

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Do all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's"

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## ALLIED ARMIES STRIKE.

### TAKE INITIATIVE IN NORTH AND SOUTH.

French and British Troops Join in Vigorous Counterattack to Regain Ground.

With the British Army in France, April 26 (By the Associated Press).—The allied arms today were taking the initiative on both the northern and southern ends of the battle front. This morning the British and French troops, acting in conjunction began counter operations in the region of Mont Kemmel and the neighboring territory which the Germans captured in yesterday's sanguinary struggle.

The aggressors at the time of the filing of this dispatch have made some progress but they were battling in the face of great odds and heavy fighting was continuing with the enemy holding the advantageous high ground in strength.

South of the Somme the allied forces launched a combined drive against the German positions between Hangard and the southern outskirts of Villers-Bretonneux. The latest reports recorded some progress but an intense conflict was in progress. Yesterday Villers-Bretonneux had been cleared of the enemy who overran it Wednesday and the British by brilliant counter-attacks had retaken virtually all their original positions. The main interest from the military point of view today centered in the northern contest where the Germans have been making such determined efforts to gain control of the chain of hills of which Kemmel is one, and thereby threaten the allied positions to the north.

This morning found the Germans holding the salient which they had driven into the French and British lines beyond Mont Kemmel, Kemmel village, Dranoutre and farms and hamlets in the immediate vicinity. A gallant regiment of poilus had been ordered to hold Kemmel Hill at all costs. After the Germans had broken through the defending lines and were encircling the elevation, the French clung to their position and obeyed their commands to the letter. They battled to the bitter end. No more dramatic and inspiring stand has been made in recent days than this.

The allied counterattack began early this morning. In the first rush the sturdy British Tommies forced their way forward in the face of a heavy fire, and into Kemmel village. For two hours they held the village while Germans from the neighboring hill poured bullets into the place from rapid-firers. At 5 o'clock it became apparent that it would be a useless sacrifice of life to remain longer and the British were withdrawn to safer ground from which the assault continued.

The French were reported to have made some progress, but they, too, were coming under a grilling fire from Mont Kemmel and other points.

## WOUNDED AMERICANS RESCUED

### Buried in Dugout in No Man's Land for Six Days.

With the American Army, France, Thursday, April 25.—Two American soldiers who were wounded in the engagement around Seicheprey Saturday, were found alive today in a dugout in No Man's Land. How they managed to keep alive, physicians say, is little short of miraculous.

## FRENCH COUNTER ATTACK.

### Determined Effort to Regain Position That Germans Took at Frightful Cost.

With British Army in France, April 26.—The French this morning are counter attacking at Mount Kemmel in an attempt to reclaim the position taken by the Germans. Yesterday's fighting was of a most desperate nature and enemy gains were made only at a frightful cost.

## BOMBARDING PARIS.

### Long Range Murder of Non-Combatants Continues.

Paris, April 26.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed last night. The damage is not appreciable.

## LIBERTY LOAN TOTALS.

### Three-fourths of a Billion Yet to Be Subscribed.

Washington, April 29.—Liberty loan total announced today at the opening of the last week of the campaign, was \$2,221,942,450.

## QUESTION OF MEN.

### SIDE WITH MOST RESERVES WILL WIN WAR.

War a Test of Endurance—British Chief Director Talks of Fighting in France—German Success Tactical Thus Far.

London, April 26.—The importance of every entente allied country engaged in the war getting every possible man into position to support the battle front was emphasized by Gen. Delma Radcliffe, chief director of military operations at the war office, today in his first interview with newspaper men since he took over the position formerly held by Maj. Gen. F. B. Maurice.

"The Germans are going on with this hammering process," he said, "and we have got to make up our minds that it is not this week or next week or next month, that this fight is coming to a decision. We are going to fight the whole summer and in the end it is a question of who holds the last reserves. Reserves on the West front now are, I am happy to say, in the hands of one command, namely, in the hands of the commander in chief of the allied armies in France, General Foch, in whom everybody in both armies has complete confidence. He has so far employed only a small proportion of his reserves.

"I want to emphasize the fact that this is a long drawn out test of endurance, endurance of nations. That is why it is so imperative for this country and all countries to get hold of every man they can possibly to support the battle front. What is going to tell in the end is men.

In summing up the battle situation, General Radcliffe said:

"As regards a few days preceding April 23 the German activities were devoted chiefly to the Lys sector between Givinchy and Merville. All the details have been published, and the net result was highly satisfactory for us. The Germans put in a lot of troops, suffered heavy losses and gained absolutely nothing.

"Around Givinchy particularly, the result was very satisfactory. Some important positions changed hands and were finally left in our possession. Further northeast of Robecq we gained quite a little ground and took a considerable number of prisoners. All of it was good. The balance of losses and wear and tear were decidedly against the Germans and that is what we want.

