

RAILROAD FORCE
MIDWINTER IN
PICARDY BATTLE

U. S. Engineers, With Canadians, in Desperate Encounter for Several Days

Helped Hold Germans All the BUT SMALL GUNS USED

Way From St. Quentin to Noyon

With the American Army in France, April 10.

Casualties by the thousand were inflicted by American railway engineers fighting shoulder to shoulder with Canadians, during the opening days of the battle now in progress in Picardy. They helped stem the tide of the on-rushing foe, advancing in closed formation, in one place as many as seven tracts, each way ten-men deep and 100 yards apart.

The Americans, with the Canadians, had all the ammunition they needed, and although they were unsupported by the artillery and armed only with rifles and with a few machine guns, they poured scythlike streams of bullets into the enemy at several different times until the weapons were so hot as to be useless.

This handful of American soldiers who were not hardened to such terrific slaughter, was sickened by the shambles it created, but fought bravely for several days, helping to hold the enemy all the way from St. Quentin to the vicinity of Noyon.

When the German attack began the Americans were working in the rear lines with the Canadians, under Canadian command. They quickly threw down their tools and seized the weapons with which they had been armed for some months, and formed themselves into fighting units.

The exact numbers of the engineers cannot be given, they were comparatively small. They had no intention of retreating, however, and were bent upon killing all the Germans possible.

As the first gray enemy advanced, the American forces let them come until they were within certain range, then opened fire, pouring in a storm of bullets. Gaps appeared in the advancing lines at many places, some of them large, where the machine guns and snipers were firing. Still the German waves came on, without firing a single shot—just advancing.

The Americans were unable to understand these tactics, but, nevertheless, were certain that it was a question of slaughtering the enemy or being themselves smothered under the advance. By this time their weapons were so hot that they could not be used effectively and the enemy was close, so that the engineers retired, fighting, took up another position, then engaged and began operations again.

A British officer who witnessed the engagement is reported to have said: "They held on to their positions until the last moment, inflicting terrific casualties on the enemy. Then they moved back and waited for the Germans, and repeated the performance."

By the time the engineers had reached a place somewhere near Noyon they were nearly exhausted and almost without equipment. They were given a chance to rest and re-equip. According to all reports they were entitled to it, for certainly they gave the Germans a generous sample of what the necessity is to expect from the American army.

During a battle unusual stories always crop up, but the following is one which the correspondent has heard from an unquestionable source and it is said to have been verified.

"In one of the periods when the American command became confused, Canadian comrades in arms were holding a position which appeared to be a British staff motor drove up. The driver was in a German officer's uniform and a man in the tonneau was in the uniform of a British staff officer.

The officer stepped out and asked for the commanding officer. He was taken to a Canadian officer nearby. The staff officer ordered the commander to retire four kilometers, saying that the Germans were pressing on both flanks and he might be cut off.

For some reason the Canadian commander became confused. He and the staff officer searched when the latter failed to produce his authority, and papers were found on him proving he was a German officer. He and his chauffeur were immediately shot.

American engineer officers are said to have been present when this incident occurred.

Battleships and Cruisers
"The arrival of the submarine as an active factor in naval warfare," says E. Ashmud-Barlett in "The Wide World," has entirely altered the peculiar role which the different units composing a fleet were supposed to play when they were originally designed.

Battleships and great cruisers can no longer command the sea by strength of numbers and weight of armament. Even light cruisers, nominally intended for commerce destroying, protection of trade routes, and as scouts, are now exposed to danger from submarines. Nevertheless, battleships and cruisers are still the mainstay of naval nations, and the most responsible duty which now falls to the light-raft cruiser, the destroyer and torpedo boat is the attacking the enemy's ships, but in protecting their own battle squadrons against under-water attack.

MAY SELL BLACK BASS
U. S. Food Administration Gives Dealers Right to Import Fish
Harrisburg, April 10.—A ruling has been made by the United States food administration whereby all dealers in imported food commodities in Pennsylvania are permitted to sell within the State all black bass, including the large and small north variety. It is authorized by Commissioner of Fisheries Butler.

"This ruling," said Mr. Butler, "is intended to apply solely to the black bass caught outside the State and shipped into the State for sale. It does not cover such bass when caught within the State."

The placing of young trout has been suspended to allow Susquehanna salmon to be put out in large numbers. The trout season opens Monday.

Drive on to Get City Loan Quota This Week

Continued from Page One expected to raise \$10,000,000 of this amount.

