



The Star-Independent

LXXXVII—No. 114 14 PAGES

SINGLE COPY, 2 CENTS

HARRISBURG, PA., WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 15, 1918.

ONLY EVENING ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWSPAPER IN HARRISBURG

NIGHT EXTRA

# GERMANS OPPOSES INQUIRY INTO GENERAL CONDUCT OF THE WAR

## FRENCH IMPROVE LINE BY QUICK HARD BLOW

### HUNS SEEKING WEAK POINT IN ALLIED LINES

Initial Successes of Local Attack Lost When British Win Back the Lost Positions

### INFANTRY IS HELD BACK

Artillery Fire Daily Grows in Intensity on All Important Fronts

In Flanders and Picardy there are still no indications that the Germans are ready to resume infantry operations on a large scale. Local enemy attacks probably for the purpose of "feeling out" the allied positions in advance of a general attack, have been repulsed north of Kemmel and south of Albert.

On the southern battlefield the German effort was made on a front of one mile near Morlaucourt, between the Somme and Aisne rivers, but was not pushed strongly. The enemy gained an initial success and penetrated the British lines at one point, being repulsed elsewhere. A counterattack by Australian troops fully restored the British position. The attack north of Kemmel was against the French on hill 41 and adjoining elements. The Germans gained the hill, which dominates the surrounding region, but Field Marshal Haig reports they were repulsed finally.

The expected renewal of the German offensive having failed to develop the allies are continuing their tactics of anticipating the threat by reaching out for new vantage points from which the better to resist it. The French were the aggressors in the latest operation of this kind, carried out on the slopes westward from the Somme front, their objective being a wood situated at about the point where the Germans had made their furthest westward advance and are within a short distance of the Paris-Amiens railway. The operation was entirely successful, resulting in the capture of the wood on the slopes west of the Aisne river, possession of which increases considerably the allied defensive position on this important sector.

Counterattack Fails  
The Germans evidently recognized this fact, for they countered at once at night. Their determined attack was a failure however, for after spirited fighting the French remained in possession of their new position after having cut the enemy up badly with their fire, besides taking more than three score prisoners.

The London statement also indicated considerable activity by the hostile artillery on the British portion of the Somme front in Somme and Aisne valleys, while this morning it increased in the region between the Somme and the Aisne, near Morlaucourt where the Austrians recently have made notable advances and where yesterday they repulsed a German effort to recapture the lost ground.

On the Flanders battlefield the Germans likewise speeded up their fire early to-day in the Kemmel sector, after having worked their guns moderately hard during the night on the southern side of the Lys salient in the Bethune and Nieppe wood sectors.

Almost a week has gone by since the Germans displayed any marked activity, and while the attack north of Kemmel and south of Albert apparently were not in great strength, they were made against the vital sectors of the two German-driven salients and where the enemy probably will make his next heavy attempt or attempts. It is not unlikely the attacks were made to ascertain the results of the German artillery wire which continues exceedingly violent along these sectors.

## Two Provinces Wiped Out

London, May 15.—A graphic picture of the terrible economic distress prevailing in Bosnia and Herzegovina is published by the newspaper Glasnik, of Agram, Austria. The paper declares that only two provinces in the Austro-Slavic empire, Galicia and Bukovina, have suffered more terribly from the war than Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nevertheless, the situation is horrible.

Entire districts of eastern Bosnia and the whole of the eastern part of Herzegovina are to-day depopulated and devastated regions which look as if a terrible typhoon had visited them with its devilish destruction. A great number of inhabitants were deported and have since died in internment camps. Those who remained were massacred by Austrian soldiers. In other districts the population is dying of starvation.

## PRESIDENT SEES FIRST MAIL IN AIR START OFF

Carriers Leave Washington and New York, Latter With 4,000 Letters

Washington, May 15.—Airplane mail service between Washington and New York went into operation to-day when the first mail carrier, piloted by Lieut. George L. Boyle, left Potomac Park for Philadelphia at 11:45 o'clock. President and Mrs. Wilson witnessed the initial start. The airplane was forced to descend at Waldorf, Md.

New York, May 15.—Aerial mail service from New York to Philadelphia and Washington was inaugurated at 11:30 a. m. today when an airplane, driven by Lieutenant Torrey H. Webb, of California, an Army aviator, arose from Belmont Park circled around the field and headed into the southwest at a height of 5,000 feet. He was cheered by a distinguished group of spectators, including New York public officials and post office executives. In the plane were 350 pounds of first-class mail, comprising approximately 12,000 letters. Among them were autograph notes from Secretary of War Baker to President Wilson and Postmaster General Burleson, two copies of Mr. Baker's book, "Frontiers of Freedom," and a letter from Charles H. Sabin, president of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York to William C. Potter, of the aircraft section of the War Department.

Philadelphia, May 15.—The air mail route extends only between New York and Washington. Planes both ways stopped in Philadelphia to deliver and receive mail, and this will be the regular schedule for the service.

