

# U. S. TROOPS VICTORIOUS IN ALL-DAY BATTLE WITH HUNS

## CHANNEL PORTS AT STAKE IN TERRIFIC FLANDERS BATTLE

Germans Pressing Toward North With Great Weight; British Contesting Every Foot of Ground Desperately; Allies Regain Position at Point Where Lines Meet South of Somme.

### BULLETIN.

London, April 13.—The Germans were driven out of Neuve Eglise by the British this morning, according to the report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight. Four attacks against the British positions southeast of Bailluel also were beaten off.

(By The Associated Press.)

Stiffening British resistance has checked the German drive southward from the Lys toward Bethune and westward from Merville towards Hazebrouck, near the Belgian border.

The enemy pressure is continuing with great weight toward the north and desperate battling is in progress along the line running southwest from Messines to south of Bailluel.

The whole Ypres salient and the continued safety of the channel ports are pointed to by observers abroad as at stake in the fighting now under way. Hazebrouck and Bailluel, important railway centers, are vital feeding points for Messines ridge and the Ypres position in general.

### HUNS HELD BACK.

So far as Hazebrouck is concerned, the Germans have been held for the time, at least, on the edge of the forest of Nieppe, west of Merville, and some five miles away from their objective. The Germans have been battering away at the British line here since they captured Merville Wednesday night, but have advanced only a few hundred yards, being stopped short of the forest, which is about a mile and a half beyond Merville. Little additional light was thrown by Saturday's despatches upon the situation around Bailluel, to which the Germans have worked very close in Friday's fighting. It was revealed, however, that the enemy was attacking heavily in the vicinity of Neuve Eglise and Wulverghem, which lies in the region to the northeast of Bailluel, between it and Messines. The British are on comparatively high ground here and the reports did not indicate that the Germans were making much progress.

### Allies Retake Lost Position.

On the southerly side of the wedge which the Germans have driven in between La Basse and Armentieres the British resistance was notably stiff.

There was an important movement also in the allied position on the Somme battle front. The Germans had gained a footing in Hangard-En-Santerre, southeast of Amiens, in an attack Friday, but a combined drive by the British and French during the night at the point where their lines join on the river Luce near Hangard, restored the situation, putting the French again in complete possession of the village.

The city of Rheims is in flames and the French, working under a heavy bombardment, are trying to limit the burning area.

### Americans Launch Attack.

Meanwhile the American forces are contributing notably to the maintenance of the line on sectors of the French front to the southeast. The men in the sector northwest of Toul added to their laurels last night by repelling, in conjunction with the French, another German attack on the positions in Brule wood, in the forest of Apremont, east of St. Mihiel. A counter attack was launched and the Germans were thrown out of the position at a point where they had gained a footing.

### The Weather

For Nebraska—Unsettled; probably showers.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hours	Deg.
5 a. m.	42
6 a. m.	41
7 a. m.	41
8 a. m.	41
9 a. m.	44
10 a. m.	45
11 a. m.	44
12 m.	45
1 p. m.	45
2 p. m.	45
3 p. m.	45
4 p. m.	45
5 p. m.	45
6 p. m.	45
7 p. m.	45

Comparative Local Record.

Highest yesterday	45	1915, 1917, 1916, 1915.
Lowest yesterday	40	24, 44, 45
Mean temperature	44	44, 45, 46
Precipitation for day	0.0	0.0, 0.0, 0.0
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal		
Normal temperature	45	
Excess for the day	0	
Total excess since March 1, 1917	324	
Normal precipitation	10	
Deficiency for the day	0	
Total rainfall since March 1	94	
Deficiency since March 1	1.58	
Deficiency for cor. period, 1916	2.02	
Deficiency for cor. period, 1916	2.02	

