



DRIVE IN FLANDERS HALTED

ALLIES TO CONTEST WITH ENEMY EVERY INCH BEHIND YPRES

Entire Salient Now in Thick of Fight Without Strategic Value to Enemy, Army Officials Declare; Baker's New War Program May Call for Million More Men for Army.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 29.—The battle for possession of the ruins of Ypres is regarded by officials here conversant with reports from American observers in France as only an incident of the German drive.

They do not foresee, it was learned tonight, any extensive retirement of the British lines in this region, even if the enemy gains this shattered village standing at the apex of the salient in the allied lines in Flanders.

Ypres is important because of the high ground about it. But if it is lost, it is believed here, every inch of ground behind it will be as bitterly contested by the British and French troops as has each enemy step forward for the last 10 days.

WITHOUT STRATEGIC VALUE.

Even the whole Ypres salient, officers here think, has no strategic value which justifies the assumption that its loss might force a general retreat over a wide front.

Should the rate of advance they have made for the last two weeks be maintained by the Germans, it is estimated that it would take weeks for them to reach positions which would seriously threaten the allied hold on the channel ports. Meanwhile the strain of continuous offensive operations will increase steadily upon the German forces, while it decreases correspondingly on the allies with shortened communication lines to maintain.

OFFENSIVE MAY LAST WEEKS.

For this reason many observers here believe the present situation, with the Germans steadily pounding and the allies striking back wherever opportunity offers, may continue for some time.

Official reports from France have indicated three weeks as the time that might elapse before the allies could regain the initiative.

Official announcement that American troops are in the trenches in the Amiens region was welcomed by officials here. It has been known that a considerable force had been assembled in that vicinity, but the fact that the Americans were actually in line facing the German army, where the final battle is being staged, had not been contemplated.

Americans Relieve French.

The only statement as to the ground occupied by the American forces is that it is east of Amiens. Since unofficial dispatches describe the sector as not directly involved in the present fighting at Hangard and Villers-Bretonneux, however, it is assumed that the newcomers have been placed somewhere along the line to the southeast of Hangard, toward Noyon. If, so officers here believe that these American units may share in the ultimate triumph of the allied armies directly, as it is from this flank of the Flanders battlefield that the counter movement would be launched.

The number of American troops in that part of the line and their organization has not been revealed, though the presence of American artillery indicates tactical units of considerable size. The force serves to relieve veteran French units for employment by General Foch as a mobile reserve.

Million More Men in Plan.

The increased army program, necessitated by the German drive, it is learned, probably will be laid before congress by Secretary Baker within the next few days. The whole question of available equipment, quarters and transport tonnage has been reviewed recently in preparation for submitting these figures.

There are some indications that efforts will be made to add a million men to the army at the earliest possible time, supplementing the million and a half already with the colors.

If a large increase in the number of divisions now organized or in process of organization is planned, it will be necessary to secure an amendment to the selective service act removing the present restriction of the draft to two units of 500,000 men each. While the act places no limit upon the raising of replacement troops as may be necessary, officials hold that no legal right exists for the organization of additional line units.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair and cooler Tuesday and Wednesday.

Temperature in Omaha, Yesterday.

Table with 2 columns: Hour, Temperature. Rows for 5 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m., 11 p.m., 12 m.

Comparative Local Record. 1915, 1917, 1918, 1915.

Table with 2 columns: Highest yesterday, Lowest yesterday, Rain temperature, Precipitation, Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal.

Normal temperature 56, Deficiency for the day 8, Total excess since March 1, 252, Normal precipitation 12 inch, Deficiency for the day 12 inch.

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

"Transports Are Waiting To Take British Army Home," German Canard

London, April 29.—A Reuter dispatch from Stockholm says that the Aftonbladet publishes, and one or two other papers repeat, a telegram from Zurich, by way of Berlin, to the effect that "an entire fleet of British transports is waiting in the channel to take British army home in case of need."

On inquiry of the admiralty, Reuter's agency was informed that the statement contained in the aforementioned telegram "is absolutely devoid of any foundation whatever."

BIG STEAMSHIP SUNK; AMERICANS ON BOARD SAVED

57 "Y" Workers Arrive Safely in London After Thrilling Rescue From Torpedoed Vessel.

London, April 29.—A party of 57 American army young men's Christian association workers under Arthur E. Hungerford arrived in London last night. The ship on which they sailed was torpedoed yesterday morning and sank in 12 minutes. All the passengers and all but three of the crew were saved.

The passengers were picked up in lifeboats and landed at a British port. The Americans are all safe and well. On their arrival in London they were taken in charge by the American Young Men's Christian association and Red Cross.

Praise American's Conduct.