The landing place for the central station is at Elsdorff, a suburb, thirteen miles from city hall, in the extreme northeast section of the city. Army and navy officers, as well as other government employees and heads of various state and city departments, were on hand to greet the first aviators to make an official landing in Philadelphia with United States mail.

President Asks Hughes to Help Probe Aircraft  
Washington, May 15.—President Wilson has asked Charles E. Hughes to assist Attorney General Gregory in investigating the aircraft situation. Mr. Hughes has replied that he will be glad to assist.

## KINGS ATTEND CONFERENCE TO SHARE POWERS

Bavaria, Conscious That Hour Is Grave, Penetrates Meeting of the Emperors

## NEITHER ASKED TO COME

Unwilling to Allow Prussia to Be Whole Arbiter of German Destinies

Zurich, Switzerland, May 15.—Both King Ludwig, of Bavaria, and King Frederick August, of Saxony, seem to have been participants in the great headquarters conference of the German and Austrian emperors, although apparently neither was invited to be present. This is indicated by a statement in the Munich Neueste Nachrichten, which says: "The hour is grave and Bavaria cannot leave Prussia to be the whole arbiter of German destinies. King Ludwig therefore decided to proceed to headquarters. The departure of the king of Saxony to take part in the negotiations—a participation which was not desired in Berlin circles—was due to the same cause.

A Vienna dispatch to the Neueste Nachrichten of Munich, says the new Austro-German alliance is fixed for a period of twenty years, includes a military convention, and provides

## PLAN TO MAKE PRISONERS WORK ON HIGHWAYS

County Commissioners and Inspectors Favor War-time Measure

A special committee of the Board of Prison Inspectors conferred today with the County Commissioners on plans for employing prisoners in the county jail on city and county highways which are being repaired. On the committee were W. B. Meetch and C. E. Covert, who were appointed by the Prison at a recent meeting when the employment of prisoners was discussed.

## Harrisburg Trust Declares Dividend For the Red Cross

As showing the widespread interest in the Red Cross drive which is now in its preliminary stages in this community the directors of the Harrisburg Trust Company this morning declared an extra dividend of \$4,000 for the Red Cross fund.

## WILSON WANTS PROBE TO MISS WAR PROGRAM

President Objects to Investigation of "General Conduct of the War"

## TELLS SENATOR MARTIN Pronounces the Chamberlain Resolution of Inquiry Unnecessarily Broad

Washington, May 15.—In a letter to-day to Senator Martin, of Virginia, Democratic leader in the Senate, President Wilson declared he would regard passage of the Chamberlain resolution calling for an investigation of aircraft and other war activities as a "direct vote of want of confidence in the administration" and an attempt by Congress to take over conduct of the war.

"I deem it my duty to say," the President's letter said, "that I should regard the passage of this resolution as a direct vote of want of confidence in the administration. The purpose which it undoubtedly expresses has been expressed again and again in various forms during the present session and has always seemed to originate in a rooted distrust of those who are at present in charge of the executive functions of the government. Those executive functions are very clearly understood. They have been defined both by the constitution and by long experience, and no one can doubt where the responsibility for them lies or what the methods are, by which those who are responsible can be held to their duty.

"Such activities on the part of a particular committee of the Senate as to conduct the war will tend toward to constitute nothing less than an attempt to take over the conduct of the war, or at the least to conduct the war in direct and participate in the executive conduct of it as to interfere in the most serious way with the action of the constituted executive. I protest most earnestly against the adoption of any such action and shall hope that every Senator who intends to support the present administration in the conduct of the war will vote against it. These are serious times and it is absolutely necessary that the lines shall be clearly drawn between friends and opponents of the President informed Senator Martin he had no objection to the most searching inquiry into the air situation, but that he deemed it inadvisable at this time any investigation of the conduct of the war. At the last session of Congress his opposition to such investigation put an end to proposals that it be made.

## American People Will Give \$4,095,699,000 in Taxes Toward Victory

Washington, May 15.—Revised estimates of revenue receipts in the current fiscal year ending next June 30, place at \$4,095,699,000 the sum which the American people will contribute directly to the government, mainly in taxes, for prosecution of the war. These estimates, reported to the Senate by Secretary McAdoo in compliance with a request for specific information throwing light on future revenue needs, show that about one-third the expense of the war this year has been met by taxation and two-thirds by Liberty Bonds.

## WOMEN TO ORGANIZE A RECRUITING CORPS

Mrs. William I. Laubenstein will preside at a mass meeting to be held in the Technical High School auditorium tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. The purpose of the meeting is to organize a woman's recruiting corps to aid in the various war work and recruiting activities waged here.

## THREE AUSTRIANS FIRE ON ORDNANCE DEPOT BARRACKS

Are Captured While Shooting From Hiding Places in Field and Jailed

## ARREST AFTER STRUGGLE

Explains Action by Saying He Wanted to "Shoot Americans"

Three unnaturalized, unregistered Austrians were captured by police at the United States Ordnance Depot development near Middletown at 10 o'clock last night while firing revolver shots from concealment into the barracks occupied by the workmen. The men gave their names as Juperich Marko, Frank Dorich and Frank Mehalic and their residence as Steelton.

