

CRISIS OF BATTLE NEAR U.S. MEN SAY

Military Expert Believes British Are Holding Germans

1,500,000 IN ATTACK

Haig Holding Off This Number With 500,000, British Officers State

President Sends Haig Message of Confidence

Washington, March 25.—“Americans feel you will win,” was the message President Wilson sent to General Haig today as the great west front battle swept on in its fury.

The message reflected the confidence of the President in the critical events now transpiring in France. His cable read:

“May I not express to you my warm admiration for the steadfastness and valor with which your troops have withstood the German onset and the perfect confidence all Americans feel that you will win and secure a final victory.”

“WOODROW WILSON.”

Washington, March 25. The turning point of the great west front battle is near, officers here believe.

“The British are holding their own,” one of the highest ranking American officers said this morning, “but further local gains by the Germans may be expected. A comparison of both enemy and British official statements today convinces me that the Allied cause is not in great peril and I see no reason for pessimism.

“It may be quite possible that United States troops will be in action soon, but I hardly believe they are included in the ‘army of maneuver’ under the direction of the supreme war council. It does not appear that the situation has warranted the use of any part of that force.

“So if American troops have been engaged on the part of the front where the attack is centered they probably were engineers or some unit undergoing training with the British.”

Look for Use of Reserves When the enemy advance has been brought to a definite halt officers here look for the employment of the allied army of maneuver in counter-offensive. That action may not be far off, they say.

Such a move would have the chance of catching the enemy off balance and result in the quick nullification of gains already made, it is believed.

British military men here say that General Haig is holding the great German drive of ninety-seven divisions with only twenty-seven divisions of battling Tommies.

1,500,000 Germans in Drive A German division is approximately 16,000 men, making the total Germans engaged the great effort, according to British estimates, about a million and a half men.

The British division is between 15,000 and 19,000 men, making the total British engaged the great effort, according to British estimates, about a million and a half men.

According to the British strategy, it is believed here Haig will not rush to greater concentrated forces until he is ready to assume the offensive at the break in the German onrush. During a retirement it is not well to overconcentrate men, it is pointed out.

British officials estimate the German losses at approximately 160,000 men in a retreat which is not well to overconcentrate men, it is pointed out.

MAN AND WOMAN LEAVE REQUESTS TO CHARITIES

Bulk of James McHugh and Elizabeth Hegeman Estates Devoted to Benevolence

Requests of \$1000 to Bishop Dougherty for hospital work in the Philippine Islands. \$250 each to St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, St. Joseph's Home for Friendless Boys, Maternity Hospital of St. Vincent, Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the poor of St. Thomas Aquinas church and Little Sisters of the great Goodrich and Jefferson streets, and \$500 to the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, all in the will of James McHugh, 1723 South Cleveland avenue, has been approved by the testamentary disposition of property valued at \$2290.

Other will of Elizabeth Hegeman, 4813 Frankford avenue, which disposes of property worth \$1990, provides that a property at 4817 Frankford avenue is to be used as a woman's Christian association to be known as the Hegeman Association of Frankford. The income of the premises 1528 Harrison street is to be applied toward the maintenance of the institution. Income from properties 1622 and 1624 Fillmore street is to be paid to the Old Ladies' Home, Wisconsin.

Other wills probated today were those of Beulah H. Bancroft, who died recently in the Hahnemann Hospital, leaving to relatives an estate valued at \$26,089; Henry C. Gaughlin, 2278 North Nineteenth street, \$17,500; Annie F. Gally, 1742 North Fifteenth street, \$1400; Henrietta C. Gaughlin, Presbyterian Hospital, \$9200; Harry L. Birmingham, Samaritan Hospital, \$2720; John W. Knowles, Home for Consumptives, Chestnut Hill, \$2186; Christian Weber, 1511 North Eighth street, \$4900, and Emily J. Griffith, Presbyterian Hospital, \$2890.

HAVE YOU GERMAN MAP, SKETCH OR PICTURE?

U. S. Wants It for Use of American Army, so Send It in, Please

A veritable mine of information may be buried in a desk, trunk, or laid away forgotten in a closet corner, in the shape of a picture or a map of a town, street, fort, battery, or other country scene in western Germany, eastern France or Belgium. The Government desires it. The most inconspicuous photograph may be of inestimable value for military purposes.

CAPTURE OF BAPAUME CLAIMED BY GERMANS

Continued from Page One Fish trenches. They were immediately ejected.

At all other points the attackers were stopped before the positions of the British. The enemy was not only driven back, but lost heavily.

This morning the Germans renewed their assaults in the Bapaume sector and fresh fighting developed there. A number of the attacks were made south of Bapaume.

