The result of today's operations is that the great Western battle has now joined along a front of close to 150 miles, more than one-third of the mighty line from Switzerland to the sea.

Along a 150-mile front battle line the French and British are pushing back the German armies in a titanic struggle for the mastery of the Western front.

Stepping into the fray after the British had been hammering the German lines in the Arras region to bits for a week, the French struck along a 25-mile front along the Aisne, carried the German positions to an average depth of from two to two and one-half miles, captured more than 10,000 prisoners and maintained all the ground won. Last night, after the great success of their initial rush, General Nivelle's forces occupied themselves with consolidating their new positions and resisting German counter-attacks. All these assaults were repulsed, and in the Ailles region, west of Craonne, the Germans suffered heavy losses. Their total casualties, all told, in the first 24 hours fighting are estimated at 100,000 men.

Both British and French reports today indicate that the continuation of the operations is being hampered by bad weather. Nevertheless, the British pushed forward in the region between St. Quentin and Cambrai, advancing east of Epehy to Le Tombois farm, within two and a half miles of Le Catelet, where they threatened to cut the St. Quentin-Cambrai main line of communication.

The strategic outline of the Anglo-French attack have been worked out in complete harmony by the staffs of the two armies. The dispatches indicate entire co-ordination for placing and timing the blows delivered, so as to insure their greatest possible effectiveness.

In a broad way, it may be judged, the French now have for their immediate objective the isolation of the important railway centre of Laon, to turn the southern end of the Hindenburg line.

The British already have pierced this line at the northern end. The joint operation apparently is aimed at the rolling up of the present German front in an effort to compel a retirement on a greater scale than any yet witnessed on the Western front since the battle of the Marne.

Operations in other sectors of this front and in the other war areas are at present of secondary importance, although the French activities further west in the Champagne and in the Alsace-Lorraine district apparently will bear close watch for possible important developments.

In Mesopotamia the British have advanced further up the Tigris to within little more than ten miles of Samara, 70 miles northwest of Bagdad, where another battle apparently is impending. Little resistance has been offered by the Turks in their retreat.

A GREAT SEND-OFF FOR SOLDIERS

Left For Camp Moore Monday Morning.

COMPANY "D" NEAR COLUMBIA

Large Crowd Gathered at Railroad Station Monday Morning to Witness Departure of the Traynham Guards and to Bid Soldiers Goodbye.

A huge crowd of parents, brothers, sisters, sweethearts and friends of Company D, better known locally as the Traynham Guards, gathered at the railroad station Monday morning to witness the departure of the troops for Columbia and to bid them goodbye. The crowd was not demonstrative to any considerable degree, as the seriousness of the occasion weighed heavily on all who were present. The soldier boys themselves, while not boisterous in any measure, were alone in any outward demonstrations of levity. The train got away from the station after ten o'clock and by nightfall the boys were already encamped at Styx, near Columbia.

The local company went on a train of twelve cars, a portion of which was occupied by the Greenville and Spartanburg companies, both composed of a fine bunch of men, the Greenville company headed by Capt. Workman and the Spartanburg company by Captain Justice. Other regimental officers came from Greenville.

The local company, commanded by Capt. Arthur Lee, with Lieutenants D. R. Simpson and Joe F. Smith, left Laurens with about eighty men, expecting about twenty more old men and recruits to join it in Columbia. Before departure about twenty-five former members and recruits had been weeded out on account of dependent families and physical disabilities. On account of the short time between the call to arms and the departure for Columbia a record of the company's membership was not made, so the names of those who left for war could not be had for publication. Among the young men around town to enlist were Charles Fleming, Dave Childress, Carol Smith, Anthony Fuller, Hugh Workman, James Crews, Dewey Boyd, Barney Parrott and others.

The call to assemble in the armory came Friday night. Saturday morning the members of the company began to assemble and by Sunday morning all of the company from the immediate territory had already reported. The company has a number of members from other cities, however, and these were expected in Columbia.

The company, with the other companies of the 1st Regiment, is now encamped at Styx, near Columbia. They may be addressed "Camp Moore, Columbia, S. C." It is expected that they will be moved to some other point at a future date to do guard duty, though exact orders as to future disposition have not been given.

Bobo-Simpson.

A marriage of much interest to their many friends was that of Miss Fannie Bobo to Mr. Joe H. Simpson, both of Clinton, which took place last Wednesday evening at the parsonage of the Holmes Street Methodist church, Laurens, by the Rev. W. L. Mullikin, a cousin of the bride.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpson left shortly after the ceremony for Atlanta where they will spend a week, after which they will be at home to their many friends on North Broad street, Clinton. Mrs. Simpson is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Bobo. Mrs. Simpson was educated at the Presbyterian College at Clinton. She numbers her friends by the scores.

Mr. Simpson is a son of Mrs. George Cunningham, and is a rising young business man of Clinton. He and his bride have the good wishes of a host of friends who wish them every success in life.

Meeting of Masons.

Rising Sun Chapter, R. A. M., will hold its regular meeting Friday night, April 20th. A large attendance is requested.