"On the morning of April 24 the enemy began a more serious effort opposite Amiens and yesterday he started a heavy attack on the Kemmel front. The enemy had made considerable progress. The latest information is still incomplete but there is no doubt that the Germans succeeded in occupying Kemmel hill. The net result in the Kemmel sector so far is that the Germans have gained about 2,000 yards on a front of about 1,200 yards. The gain is not large but involves very important ground and there is no question but that it is a very serious loss.

"There is nothing decisive about the loss of Kemmel hill, but it is a most important tactical feature. It is an observation point for all ground to the north but it remains to be seen whether it will remain in the enemy's hands. Our line to the north is all right.

"The situation around Kemmel hill is not yet cleared up and we shall have more information this evening.

"On the south the situation at Villers-Bretonneux is very satisfactory. We have taken back all we lost and with the village we have taken many prisoners and inflicted heavy losses.

"Looking at these attacks we see one thing. In each case the enemy has struck at the junction of the French and British armies. As you know, that must always be a weak spot. With the best possible arrangements and with the best understanding it must always be difficult to arrange for immediate support when two different commands are involved. These difficulties naturally are increased when you have two nationalities and, although we and the French have been fighting alongside each other for three and one-half years and have absolute confidence in each other, yet we must always expect the Germans to try to find a joint in the harness.

"Speaking generally as regards the German policy as evidenced in the events of the last few days there is nothing to alter the view that Gen. Maurice put before you—that it is

## ALLIES COUNTER ATTACK.

### DESPERATE BATTLE RAGING BETWEEN AMIENS AND YPRES.

Allies Continue Counter Attacks East of Amiens and Gain Further Advantages—Germans Launch Heavy Attacks South of Ypres.

London, April 27.—Continuing their counter attacks east of Amiens the allies have gained further advantages in the Hangard-Villers-Bretonneux sector, it is announced officially. The French recaptured positions from Loore to Laclayte, in Flanders west of Mont Kemmel.

The fighting north of Lys is very severe and the enemy's advance was held at all points and heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans.

The Germans made a heavy attack on the front south of Ypres and there a long battle for Voormezele, two miles south of Ypres was fought, which the British regained, taking hundreds of prisoners.

## GERMAN OFFENSIVE HALTS.

### Quiet on Ypres Front While Germans Prepare for Another Attack.

With the British Army in France, April 27.—During the early hours today there was no fresh German offensive recorded in the Ypres sector, where the enemy paused last night undoubtedly to reorganize their forces for a fresh attack.

## ATTACK NEAR AMIENS REPULSED.

### French Hold Ground and Score Minor Success.

Paris, April 27.—A German attack near Thennes, southeast of Amiens was broken up last night, the war office announces. Artillery fighting continues on the front between Villers-Bretonneux-Hangard.

## HEAVY BRITISH CASUALTIES.

### Loss Last Week Totalled More Than Eighteen Thousand.

London, April 27.—The casualties in the British ranks reported this week totalled 18,309.

Despite the heavy fighting for more than a month, casualties only now are beginning to approach the high figures for the week last year when the British were on the offensive on the western front.

## AMERICAN CASUALTY LIST.

Washington, April 27.—The casualties list today contains one hundred and three names. Killed in action 11; died of accident, 4; died of disease, 2; wounded severely, 47; wounded slightly, 37; missing in action, 2.

Paris, April 27.—Eleven American ambulance men have won the war cross by gallant service in the battle now progressing. They included Lieut. Ralph Richmond, commanding Section 642.

With the British Army in France, April 29.—The fourth German army this morning heavily attacked the Allied front in Flanders. Prisoners captured have admitted that it is the German intention to attempt the capture of Ypres. Severe fighting is reported in both the French and British areas. The attack extends over a front of about fifteen miles. The Belgians on the Yser front are also reported to have been attacked.

## A PROFITABLE PIG.

### Money Making Record of One Pig Club Boy.

A. C. Robinson, a white boy of 18 years, of the Oswego section of Sumter county, a member of the Boys' Pig Club of this county, purchased in the summer of 1917, for \$25, a Duroc Jersey pig. A few days ago he sold from that sow \$81 worth of pigs and has the sow left, which is worth fully \$100 or more.

That is the kind of work that will prepare Sumter county for the boll weevil and will also help to whip the Kaiser.

the German intention to wear out the British army.

"There is no reason to doubt that a big offensive on a far greater scale than ever is still to be expected between Arras and Amiens, with the object of driving in and separating the British and French. So far the whole German success is merely tactical."

## ALLIES' LINES HOLD.

### TEUTONIC FORCES MAKE NO HEADWAY IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS.

Village Captured by Germans Saturday Again in Hands of Haig's Men—Enemy Fails to Pierce French Lines.