Churches Doing Their Bit

At a meeting held at the Church of the Mother of Sorrows, Forty-eighth street and Lancaster avenue, which is the parish of Bishop McCort, more than \$10,000 was subscribed for the third Liberty Loan sale in an initial effort. Meetings are to be held every evening during the campaign, and it is expected that every member of the parish organized in faithful occupation will be an owner of a third Liberty Bond. What is expected will occur in every Catholic church, throughout the third Federal reserve district.

Habbi Kraussner announced that following the subscription for \$10,000 worth of bonds at the Chamber of Commerce assembly room, further efforts are being made to greatly increase the sales of bonds to the Jewish population. Approximately 100,000 of the English and Hebrew bondsmongers have been recruited among the banks dealing with Jewish customers, moving picture theatres and Jewish lodges.

My workers are too busy to come to headquarters to tell what they have obtained," said Mrs. Wilmer Kruson, reporting for the North Philadelphia district women's committee. Mrs. Kruson, chairman of the district, reported that the total for her district at \$25,000, the great majority of which came in \$50 bonds. In this district, the Girl Scouts have been unusually active. Mrs. Kruson said.

In South Philadelphia, Mrs. Walter J. Freeman, chairman of the district committee, told of many incidents of how the loan was "getting over" in unexpected places. For example, a booth at Trenton third and South streets netted \$1200 in twenty-four hours. An automobile booth, journeying along South street, gathered in \$2500. Another example came in from two small neighborhood theatres near Point Breeze, where \$1200 was raised at the night shows Monday. The total so far is \$22,000.

Although many Chestnut Hill residents have subscribed through organizations in the central section of the city, Mrs. Francis S. McHenry, chairman of the district committee there, announced that the workers had \$22,500 to their credit.

SHORE BANKS TO GUARD BONDS FOR BUYERS

Atlantic City, April 10.—Every bank and trust company in Atlantic City is to become a patriotic repository through a special offer made to provide safekeeping for the third Liberty Loan. Many small investors at a loss to know what to do with their purchases to insure their against loss will avail themselves of the banks' offer.

Atlantic City's total of subscriptions amounted rapidly toward the \$10,000,000 mark today with a purchase of \$100,000 worth of bonds by the Guaranty Trust Company and individual subscriptions through the banks of \$10,000. Hundreds of school children became bond owners for Uncle Sam and hit the line hard from the Intel to Clifton, crisscrossing office buildings, apartment houses and cottages. Pupils of one room in a lower grade turned in subscriptions aggregating \$17,000 in small amounts.

JAIL ESCAPE FOILED

Georgetown, Del., April 10.—Following a successful break in the county jail, a man was held in a cell, but he was found by the sheriff's men. The young man put up a desperate fight, but the sheriff overpowered him and locked him up in another cell. The presence of a saw in his cell is regarded as proof of outside help.

GREAT WHEAT CROP POSSIBLE IN MONTANA

April Estimate Points to a Yield of 30,000,000 Bushels With Increased Acreage

Butte, Mont., April 10.—Favorable weather continuing, there will be a 20,000,000-bushel crop of wheat in Montana this year, which, at the indicated price of \$2.50 per bushel at point of delivery, would mean \$75,000,000 to the farmers of the Treasure State, according to the first crop report of 1918 issued by the Banking Corporation of Montana.

"The season has hardly developed to a point of definite information," the report states, "but things have already gone far enough to create a most optimistic hopefulness upon the part of the farm producers.

"Thus far the conditions are ideal and with the continuance of a few more warm days and the absence of a zero mass of weather, which is hardly probable, but always possible, from Montana is on the high road to a wonderful crop.

"Financial authorities consulted estimate the winter wheat average as 25 per cent greater than last year, and there has been absolutely no winter wheat killing whatever, the crop being in the best shape noted for many years. The same authorities are inclined to estimate an increased spring wheat average of from 15 to 25 per cent greater than in 1917.

"Prospects for hay are also excellent, and the conditions of fruit trees and bushes is without doubt there is quite a satisfactory average of sugar beets, and it is held in some quarters that the crop average will reach perhaps 12,000 in Montana.

"Favorable weather continuing, there will be a bumper-corn-crop of wheat, and in addition there will be the best of the oats, the barley, the peas, the beans, the sugar beets, the hay, the potatoes and the live stock.

"The crop is strong and fat. In 1917 there were 261,282 head of Montana cattle shipped to market, of which 125,000 were breeding and immature animals for this year will be about 125,000."

TRAIN AIRPLANE MECHANICS

Recruits Sent to State College for Course of Instruction

State College, Pa., April 10.—The War Department has sent 100 enlisted men to the Pennsylvania State College engineering school for instruction in airplane mechanics. They will be trained as mechanics, electricians, woodworkers, carpenters, automobile drivers and repairmen, electricians, electrical non-officer, repairmen, baggage specialists and baggage men. Another quota of 100 soldiers will arrive about May 1 for similar instruction.