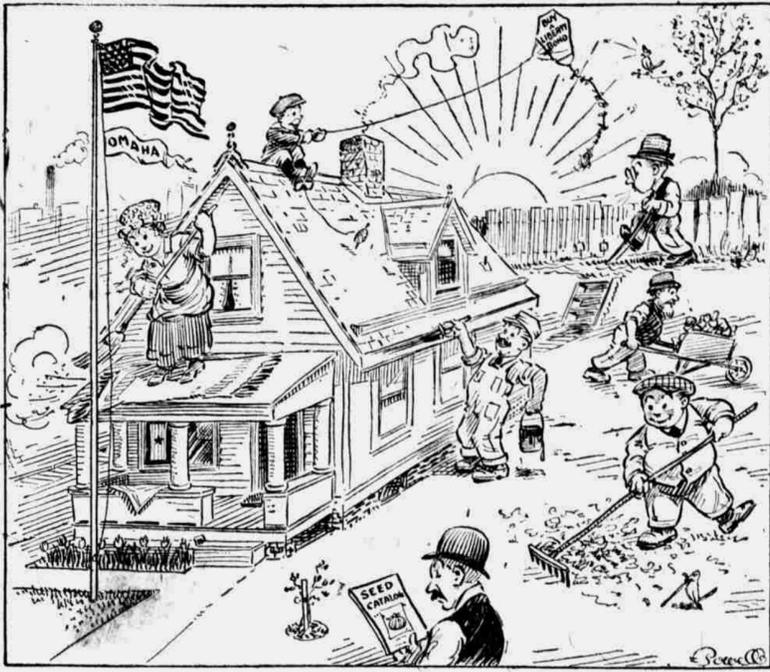
Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station and State Temp. High. Rain. of Weather. P. M. 44. 24. 45.

Omaha, clear. 45. 44. 45.

E. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

## The Spring Drive at Home



## GERMANY TO WAR ON RUSSIA; JAPS TO GET SIBERIA

In Event of Teuton Victory in West Finns Will Aid Huns in Offensive Against Slavs.

London, April 13.—Germany has agreed to the establishment of a greater Finland, including the Petrograd-Murman railway to the Arctic, according to Swedish press reports forwarded in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

In the event that Germany wins on the western front, the dispatch says, it will begin a new war against Russia, co-operating with the Finns. Japan, it is added, will receive Siberia if it joins in the German-Finnish Alliance.

Washington, April 13.—A message reaching the State department today from Stockholm reported the Finnish official news bureau had given out a statement declaring that all German troops landed in Finland had been sent at the request of the Finnish government.

When the Germans landed on the Aland islands Sweden protested.

## BRITISH RESPOND LOYALLY TO PLEA OF GENERAL HAIG

Reports From Battle Front in Flanders Indicate Tommies Are Holding Ground Grimly Against Assaults.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, April 13.—Meager reports from the battle front in Flanders today indicated that the British army was loyally responding to the appeal of its commander, and holding grimly against renewed German assaults.

Meanwhile officers here discussed the probable motives of Field Marshal Haig in issuing the call to his force to fight to the last man.

The meaning and purpose of the order were variously construed. Some officers hailed it as forecasting a counter-offensive by the united allied armies. Others were disquieted.

The War department was without information that would throw much light on the battle situation. Officers who have followed the progress of the fight from hour to hour in press bulletins, however, were very optimistic. They saw no reason to

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

## Major J. M. Birkner of Lincoln Discharged From National Army

Washington, April 13.—(Special Telegram.)—For pronounced German sympathies and disloyal remarks made in the presence of four fellow officers, Major John M. Birkner of Lincoln, Neb., a German born medical officer of the Nebraska National Guard has been discharged from the army and recommended for internment by the War department. He was in the 127th Field Artillery.

Affidavits of the four officers who accused Birkner, of which his pro-German sympathies were expressed at frequent intervals, that he displayed "elation when the German army made successful drives and was depressed when the allies won."

Birkner was discharged from the army April 4. Previous to his discharge his commanding officer, Major General A. H. Blockson of the 34th Division at Camp Cody was directed to certify the officer for internment.

The dismissed officer was born in Germany and served in the Franco-Prussian war in an engineers' regiment. He suffered a gunshot wound while in that service. He was naturalized in Clay county, Nebraska, in 1888, and during the same year entered the service of the Nebraska National Guard as first lieutenant, serving as medical officer of the Fourth Nebraska regiment. He was appointed to a captaincy September 8, 1903, and given the rank of major, May 15, 1915. The service records of the War department show Birkner to be a native of Nuremberg, Germany, where he was born, May 22, 1856. He was educated in the common schools of Germany and took a university course in 1874. He was graduated from the gymnasium of Speier in 1875 and from the Kingshaale in Munich in 1876. He entered the medical college of



MAJ. J. M. BIRKNER

St. Louis in 1881 and was graduated in 1886. His record shows that he speaks German, Latin, Greek, French and Spanish.