The entire allied line in France and Flanders still stand firmly. Nowhere have the Germans been able to make a further dent in it. Hard fighting has been in progress on the Ypres sector around Voormezele and to the south at Loore. Both places have several times changed hands, but at last reports Voormezele had been recaptured by the British but the Germans had obtained another foothold in Loore.

Voormezele was taken by the Germans Saturday but the British in a night attack won it back and since have held it, inflicting heavy casualties on the Germans.

The Germans have tried at several points along the front held by the French to pierce the line, but everywhere have been repulsed, notably in the St. Mihiel and Luneville sectors.

Aside from the attacks and a few unimportant operations between the British and the Germans, artillery duels have predominated.

As a whole there is no material change in the situation along the entire front over that of Saturday and it is not evident that the Germans are prepared for the present to resume the offensive, which has cost them so dearly in men killed, wounded or made prisoners. Reports coming by way of London are to the effect that in Germany there is much perturbation over inability of the Teutons to pierce the allied line.

The operations in the Italian theater continue of a minor character, consisting of small patrol encounters and artillery duels of more or less intensity in various sectors.

Likewise in Macedonia comparative quiet prevails, although there has been considerable shelling of opposing positions by the artillery and aerial bombing craft.

Nothing new has come through either in the way of confirmation or denial of reports in circulation Saturday that a counter revolution had broken out in Petrograd and that Grand Duke Alexis Nikolaevitch had been proclaimed emperor of Russia.

## SUGAR CERTIFICATES.

### Retail Dealers Must Obtain Certificates to Sell Sugar for Preserving Purposes.

Certificates for obtaining sugar for preserving purposes have been received by the county food administrators, G. A. Lemmon and E. I. Reardon. These certificates will be furnished to retail dealers only, and by the county administrators in lots of ten certificates at a time to each retail dealer.

The name of every retail dealer and the number of certificates delivered will be kept in a book, and every week every retail dealer must send in to William Elliott, State Food Administrator, Columbia, S. C., the certificates signed by purchasers of sugar for preserving purposes. The names of retail dealers and number of certificates will be sent each week to the State Food Administrator.

A systematic checking up of every purchaser of sugar for preserving purposes will be kept and inquiries instituted later by government inspectors to ascertain whether foods have been actually preserved with the sugar by the parties who signed these certificates.

The local home demonstration agents, Misses Keels and Martin have been requested by State Food Administrator Elliott to cooperate in legitimate and intelligent distribution of sugar for preserving purposes.

Any one detected in signing certificates and obtaining sugar for preserving purposes with the intention of not using the sugar for preserving purposes will be dealt with severely and their names will be published in the county newspapers as hoarders and slackers, by the Food Administration.

## KILLED BY TORNADO.

### Georgia Family Wiped Out Sunday.

Valdosta, April 29.—William Turner, wife and daughter, were killed at Bemiff, near here, late yesterday when a severe wind and rain storm wrecked their home. A large area of fine timber land was laid after the wind.

## FRENCH HALT DRIVE.

### ONLY RESULT OF ONSLAUGHT IS LOSS OF MANY MEN.

Foch's Men Recapture Villers-Bretonneux and Hangard in Counter Blow—Galle Line Holds Firm.

With the French Army in France, Saturday, April 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—The stern opposition encountered by the Germans in their attacks in the region of the Somme and in Flanders near Kemmel hill, has prevented them thus far from developing their renewed offensive on the great scale which they undoubtedly intended. Each of their attacks may be regarded as an effort to prepare the way for a more extended action in the event of an important initial success at either point, but the resistance offered at both places apparently discouraged the German commanders from launching more serious attempts to break through.

In Picardy, where the Germans attempted to divide the French from the British around Villers-Bretonneux and Hangard, the line remained today very much the same as it was before the attack was begun three days ago. There has been no resumption of infantry fighting since last night. The only result of the German onslaught, of eight divisions, is the loss of a large number of men, without any advance. The allied commander-in-chief decided, when the Germans occupied Villers-Bretonneux and Hangard, that the continued possession by the enemy would endanger the security of the line in front of Amiens and immediately sent forces with orders to recapture them. The attacks at these points were executed with the greatest courage and success.

Farther north, where the Germans gained Kemmel hill by the employment of nine divisions, the Allied commander-in-chief regarded it as unnecessary to make the sacrifice. Meanwhile the Germans are using up large numbers of their effectives without obtaining the important objectives at which they aimed. There is confidence among the Allies in the ability to hold together wherever they choose to make a stand.

London, April 29.—The Germans this morning opened a heavy bombardment on the entire front between Meteren and Voormezele, south and southwest of Ypres, it is officially announced. Infantry attacks developed shortly afterward.