Forces of Germans that had crossed the Somme River south of Peronne between Licourt and Briere were driven back across the stream by British counter-thrusts.

(This may be regarded as the most optimistic official report issued by Field Marshal Haig since the German offensive began. According to the British commander the enemy's advance has been stopped all along the line—temporarily at least.)

Fighting for Bapaume At one point north of Bapaume the

BRITISH FALL BACK CALMLY TO PREPARED DEFENSE POSITIONS

With the British Army in France, March 25. The German offensive was viewed with optimistic eyes at the front. Fighting of a most desperate nature has been continuous since the first attack, but so far the British have used troops other than those which were being hurled into the fray with a result they have enabled the main body of the forces to fall back deliberately and without confusion and enemy positions which had been prepared long before the German offensive began.

The Germans, on the other hand, operative under the eyes of the Emperor and the Crown Prince, have been hurled back into the fray with utter disregard for life and have followed into the abandoned positions, getting machine guns and other weapons which had been prepared long before the German offensive began.

More than fifty German divisions already have been identified by actual contact, and many of these men were sent over the top into the frightful maelstrom made by the Allied artillery, machine guns and other weapons. The slaughter of the enemy infantry as it came forward in close formation over the open has been appalling.

The British losses have been within the bounds expected, due to the tactics of the commander. The Allies have lost a considerable number of men in

FRENCH TAKE OVER PART OF LINE OPPOSING GERMANS' OFFENSIVE

Paris, March 25. French troops relieved part of the allied forces Saturday, taking over the strategic line of the War Office communication stated today.

Hard fighting was reported in the Noyon region. French forces held the heights on the right bank of the Oise against important enemy attacks.

CLIMAX OF BIG HINDENBURG DRIVE IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS

(Written for the United Press) The next twenty-four hours will probably mark the climax of Von Hindenburg's unprecedented slaughter of his own troops in an effort to overwhelm the British armies in France. If the British line holds there will be a period of Von Hindenburg's great gamble must begin to go against him.

For the present the Germans have gained two objectives. They have largely improved their own defensive positions guarding their chief lines of communications. They have also undoubtedly disarranged British offensive plans for the coming summer. But the Germans have not yet regained all the territory they voluntarily abandoned last March when they retired to the Hindenburg line.

The British front is resisting all tendency to give way in disorder. As long as this slow, orderly retreat proceeds the German attacks must continue to exhaust Germany's man power without compensating advantages. The Germans confess to an improved

SUPREME GERMAN EFFORT SEEN BEFORE U. S. FIGHTS ON BIG SCALE

With the American Army in France, March 25. American officers declared today that the present situation on the western front is the most critical confronting the Allies since the start of the war. They do not expect Verdun.

These officers pointed out the necessity for plain speaking now, so that the people at home can realize that every effort is necessary to get the war in order that the foe may be beaten.

The German announcement of the capture of Peronne and Ham was received by the Americans yesterday afternoon. Coupled with the announcement that the enemy was again bombarding Paris, it was felt that the Kaiser was making his supreme effort to break through the line before the United States could actually get a large force into the field.

American officers pointed out that the Germans are ready to sacrifice enormous numbers of troops in order to force a decision in the west. The enemy, they declared, is trying to batter down the morale of the populace in the rear of the battle lines with his air raid and long-range bombardments.

GERMANS RECOVER TWO-THIRDS OF TERRITORY THEY YIELDED

London, March 25. On the front east and north of Bapaume, where the fiercest fight is now being fought, Von Below's losses in the earlier stages are declared to have been greater than the total British forces engaged.

George V Encourages Haig; Kaiser Honors Hindenburg

London, March 25. “The empire stands calm and confident in its soldiers,” was the message King George wired to Field Marshal Haig today, adding: “I assure you the fortitude, courage and self-sacrifice of the troops you command, which continue so heroically to resist greatly superior numbers, are realized by me and my people.”

An Amsterdam dispatch reported that Emperor William conferred the Iron Cross with gold rays on Field Marshal von Hindenburg and the Grand Cross of the Order of the Iron Cross on General von Ludendorff. The Emperor also gave various decorations to departmental chiefs, along with a signed photograph with the date of the award.

FIND GIANT GUN BOMBARDING PARIS IN WOOD 76 MILES AWAY

Continued from Page One Sciences, told the Excelsior that by using tungsten in the fabrication of the projectile the tungsten shells would be about half the diameter of steel shells of an even weight, and that, therefore, the atmospheric resistance would be less, this accounting for the extremely long range. He also pointed upon the possibility of a propeller being employed on the projectile.

The newspaper Le Journal, in its article regarding the gun, says it is of 240 millimeters caliber and of Austrian manufacture. It is a very delicate piece of machinery, which must be handled by expert mechanics. The gunners, the newspaper adds, as the loading and pointing is a difficult task. It declares each shot costs about \$4000.