These army officers, a captain and two lieutenants are detailed here to supervise the military training. All of the men are recent graduates from Minnesota who volunteered for this branch of 250 service.

Butler Seeks Renomination
Chester, Pa., April 10.—Petitions are being circulated here in behalf of Thomas C. Butler, Representative in Congress, from this district, who is seeking re-nomination on the Republican ticket.

Butler, a young attorney of Mead, has his eye on the senate and is working to line up the Delaware County leaders. While Mr. Johnson might send a strong vote in the senate districts, it is doubtful whether he could make any inroads on the Butler vote in Chester.

Today for the first time since State Senator William A. Stoval announced his candidacy for Republican nomination for Governor, petitions reached his home city.

ALLIES WILL WIN THROUGH AID OF U. S., SAYS BRITISH PREMIER

"We have now entered the most critical phase of this terrible war," "The fate of the empire, the fate of Europe and the fate of liberty throughout the world may depend on the material and dramatic assistance rendered by President Wilson." "In fact, the issue of the battle might very well be determined by this decision." "We submitted proposals to President Wilson to enable the combatant strength of the American army to come into action during this battle." "President Wilson assented without any hesitation." "The immediate necessity is relieved by the splendid and generous way in which America has come to our aid." "The enemy has definitely decided to seek a military decision this year." "Everything depends on our keeping our strength right to the end." "WITH AMERICAN AID WE CAN DO IT."

HAIG RECAPTURES GIVINCHY; HOLDS FIRM ON RIVER LYS

Continued from Page One
tween Coucy-le-Chateau and Brancourt.

The line across which fighting extended in the north is about twelve miles wide. The distance over which the Allied forces fell back in that zone is about four miles.

The Teutons have kept up their pressure against the French at their extreme southeastern end of their salient, striking east of Noyon and south of the Oise River.

Hindenburg, foiled in his attempt against Arras, Vimy and Notre Dame-Lorette, perhaps hopes to flank the British positions from the north.

What may prove to be the second act in the drama of the great German offensive began yesterday—on the anniversary of the beginning of the British offensive at Arras—with an attack in strength on a front of about 17,000 yards between Arras, Lens and Lens. Here the enemy line bulges out in a considerable salient before his positions on Aubers Ridge, including the desolate flat waste of the old Neuve Chapelle-Festubert battlefield.

Loss of Advance Line Was Foreseen
Haig was prepared for an attack here, there having been ample evidence of an impending operation for some days. Most of the advanced positions were very lightly held in the expectation that the Germans must penetrate them and reach the battleline behind.

In fact, reports that the enemy had penetrated the front line came early, first east of Le Pantin, a little above Givinchy, in the south; then east of Petillon, not much below Fleurbaix, in the north. Thereafter the enemy troops appear to have obtained a footing in advanced positions at various points.

GAINS IN THE NORTH REPORTED BY BERLIN

Berlin, via London, April 10.—The War Office last night issued the following communication: "North of La Bassée Canal we pen-

L'OPERA EFFICACE DEI CANNONI ITALIANI

I Proiettili Provocano Esplosioni ed Incendi Dietro le Linee Teutoniche

SUCCESSI SUL PIAVE

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Roma, 15 aprile
L'efficace azione dei cannoni italiani di artiglieria combattiva è verificata nel settore di Asiago e lungo le posizioni del basso corso del Piave.

Durante l'azione di artiglieria che si svolse sull'altipiano di Asiago, il preciso fuoco delle batterie italiane provocò varie esplosioni ed incendi dietro le linee tedesche.

Un vivace fuoco di artiglieria fu scatenato lungo le posizioni tra Zenson e Sagrara.

In fronte a Fagnare alcune imbarcazioni, usate dal nemico per tentare di raggiungere Compostella riva del Piave, furono affondate dal fuoco dell'artiglieria italiana.

Gli aviatori italiani ed alleati hanno continuato incessantemente le loro incursioni sulle linee tedesche, effettuando spesso violenti bombardamenti specialmente sull'avversario, ostacolando e paralizzando completamente le operazioni militari degli stessi.

Durante una recente azione, verificatosi sopra Luse di Piave, un aereo italiano riuscì ad abbattere un aereo nemico.

Ecco il testo del comunicato ufficiale pubblicato ieri dal Ministero della Guerra in Italia.

Nel settore di Asiago il nostro fuoco per contro-batterie l'avversario causò esplosioni ed incendi dietro le linee tedesche.