An enemy attack yesterday afternoon in the vicinity of Loere, west of Mount Kemmel, was repulsed. There were great activities of hostile artillery last night from the River Scarpe, opposite Arras, north of Lens; between Ginevchy and Nieppe wood. Prisoners were taken at several points.

## NIGHT ATTACK REPULSED.

Paris, April 29.—Germans made several attempts last night to advance on the French positions in Hangard wood on the front before Amiens, but were checked by French fire, the war office announces.

## BRITISH TROOPS HARD PRESSED.

London, April 29.—The British troops around Ypres several times after dawn this morning sent up S. O. S. signals for artillery support, telegraphs Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters. An intense bombardment from artillery concentration is in progress from LaBassee to south of Houthelset forest and from Vimy to Lens.

## Fighting at Toul.

With American Army in France, Sunday, April 28.—There were increased artillery activities on the Toul sector today. The Germans opened a heavy barrage at dawn, accompanied by intermittent machine gun and rifle fire. These activities are taken to mean that the enemy is striving to keep the Americans busy so they cannot be sent north.

## TORNADO SWEEPS GEORGIA.

### Growing Crops Washed Out in Southern Part of State.

Macon, April 28.—A severe wind and rain storm of tornado proportion at some points, swept over Southwestern and Southern Georgia this afternoon. Culbreth, Smithville, Americus, Albany and Cordele were cut off from wire communication. Passengers arriving on trains say that at

## A SERIOUS LOSS.

### HUNS SUCCEED IN STORMING IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITION NEAR YPRES.

Allies Forced to Counterattack in Effort to Regain Heights Regarded as Key to Southern Side of Salient—Terrific Drive Launched by Germans.

Kemmel Hill, a height which has been looked upon as the key to the southern side of the Ypres salient and one of the most important strategic positions on the northern battle fronts in France, has been taken by the Germans, after a defense which will become one of the heroic chapters of the war, the hill was surrounded and the French forces entrenched on its slopes were overcome.

The loss of the hill, which is admitted in official statements by Gen. Delma Radcliffe, chief director of military operations at the British war office, brings to the allies a realization that the whole Ypres position is in peril from the German drive northward from the lowlands lying to the west of Armentieres.

The Teutons launched terrific attacks along the whole Wytchaete-Bailleul-Meteren line Wednesday, apparently for the purpose of finding a point which might yield. They evidently found that spot in the section of the front held jointly by the British and French troops and against it they hurled fresh divisions which fought their way forward all day Thursday until at night fall they had surrounded Kemmel Hill and isolated the French troops holding the position.

All night long the fight went on and it was not until Friday that the Germans succeeded in storming up the slopes of the height.

The loss of Kemmel Hill is serious for it overlooks much of the low lands lying back of the allied lines in the Ypres salient. The hill is 464 feet high, rising from low lands on the south and east. It is six miles southwest of Ypres. This German success cuts a deep notch in the allied line to the southwest of Ypres and completely outflanks the British on the north slopes of Messines Ridge, to which, they were forced by the German assault of two weeks ago. So important is the possession of Kemmel Hill that the allies must launch a counterattack to recapture it, and the French have begun a savage attack on the height. If the Germans continue to hold and either consolidate their lines or push on the allies will be at a great disadvantage in future engagements.

The latest reports from the scene of the battle are that the Germans are attacking on a line from La Clytte to the Ypres-Comines Canal. La Clytte is about a mile and a half north of Kemmel Hill and is six and a half miles west of the Ypres-Comines Canal which runs almost due south from Ypres. The evident purpose of this attack is to roll up the allied positions south of Ypres and force a retirement from that war-tortured town. The position of the Germans is such that only the sternest defense will avail to check their threatening advance.

At other points along the battle line the Germans have made important gains. At Villers-Bretonneux the British have held their lines and completed the work of clearing out the last German positions on the ground held before the German attack on Wednesday, but Hangard is apparently still in German hands, and the Teutons are reported to have launched attacks on the town of Cauchy without, however, having occupied the place.

Farther south, immediately north of Castel, the Germans have penetrated the village of Hailles and are in position of FvIF? t LP in possession of Hill 82 South of the village. The French have counterattacked on this front and regained ground.

At no other points has the enemy advanced. There have been artillery duels at various points along the French front to the south of the Somme. Only the usual patrol engagements have been reported from the Italian front.

## LUMBER RATE DECISION.

### Propose Increase in Freight on Carolina Lumber Disapproved.

Washington, April 29.—The proposed increase in lumber rates from Carolina and Georgia to points in the Buffalo, Pittsburgh and central freight association territories was disapproved in a tentative report of the Interstate Commission examiner today.