The number of persons on board the vessel was about 250. One of the ship's officers told the Associated Press that the Americans had conducted themselves in an admirable manner. They had passed most of their time aboard the ship in military drills and daily and nightly lifeboats and every man knew his station and duties as though by instinct.

Destroyers immediately were sent to the rescue and all the lifeboats were picked up within half an hour.

The vessel was struck amidship while in a large convoy under the protection of destroyers, it was proceeding at about 10 knots in bright moonlight when struck. There was an immediate heavy list and three minutes later the boilers blew up, extinguishing the lights all over the ship.

"The Americans behaved like veterans and were of the greatest assistance in launching the lifeboats and handling them," said one of the officers of the ship.

TEUTONS CAPTURE 7,100 PRISONERS IS CLAIM AT BERLIN

Berlin (Via London), April 29.—The announcement from general headquarters today says:

"On the Flanders battle front from midday the artillery fire revived. The booty taken since the storming of Mont Kemmel has increased to more than 7,100 prisoners, including 181 officers, 53 guns and 233 machine guns.

"Between La Bassée canal and the Scarpe, as well as north of the Somme, there has been lively reconnoitering activity on the part of the English. Strong partial attacks made by the French against Hangard wood and the village were sanguinarily repulsed. Forefield engagements occurred at many points on the remainder of the front.

On the eastern bank of the Meuse, a thrust in the French trenches brought in some prisoners."

Bismarck Banished From Chicago Public Schools

Chicago, April 29.—Bismarck, the iron chancellor of Germany, was banished from Chicago public schools today by the Board of Education.

Cleveland Police Put Ban Upon Socialists' Parade

Cleveland, O., April 29.—Cleveland socialists will not be permitted to hold their annual parade May 1, according to instructions to the police department today by Safety Director Sprosty, who fears the formation at this time might incite a riot.

AMERICAN BOYS FACE GRIM FIRE

U. S. Machine Gun Battalion Moves Fearlessly Into Thick of War's Deadliest Battle Scene.

By WILBUR FORREST.

(Special Cable to The Omaha Daily Bee and the New York Tribune. Copyright 1918.)

With an American Machine Gun Battalion in the field April 29.—Under a rain of metal American troops today are more than holding their own in a sector in northern France.

The way they marched into position, obvious of the hellish fire, in darkness that was as pitch except for the sinister red stabs of bursting shells here and there is the best augury of America's future in this war.

The sectors which have been previously held by these same Americans on the French front during the present war were quiet in comparison with this.

The machine gun battalion left the small town, in which the American headquarters are located, at dusk. Behind them came two small auto trucks containing thousands of rounds of ammunition for our machine guns, which were placed under cover of the heavy atmosphere during the early afternoon.

Fog Prevents Observation.

The weather prevented the enemy's observation from airplanes and sausage balloons.

Traversing the next village, it was necessary to proceed at a snail's pace, continuously passing the silent snake-like khaki stream whose feet were beating a rhythmic tramp, tramp, occasionally audible above the din of the guns ahead and the grumble of our heavies in the rear.

Darkness was awaited to cross the treeless fields between the rear and the firing line.

The enemy, who works with flawless maps, knows every road and every crossroad, and his artillery fire is ceaseless.

Passing the marching column and approaching the next village, the squeal of the enemy's shells and their sharp explosions made conversation impossible.

Our automobile proceeded cautiously and suddenly careened into shell holes where the enemy had sought out the crossroads and pounded them with tons of steel and high explosives. He was now pounding the village, and through this village lay the route of our marching column behind.

It was here at the shattered crossroads that one of the little automobiles broke through the shell craters and neither engine nor muscular brawn could budge it and its load of heavy machine-gun ammunition. It was a case of unload the ammunition and lift the car out bodily, which kept us at the crossroads for 15 minutes.

Desolate Ruins Ahead.

A month ago this village was one of the many peaceful agricultural communities of the department. As we passed through the streets, occasionally throwing ourselves flat on the ground in order to escape fragments of bursting shells, we were able to see the desolate ruins, silhouetted against the feeble light that occasionally loomed out of the noisy darkness from the shell bursts and activity on the front line, several hundred yards beyond.

The ancient church and the local chateau were nothing but gaunt skeletons. The buildings around them were mostly reduced to common debris. Stately trees once lined the village square, but these are now only jagged wrecks.

Flat on Their Stomachs.

Flat on our stomachs we saw a German freight train tear up the village square and heard its fragments tear the air and cut into the buildings on all four sides.

It was through such fire as this that our young veterans marched erect and silent, through the village and on into the village beyond. They marched into the war without a whimper and without a waver in the ranks.