LAURENS SCHOOLS DISPLAY PROGRESS AND PATRIOTISM

Annual School Fair Held Friday.

LONG PARADE DAY'S FEATURE

Annual County School Fair Held Under Clear Skies. Laurens Wins Trophy Cup and Declaration Contest.

(By Charles H. Garrison.)

Under clear skies, four thousand school children marched Friday to the tune of "My Country 'Tis of Thee", while at the close of the parade, said to be the most successful one in the five years' existence of the Laurens county school fair, every one stood with bared head as the oath of allegiance to the flag was taken.

The event was the fifth annual school fair and attention to athletics and eloquence was surpassed by that of patriotism, as half of the children in line waved on high an American flag, while all cheered lustily as only a school child can cheer. As the procession wound its way to the graded school campus, there to be dismissed, the band struck up the soul-stirring song of "Dixie" while there went up such a mighty chorus of cheers from thousands of young throats as to rock the foundation of this historic city. In the memory of the oldest inhabitants nothing else so inspiring had ever been "pulled off" and adding to the patriotic spirit so prevalent was the thought of the Traynham Guards, the local military company, who only a few hours before had been called to the colors and were then mobilizing in their armory a stone's throw away.

From the standpoint of attendance, the fair was not up to the mark of former years, but this was accounted for by the fact that the farmers of Laurens, living up to the command of the nation, were at home busy with plow and teams, helping to "win the war by feeding the nation." Although there were but few adults in the city, the school children were there in abundance, there being twenty-eight schools represented in the parade. From early morn until noon, bugles and automobiles were streaming into the city from all parts of the county, bringing bright-eyed children, eager to take part in the events of the day, but no less eager to join their voices with those of the nation and to rally "round the Stars and Stripes. On almost every vehicle, whether propelled by motor or the more conservative horse, floated a large American flag, which never failed to attract attention from those seeing it.

The first events in the day were the declamation, reading spelling and composition contests of the grammar grades. These were held in the graded school building, the teachers of the county acting as judges in the various contests. The winners, as had been announced, were to be given ribbons, but this feature was withheld until the close of the parade. Dozens of the smaller children took part in these contests and the class of work done was said by the judges to be exceptionally high class, considering the age of the participants.

Headed by the Clinton Mill Band, the gigantic parade started the line of March promptly at 11:30. There were in the line of march approximately four thousand children, representing twenty-eight schools in all parts of the county. The line of march was composed of the following schools: Laurens city, Laurens mill, Watts Mill, Trinity-Ridge, Prospect, Woodrow Wilson, Bailey, Oak Grove, Ekorn, Lanford, Youngs, Friendship, Ebenezer, Bethany, Gray, Court-Owings, New Harmony, Clinton city, Clinton mill, Mountville, Lisbon, Wadsworth, Central, Sandy Springs, Musgrove, Langston and Ora. The parades formed on the campus of the graded school and went up Church street, down Main street, across the public square, down Laurens street and thence back to the starting point. The entire line of march was about a mile, being in a square and affording the best opportunity of inspection for the crowds who lined the sidewalks.

Returning to the starting point, the procession wound in, one column be-

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WILSON CALLS ON FARMERS TO INCREASE FOOD SUPPLIES

Thousands of Men Otherwise Liable for Military Duty be Excused From That Service and Assigned to Fundamental Sustaining Work in the Fields.

Washington, April 15.—President Wilson tonight in an address to his countrymen called upon every American citizen—man, woman and child—to join together to make the nation a unit for the preservation of its ideals and for triumph of democracy in the world war.

"The supreme test of the nation has come," says the address. "We must all speak, act and serve together."

He appealed to the farmers with emphasis on his words and particularly to the farmers of the South, to plant foodstuffs. The Southern farmers, he said, "can show their patriotism in no better or more convincing way than by resisting the great temptation of the present price of cotton and helping to feed the nations and the peoples everywhere fighting for their liberties and our own."

The address in part follows:

"My fellow countrymen:

"The entrance of our beloved country into the grim and terrible war for democracy and human rights, which has shaken the world creates so many problems of national life and action which call for immediate consideration and settlement that I hope you will permit me to address to you a few words of earnest counsel and appeal with regard to them.

"We are rapidly putting our navy upon an effective war footing and are about to create and equip a great army, but these are the simplest parts for the great task to which we have addressed ourselves. There is not a single selfish element, so far as I can see, in the cause we are fighting for. We are fighting for what we believe and wish to be the rights of mankind and for the future peace and security of the world. To do this great thing worthily and successfully we must devote ourselves to the service without regard to profit or material advantage and with an energy and intelligence that will rise to the level of the enterprise itself. We must realize to the fullest how great the task is and how many things, how many kinds and elements of capacity and service and self-sacrifice it involves.

"These, then, are the things we must do and do well, besides fighting—the things without which mere fighting would be fruitless:

"We must supply abundant food for ourselves and for our armies and our seamen, not only but also for a large part of the nations with whom we have now made common cause, in whose support and by whose aid we shall be fighting.