Sergeant of Police Lewis Melvin and Officer Boyd Manbeck first heard shots in the field back of the Jednota building just opposite the office building on the ordnance depot site, and quietly made an investigation. Marko just as he fired from concealment in the tall grass upon the barracks and arrested him after a struggle. Marko was running away and on their way back to the highway the two came upon the third Austrian and took him in tow also.

## Wanted to Shoot Americans

Marko wanted to "shoot Americans," he said, and put up a fight for freedom. Chief of Police D. W. Bell, Officer G. E. Koneski and Assistant Fire Chief Millard Tawney came to the assistance of the two officers and the prisoners were brought to Harrisburg and lodged in jail. The Austrians were sober and had no known grudge against anybody connected with the ordnance depot. So far as could be found to-day they are unregistered aliens and no other purpose could be ascribed to their firing upon the barracks other than that they hoped to kill or injure some of the workmen and thus delay operations and terrorize those who escaped their bullets.

## Eighteen Candlepower Is Limit of Light Permitted on Autos in City Streets

The police department this morning issued its ruling regarding the lenses which were installed Friday night at the request of the Harrisburg Motor Club to decide on the legality of the lenses in common use.

## Justice Agent Points to Lawyer as Teuton Aid

New York, May 15.—An offer to agent of the Department of Justice to smuggle arms into Mexico was described to-day at the state attorney general's inquiry into reports of the hearing of minutes in the United States for German interests. William R. Benham, an operative of the Department of Justice, named Willard G. Stanton, a New York lawyer, who represented himself as formerly a judge in Utica, and formerly a congressman, as having volunteered to assist in the smuggling.

## THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair to-night and Thursday; warmer Thursday.

## SUPPOSE The French Blue Devils Had Been Hun Gray Devils

Buy War Stamps Weekly

## LATE NEWS

### SOVIET TROOPS DRIVE OUT GERMANS

Moscow—Kostov-on-Don, the largest city in the Don basin territory was recaptured on May 10 by the Russian let troops who drove out the Germans. The Germans, who had held Kostov for one day are retreating.

### STATE BAKERS TO BE LOYAL

Reading, Pa.—When the state executive board of the Pennsylvania Bakers' Association met here topics relating to the country's war needs in the way of conservation of materials were discussed. It was stated loyal bakers are willing to assist bringing to punishment violators who break the laws.

### MAIL AIRPLANE REACHES CAPITOL

Washington—The plane from Philadelphia, piloted by Lieut. Edgerton reached Washington at 2:50 o'clock p. m. It brought 5,000 letters.

### MARKET CLOSES STRONG

New York—Baldwin Locomotive, Steel, Colorado Fuel and Gas shares were the striking features of the final hour at greatly extended gains. The closing was strong. Liberty 3 1/2s sold at 98.94 to 99, first 4s at 93.10 to 93.30, second 4s at 91.90 to 92.10 and 4-1/4s at 97.74 to 98.96. Industrials, especially war issues, overshadowed rails in to-day's broader stock market, equipments gaining 2 to 8 points. Sales approximated 1,900,000 shares.

### CHALLENGES AMERICAN WOMEN

Washington—An appeal to women of America to urge them to assist the American Red Cross in raising \$100,000,000 for war relief work was issued to-day by Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

### MAIL AIRPLANE BREAKS DOWN

Washington—The mail airplane which left here for New York at 11:30 and which was compelled to descend near Waldorf, Md., landed on the state road with a broken propeller, which disabled it for further service. The mail will be sent on its way by another airplane if one can be furnished. Otherwise it will be sent to New York by a special automobile courier and will be delivered to-day in New York. The mail from Philadelphia for New York will be sent to New York without awaiting the arrival of the Washington mail.

### MILLION DOLLAR FIRE AT SHIPYARD

Vancouver, B. C.—Fire starting in the boiler room of the J. Coughlin and Sons shipyard here early this morning did damage estimated at \$1,500,000. One fireman was killed and several injured.

### DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND DIES

London—Henry George Percy, seventh duke of Northumberland, died last night at Ailwick Castle, Northumberland, in his seventy-second year.

### CHAMBERLAIN FALLS IN LINE

Washington—Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Senate Military Committee, said to-day that if the senate failed to pass the resolution giving his committee power to conduct the aircraft probe he would not press the investigation into the matter of the conduct of the war, as objected to by the President.

### EMPERORS CHOOSE MONARCHS

London—The Austrian and German emperors at their meeting at German great headquarters, German news papers say, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, selected monarchs for Lithuania, Courland, Esthonia and Poland.

### COMMONS WILL DISCUSS SIXTUS LETTER

London—The Manchester Guardian says that the peace offer made to France last year by Austria, as revealed recently in the letters written by Emperor Charles to Prince Sixtus, will form the subject of a debate of the highest importance in the House of Commons to-morrow.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

Roy Thompson and Josephine Magaro, Harrisburg.