Birkner served with the Nebraska troops on the Mexican border from July, 1915, to January, 15, 1917. He was remustered into the federal service February 25, 1917, and stationed at Fort Crook, Neb., until the Nebraska troops were sent to Deming, training for overseas duty last fall.

## Twenty-nine Killed in Hun Air Raids

Paris, April 13.—Twenty-four persons were killed and 62 others wounded as the result of the German air raid last night on Paris, it was officially announced today.

London, April 23.—Five persons were killed and 15 others injured in the German air raid last night on England, according to an official announcement made today.

## G. O. P. UNITED; PROGRESSIVES RETURN TO FOLD

National Chairman Hays Says That Factions at Outs in 1916 Now Back in the Fold.

(By Associated Press.)

San Francisco, April 13.—Will H. Hays, chairman of the republican national committee, announced here today that factions in the party in California, which attracted national attention in the presidential election of 1916, when Woodrow Wilson carried the state, had disappeared.

Raymond Benjamin, chairman of the republican state central committee, called upon Mr. Hays, as did Percy V. Long, who said he could properly be designated a republican, although still holding the office of chairman of the progressive state central committee, and W. H. Crocker, national committeeman from California, who was found in the conservative wing of the party in 1916.

A Nevada delegation including Whitman Symms, chairman of the state republican executive committee; Q. H. Simmons, a former progressive leader in the state; and Colonel H. B. Maxon, former national committeeman from Nevada, also called upon Mr. Hays, "to assure him that we are with him," they said.

## 36 BOYS BURNED TO DEATH IN FIRE IN BIG HOSPITAL

Norman, Okl., April 13.—Thirty-six boys, aged 10 to 15 years, all patients at the state hospital for the insane, were burned to death in a fire of unknown origin that completely destroyed three wards and the dining room of the institution. The blaze started at 3 o'clock this morning.

Three buildings, one the hospital dining hall, were destroyed by the fire and a fourth damaged. Eighty-eight patients, all violent, were taken from the fourth building and the fire was extinguished before the structure was damaged greatly.

The flames spread quickly through the buildings, all of which were of frame construction.

The loss was estimated at \$40,000.

## Harry Wheeler Chosen Chamber of Commerce Head

Chicago, April 13.—Harry A. Wheeler, federal food administrator for Illinois, was unanimously elected president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at a session of the board of directors at the closing session of the three-day meeting today.

## WILD UPROAR IN PARLIAMENT ON IRISH QUESTION

Asquith Objects to Conscription in Erin, But Will Not Change Government in Grave Crisis.

London, April 13.—A proposal by Irish nationalists to omit the conscription man-power bill was rejected by a majority of 172 in the House of Commons last night. The total vote shows that a large section of the house abstained from voting.

The debate in the house yesterday and last night was remarkable for the speech of H. H. Asquith, the former premier, who, while strongly objecting to the conscription of Ireland, frankly declined to take the responsibility at the moment the nation is facing a grave military crisis of pushing that opposition to the extent of forcing a change in the government.

Henry E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, made a brave attempt to conciliate the Irish members. The effort led to a strong altercation with the nationalists at the close of the debate.

### Irish Interrupt.

The government spokesman in the house, Andrew Bonar Law, in a brief speech winding up the discussion, contended that the government had a moral right to do what it is doing and would be craven not to do it. His speech was interrupted constantly by ironical remarks from the Irish benches. The Irish members at the conclusion challenged the government to a further division on the conscription clause. It was carried by the government; this time by 281 to 116, a majority of 165.

William Adamson, on behalf of the labor party, appealed to the government to give a clear assurance that conscription would not operate until a generous measure of home rule was on the statute books. Captain L. C. M. S. Amery, a unionist, joined in the appeal of Mr. Asquith and Arthur Henderson, labor leader, for the immediate introduction of a measure of home rule.

### House in Uproar.

Another uproar arose when Herbert L. Samuel, former postmaster general, declared that the most important statement of the debate was that made by Chief Secretary Duke, that the act for setting up a parliament in Ireland should be passed before any Irishman was called to the colors. Mr. Duke interjected: "I did not say that."