"We must supply ships by the hundreds out of our shipyards to carry to the other side of the sea, submarines or on submarines, what will every day be needed there, and abundant material out of our fields and our mines and our factories with which, not only to clothe and equip our own forces on land and sea, but also to clothe and support our people for whom the gallant fellows under arms can no longer work, to help clothe and equip the armies with which we are cooperating in Europe and to keep the looms and manufactories there in raw materials; coals to keep the fires going in ships at sea and in the furnaces of hundreds of factories across the sea; steel out of which to make arms and ammunition both here and there; rails for worn out railways back of the fighting front; locomotives and rolling stock to take the place of those every day going to pieces; mules, horses, cattle, for labor and for military service; everything with which the people of England and France and Italy and Russia have usually supplied themselves but cannot now afford the men, the materials or the machinery to make.

"It is evidence to every thinking man that our industries, on the farms, in the shipyards, in the mines, in the factories, must be made more prolific and more efficient than ever and that they must be more economically managed and better adapted to the particular requirements of our task than they have been; and what I want to say is that the men and the women who devote their thoughts and their energy to these things will be serving the country and conducting the fight

for peace and freedom just as truly and just as effectively as the men on the battlefield or in the trenches. The industrial forces of the country, men and women alike, will be a great national, a great international service army—a notable and honored host engaged in the service of the nation and the world, the efficient friends and saviors of free men everywhere. Thousands, nay, hundreds of thousands of men otherwise liable to military service of right and of necessity be excused from that service, and assigned to the fundamental sustaining work of the fields and factories and mines, and they will be as much part of the great patriotic forces of the nation as the men under fire.

"I take the liberty, therefore, of addressing the word to the farmers of the country and to all who work on the farms: the supreme needs of our own nation and of the nations with which we are cooperating is an abundance of supplies and especially of foodstuffs. The importance of an adequate food supply, especially for the present year, is superlative.

Without abundant food, alike for armies and the peoples now at war, the whole great enterprise upon which we have embarked will break down and fail. The world's food reserves are low. Not only during the present emergency but for some time after peace shall have come both our own people and a large proportion of the people of Europe must rely upon harvests in America. Upon the farmers of this country, therefore, in large measure rests the fate of the war and the fate of the nations. May the nation not count upon them to omit no step that will increase the production of their land or that will bring about the most effectual cooperation in the sale and distribution of their products? The time is short. It is of the most imperative importance that everything possible be done and done immediately to make sure of large harvests. I call upon young men and old alike and upon able-bodied boys of the land to accept and act upon this duty—to turn in hosts to the farms and make certain that no pains and no labor is lacking in this great matter.

"I particularly appeal to the farmers of the South to plant abundant foodstuffs as well as cotton. They can show their patriotism in no better way than by resisting the great temptation of the present price of cotton and helping, helping upon a great scale, to feed the nation and the people everywhere who are fighting for their liberties and for our own. The variety of their crops will be the visible measure of their comprehension of their national duty.

"The government of the United States and the governments of the several States stand ready to cooperate. They will do everything possible to assist farmers in securing an adequate supply of seed, an adequate force of laborers when they are most needed, at harvest time, and the means of expediting shipments of fertilizers and farm machinery as well as of the crops themselves when harvested. The course of trade will be as unhampered as it is possible to make it and there shall be no unwarranted manipulation of the nation's foodstuffs by those who handle it on its way to the consumer. This is our opportunity to demonstrate the efficiency of a great democracy and we shall not fall short of it!

"Let me suggest also, that every one who creates or cultivates a garden helps greatly, to solve the problem of the feeding of the nations; that every housewife who practices strict economy puts herself in the ranks of those who serve the nation. This is the time for America to correct her unpardonable fault of wastefulness and extravagance. Let every man and every woman assume the duties of careful, provident use and expenditure as a public duty, as a dictate of patriotism which no one can now expect ever to be excused or forgiven for ignoring.

"The supreme test of the nation has come. We must all speak, act and serve together!"

"Woodrow Wilson."

New Auto Numbers Arriving.

The new automobile numbers to be provided by the state highway commission under the new automobile tax law have commenced to make their appearance on the streets, although they are not required until May 1st. Yesterday several of the new numbers made their appearance. Treasurer Ross D. Young blazed the trail here in providing himself with the new plates, which are much handsomer than the old style county plates. The new plates only show the state, the number and year of issue. Hereafter, it will not be possible to tell from what county the cars come from.

Entertained by Mrs. Roper.

The needlecraft club met with Mrs. R. H. Roper Saturday afternoon and enjoyed several hours of sewing and conversation. Before the meeting was adjourned Mrs. Roper served a tempting salad course.

She'll Would Enter Aviation Corps.

C. C. Shell, secretary to Judge J. T. Johnson, of the United States district court of the western district of South Carolina, will leave tomorrow morning for Memphis, Tenn., to take the examination for first lieutenant in the United States signal officers reserve corps. He hopes to be able to enter the aviation corps.—Spartanburg Herald.