Magnetic Field Theory A prominent American chemist, whose name is withheld for military reasons, gave a statement today concerning the long-range gun that is being used to bombard Paris. He advanced the theory that the barrel of the gun is surrounded by a magnetic field which keeps the shell virtually motionless in the barrel until it is being fired, thereby eliminating friction, which is the greatest cause of long motion, and thereby greatly increasing the muzzle velocity of the gun.

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HUN SURPRISE BLOW FOILED BY FRENCH Paris, March 25.—After a violent bombardment, German troops undertook a surprise attack to the south of Yverdon, but without success, according to the French official statement. The latest official report follows:

There was intermittent artillery fire during the night, and on the morning of the 24th, in the region of the Meuse, between Carrières and Bezonvaux and at Barmantwiler-Kopf.

Washington, March 25.—Official dispatch from Paris says: March 24, 2:30 a. m. The German offensive is continuing between Carrières and Tergier with violent fighting, in which the Germans are said to have used ninety-seven divisions. The English resistance is very efficient.

City Public Works Stopped by Nation

Continued from Page One opening and construction. The only immediate exceptions are contracts affecting Government work and work of absolute necessity to the health and welfare of the city.

At least \$100,000,000 of the \$115,000,000 loan money under contract and ready for contract will be affected by this notice given today.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo wants all unnecessary city work in Philadelphia stopped at once, especially that of the Frankford 'L', which will require about 13,000 tons of steel for completion. In addition to the steel, the city is to be required to construct work and would tie up a portion of the facilities in the mill making the materials.

City to Act at Once Mr. Smith, secretary to Mayor, presided at the conference. At its conclusion he said that the notice probably will result in the stopping of all municipal improvements not needed immediately until the end of the war.

Two Dwellings Collapse Sleeping Families Unharmed Fronts of Homes Fall Into Street

Laurel, Pa., March 25.—Two families were in the path of death early this morning when without warning the entire fronts of the homes of Mrs. Margaret Schick and Mrs. Lillian Bowers on Beaver street, collapsed and fell into the street. The families were sleeping in the rear of the houses and were not injured.

Frankford 'L' Involved The new turn in affairs led to much speculation about City Hall as to the action of the Public Service Commission on the new lease of city lines to the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. The Commission will begin a hearing on the lease on Wednesday. Some expressions were heard as to the lack of necessity of the new lease, but the Commission will be completed until long after the completion of the war.

ASK GOD TO CROWN RIGHT St. Louis, March 25.—The following communication to all affiliated churches has been sent by the Rev. Daniel S. Tuttle, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America: “The news leads me humbly to ask leave to bid to penitence and prayer in homes and churches all who may hear and heed me in this critical time in Philadelphia, earnestly beseeching God to descend and crown the right.”

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BERLIN CLAIMS BIG VICTORY

War Office Reports the Capture of Peronne and Ham

30,000 PRISONERS HELD 600 Guns Taken in Drive Which Took Germans Across Somme

London, March 25. The Berlin War Office claims German troops have captured Peronne and Ham and defeated French and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter-attack on Chauny.

The statement adds that more than 30,000 prisoners have been captured and 600 guns have been taken by the Germans.

Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and parts of the Franco-American reserves are declared to have been beaten with the heaviest losses on the line from Bapaume to Bouchevaux and behind the Somme between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny.

Last night's statement said that the British in their retirement are burning French towns and villages and that between the Somme and the Oise the Germans are still going forward.

Great Rout Is Reported Enormous quantities of booty have been taken by the Germans, according to this statement, which says: “Between the Somme and the Oise our corps are fighting their way forward. Chauny has been taken and the French are being driven back in great numbers. Our booty in war material is enormous. The English in their retirement are burning French towns and villages. We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long-distance guns.”

A gigantic struggle is taking place for Bapaume. A battle is in progress on the Transloy-ombles-Maurois line. The Somme has been crossed at many points in our attack between Peronne and Ham.”

Western theatre: The battle near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and portions of Franco-American reserves who had been brought up were beaten and on the Somme, between Bouchevaux and behind the Somme, between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny, were repulsed with the heaviest losses.

Repulse Counter-Attacks The army of General Von Below (left) took by storm Monchy, Cambrai and south thereof carried forward the attack in a westerly direction beyond Waucourt and Henin. It now is engaged in a fight northwest of Bapaume. The British counter-attacks were repulsed.

The army of General Von Berman, following upon the heels of the victorious army, pressed forward in close pursuit Friday night as far as the third enemy position in the Epinacourt, Nurlu, Templeux, Le Fosse, Barneis line.