A wild uproar came from the Irish benches, John Dillon, nationalist leader, exclaiming: "Another government pledge gone." Mr. Samuel resumed: "I took down the words as they were spoken." "If I had said that," replied Secretary Duke, "I should have been contradicting the prime minister. I had no authority to say that."

### Restriction Put Upon Sale of Dried Fruits

Washington, April 13.—Special regulations for the sale of dried fruits were issued today by the food administrator.

## TEUTONS REPULSED IN FIERCE ASSAULT ON AMERICAN LINE

In Counter Attack, Moving Behind Curtain of Fire, Sammies Drive Enemy Out of Trenches and Inflict Heavy Casualties in Fighting in Open; American Losses Slight.

(By Associated Press.)

With the American Army in France, April 13.—Yesterday's battle was the first all-day struggle in which the American troops have been engaged.

Two German attacks, which were delivered in force against the American positions northwest of Toul, were repulsed with heavy casualties to the enemy, including 36 prisoners left in the hands of the Americans. American losses were slight.

The fighting began with one of the most violent bombardments ever laid down in that sector. During Thursday night the Germans kept up a harassing fire, throwing many gas shells into the American position.

### FORCE FIGHT IN OPEN.

The first attack began at about 8 o'clock in the morning and was directed against the French troops on the left flank of the American forces in the forest of Apremont.

While this was going on the American troops made a counter attack on the German line, moving forward behind a perfect curtain of fire. The enemy, driven out of his trenches, was forced to fight in the open.

A deadly machine gun and automatic rifle fire was poured into the enemy, who offered stubborn resistance at first, but later retreated to their second line, hotly pursued by the American troops. Fighting continued for several hours.

Eject Enemy From Trenches. The Germans again attacked at 11 o'clock at a point further to the right. The American barrage fire cut them off, but the German officers drove their men through the exploding shells until a few succeeded in penetrating the American front line.

A counter attack which was immediately launched by the Americans, ejected the enemy, driving him back to his positions. The struggle continued to sway back and forth for several hours.

Attacks Made by Picked Men. While the action was at its height the commander of an American machine gun unit reported to his chief that all the machine gun emplacements had been shot away, but that "every gun is working like hell."

The attacks were made by the reorganized remnant of 800 shock troops who failed to reach the American positions in their gigantic raid of Wednesday. Their ranks were filled out by picked men from other units. The German prisoners, who belonged to six different organizations, said that the attack was ordered to avenge the crushing defeat administered to the enemy Wednesday. Five of the prisoners were Uhlans, and all of the men taken were carrying haversacks well filled, as if in preparation for a protracted stay in the American trenches, corroborating the stories told by prisoners taken Wednesday that the Germans had been ordered to penetrate the American third line at all costs.

Go Into Action Singing. The American troops, although tired from nearly six days of infantry activity, went into their positions singing and expressing their pleasure at an opportunity to fight in the open in preference to what they term "sewer fighting."

## Dr. W. H. Mullen of Bloomfield Addresses Allen Citizens

Allen, Neb., April 13.—(Special.)—A successful patriotic meeting was held at the Rex theater last night. Mayor Filley presided as chairman of the meeting and introduced Dr. W. H. Mullen of Bloomfield, who delivered a two hours' address that literally teemed with patriotic sentiment. The speaker presented an array of facts and argument in regard to the war that have been unheard of to the citizens of this community heretofore. The meeting was held under the auspices of the home guards and the local Council of Defense. The local band played several patriotic selections.

## Here's the Circulation of the Omaha Papers On Dorcas From 13th to 14th

State of Nebraska }  
County of Douglas }<sup>88</sup>

William Cejnar, being duly sworn, says that on April 3d he took a newspaper census of Dorcas street between 13th and 14th streets, Omaha, and that there are seven houses.

5 houses take The BEE.  
2 houses take the World-Herald.  
1 house takes the News.  
(Signed) WM. CEJNAR.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn before me this 5th day of April.  
C. W. CARLSON,  
Notary Public.

## Another Block Monday Keep Your Eye On The Bee IMPROVING EVERY DAY