Dalla parte opposta il fuoco di artiglieria italiano provocò varie esplosioni ed incendi dietro le linee tedesche.

Un aereo italiano riuscì ad abbattere un aereo nemico.

Un corrispondente di guerra presso il quartier generale italiano riferisce che l'Austria ha cominciato a usare para-avioni per l'offensiva della frontiera italiana. Tali para-avioni cominciarono nel gennaio scorso a fornire informazioni preziose sul fronte austriaco, segnalando le posizioni delle truppe, l'andamento delle comunicazioni, ecc.

Le divisioni del generale Krusen sono disposte tra il Brenno di Piave e quello del generale Kirchbach lungo il Piave, con gli ultimi prigionieri austriaci catturati.

ROAD EXTENSION URGED

Williamsport, Pa., April 10.—Extension of the Susquehanna trail, which now ends at Harrisburg, to connect Gettysburg and York, was urged at the annual meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Association, held here. Definite action is expected soon. Officers were elected as follows:

Dr. Charles E. Allen, Selinsgrove, President; A. P. Perlet, Williamsport, and W. T. Morrick, Williamsport, vice president; William Becker, Montgomery, treasurer; and Max L. Lindheimer, Williamsport, secretary.

FENCE CRIPPLES POLICEMAN

Hour and a Half Required to Fix Dislocated Shoulder
Thirty-sixth District police station is a big man, heavy with the endurance and strength thereof.

This fact caused physicians to spend an hour and thirty minutes with Tim last night because his shoulder wanted to come out of place.

It was located when Tim, seeing a riding boxcar on the "Penny" train tracks near Eleventh street and Erie avenue, started toward the alarm box at Eleventh street. A fence around a war garden interrupted Tim into the arms of the moment and Tim went to the hospital in the patrol wagon.

ESCAPED CONVICT CAUGHT

Traced to Ohio Rubber Plant by Letters to His Family
Bellefonte, Pa., April 10.—Peter Hartman, who escaped from the Western Penitentiary at Pottsville last October, was back in the penitentiary.

CAMPAIGN ON SEDITION NEEDED, SAYS JUDGE

Allenstown Constables Told to Watch for Disloyal Acts—Officers Are Elected

Allenstown, Pa., April 10.—Taking cognizance of a number of cases of alleged disloyalty reported in this community, Judge Groman, in Criminal Court, addressed the constables and grand jurors of Lehigh County on the subject of sedition and treason in time of war, and ordered them to be alert.

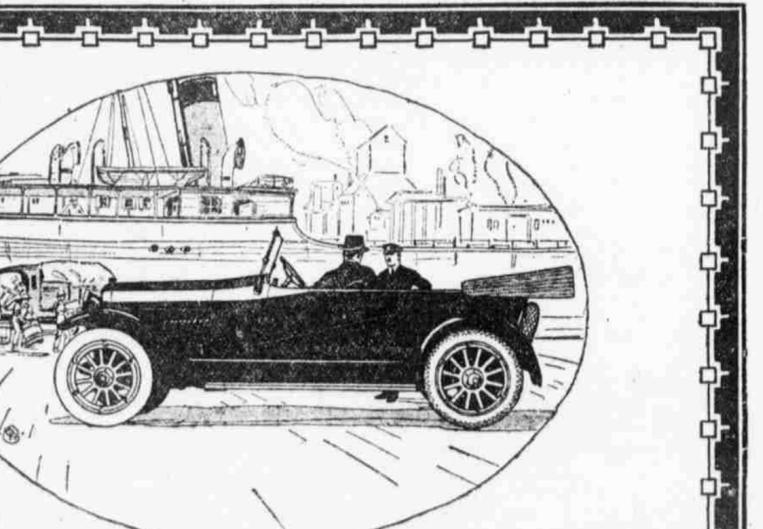
After the session of court the constables discussed plans to carry out the instructions of the Court, and elected the following officers: President, Harry W. Stoneback; vice president, Charles Fisher; secretary and treasurer, Albert H. Gosper; and trustees, L. E. Hopp, Peter Schenberger and George Sauer.

Judge Groman, in his talk, also mentioned the constables to watch for disloyal acts, and to report to the court. He said that every effort should be made to prevent the spread of disloyalty, and that the constables should make every effort to prevent the spread of disloyalty, and that the constables should make every effort to prevent the spread of disloyalty.

Mine Expert Dies Suddenly

Shamokin, Pa., April 10.—George W. Womer, former outside superintendent of the Shamokin Collieries Company, died very suddenly at his home here following a stroke of paralysis a week and five days.

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