Early yesterday morning they renewed their attack against the enemy and defeated him, in spite of his desperate defense and continual counter-attacks. A junction with the left wing of the attack of General von Below was effected.

Between Manantour and Peronne the troops of General von Kottbus and von Gotard have forced a crossing over the Torille sector and on the Somme battlefield are fighting around Bouchevaux.

Peronne Is Captured Peronne has fallen. Other divisions have pressed forward to the south thereof as far as the Somme. “As early as Friday evening the army of General von Hutier, pressing closely forward, took by storm the third enemy position, broke through it and compelled the enemy to retire.”

In ceaseless pursuit, the corps of General von Luttwitz and von Oettinge have reached the Somme.

Ham fell, after a desperate fight, into the hands of German troops. English reserves, which were thrown against them in a desperate attack, sustained sanguinary losses.

The corps of General von Wobersloh and von Conte and the troops of General von Geyl, after a fierce battle, crossed the Crozat Canal.

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Friends Decry War Stand of Comrades

Continued from Page One papers suggesting that the Society of Friends are forever leaving doctrine of pacifism, were further forgotten of the fundamental principles underlying the doctrine of Friends or were not Friends at all.

One of the aged Friends, possibly nearer his century mark than ninety, spoke as follows: “The article in the newspapers was the biggest disgrace which has ever overhung the heads of true conservative Friends. Where are those days when the sequestered Philadelphia Quakers during the Revolutionary war were willing to be cast from the State which they have helped to settle and undergo a life of exile that their principles of peace be not deterred?”

“Those men were true Friends; but, as for those whose names appeared in the Public Ledger under the caption, ‘One Hundred and Twenty Prominent Friends Say the Society is Not Against a RIGHTEOUS WAR,’ we had best not say.”

“I may be old in years, as I am in character, but I cannot but help assail those 120 willful men who saw for some reason not clear to me to cast aside principles and thought upon the lines which the Friends have held from the time of our founding.”

Another of the delegates suggested that the principle of William Penn in founding Pennsylvania for the freedom and enjoyment of peace was being drawn away from. He said that he could not feel inclined to criticize the men who felt that Friends ought to throw to the winds their peace doctrine, but that when a group of men said that they were violating the opinion of the Society of Friends, then his heart “bled for utterance” that the outside world might not be misled and might understand the true and earnest feeling of the Friends.

This argument came upon the heels of a stirring patriotic address by Henry Bartlett, one of the prominent delegates, who said that now was the time for the Friends to show their real worth and help those going upon the battlefields of Flanders to lay down their lives for what they considered the cause of their country.

The meeting decided to select a committee to nominate members of the society to serve on the peace committee. This committee was appointed at last year's session and automatically renewed after that. It was suggested that, instead of having the committee serve for one year, it serve for three. Final action on this also was postponed.

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URGENT DEFICIENCY BILL PASSES SENATE

Frelinghuysen Only Objector to Purchase of German-Owned Piers

Washington, March 25. The Senate this afternoon adopted the conference report on the urgent deficiency bill, which includes provision for the Government purchase of the German piers at Hoboken, N. J., and gives the President the authority to direct the sale of German-owned property in the United States. The vote was 99 to 1.

Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, cast the only dissenting vote. He received protests from some of his constituents and declared that the sale of German-owned property by the President would jeopardize American money which had been loaned on these foreign-owned properties and would also deprive communities of large taxes.

The Senator declared that at some later time he would offer an amendment to the trading with the enemy act, which would serve to prohibit any possible abuse of the power of the alien law stand, he said that it is possible for this officer to demand a voice in many cases where the alien enemy property custodian should be held for the liquidation of possible indemnities.

Fined \$5 for Being Corner Louser Magistrate Whiskey today imposed a fine of \$5 and costs upon Frank C. Roy, of East Collum street, Germantown, accused of being one of a gang of corner loungers who have been destroying property in the neighborhood of Germantown avenue and Ashland street. Neighbors testified the action in language of these loungers was a detriment to the neighborhood.

Had Many Jewels; Held Under Bail Twenty-nine garnets valued at \$100 were found in the possession of Frank Hill, thirty years old, who gave an address on Shunk street near Fifteenth, after he had been arrested for driving an automobile without a license.

The man said he had picked the stones up on the ground at Hog Island where he is employed. He was held under \$1000 bail for a further hearing tomorrow morning by Magistrate Baker, accused of suspicion of larceny and driving an automobile without a license.

Easter Gifts of Silver Quite a selection of appropriate sterling silver articles—all moderately priced.

Of the many thoughtful suggestions is a pretty vase of sterling silver, height eight inches—\$5.50.

S. Kind & Sons, 1110 Chestnut St.

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