SAMUEL GOMPERS TAKEN ILL WHILE MAKING ADDRESS

Montreal, April 29.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was taken suddenly ill while addressing a mass meeting of labor representatives here.

Mr. Gompers was immediately conveyed to his hotel, where it was announced that his indisposition was believed to have been the result of reaction from the many speeches he has made during his Canadian tour.

Mr. Gompers had said he yielded to no one in good will to the German people and when democracy was enthroned, no one would outdistance him and his associates in the labor movement extending the hand of fellowship and good will to the working people of that country.

"But until then there can be no peace between freedom and kaiserism," he added.

It was here that Mr. Gompers was taken suddenly ill, and walked off the platform.

Flying Air Line From New York to Frisco Is Given \$500,000 Boost

San Francisco, April 29.—Directors of the Panama-Pacific international exposition have turned over to the Pacific Aero club part of the exposition land known as the Marina, valued at \$500,000, to be used as a landing place for airplanes.

Plans have been completed for the "Woodrow Wilson" air line from New York to San Francisco, over which the Aero Club of America hopes to demonstrate the feasibility of trans-continental transportation by airplane.

GRANT OF EXTRA POWER TO WILSON VOTED BY SENATE

Many Senators Who Opposed Administration in Fight Join Majority When Test Comes on Final Passage.

Washington, April 29.—Rejecting all amendments designed to limit the president's authority, the senate late today passed the Overman bill with its general grant of power for the executive to co-ordinate and reorganize government departments and other agencies during the war.

The vote on the measure, which now goes to the house, was 63 to 13. Many senators who opposed the administration in the long fight over proposed amendments joining the majority when the test came on final passage.

Only one democrat, Senator Reed of Missouri, voted against the bill. Republicans who voted against it were Brandegee, Cummins, Dillingham, France, Gallinger, Harding, Johnson of California, Knox, Bondrester, Sherman, Sterling and Sutherland.

Constitutionality Attacked.

Senators who continued their opposition to the finish have based their attitude on the argument that the bill confers unnecessary autocratic powers upon the president and is unconstitutional.

The only amendments added in the senate were accepted by Senator Overman. One by Senator Wade of New York, republican would authorize the president to centralize authority over the aviation program in one executive officer, and another, by Senator Jones, republican of Washington, limits the effect of reorganizations made under the bill to six months instead of one year after the war.

As passed by the senate the measure authorizes the president to "make such redistribution of functions among executive agencies as he may deem necessary" and to "utilize, co-ordinate and consolidate any executive or administrative commissions, bureaus, agencies, offices or officers now existing by law; to transfer any duties or powers from one existing department or to transfer the personnel thereof." These powers, however, "shall be exercised only in matters relating to the conduct of the present war."

GRAVES DECLINES SEAT IN SENATE; WILFLEY ACCEPTS

St. Louis, April 29.—Xenophon P. Wilfley, member of the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners and prominent democrat of Missouri, tonight was tendered by Governor Gardner the seat in the United States senate vacated recently by the death of Senator W. J. Stone.

Wilfley announced he would accept the appointment and left for Jefferson City to confer with the governor.

Jefferson City, Mo., April 29.—Judge W. W. Graves today declined the appointment of United States senator tendered him last Friday by Governor Gardner.

GERMANS SUFFER ENORMOUS LOSSES IN FUTILE ATTACK

Powerful Blows on Ypres Front Parried and Lines Hold Intact at Close of Day of Terrific Fighting; Enemy Driven Out After Gaining Foothold in French Positions.

(By Associated Press.) Germany's armies are hurling themselves against a granite wall on three sides of the ruined city of Ypres. After fighting of the most terrific nature, the British and French lines are still intact and the enemy has lost terribly in his repeated assaults against the lines where the allies stand at bay.

The objective of the fighting that now is going on is the capture of Ypres, where, since 1914 the British have held their positions. Two years ago the allied lines were carried forward and the salient in front of the city was wiped out, but from these positions the British retired a week ago to the trenches where they stood during the terrific fighting in the spring of 1915, when they stopped the first German drive for the channel ports.

BELGIAN FRONT FIRM. The present battle opened with a bombardment of the British and French lines from Meteren to Voormezele, a distance of 12 miles. Then came reports of a spread of the fighting around the curve in the line in front of Ypres until the Belgian armies, north of the city, were involved. Field Marshal Haig's official report, anxiously awaited, brought the news that the utmost efforts of the Germans had been fruitless all along the line. The field marshal's statement said that the Teutons had paid a great price and had gained virtually nothing.

The battle still continues along the front, but there is little indication that an immediate withdrawal from Ypres is contemplated by the allies, at least not until they have exacted from the enemy a great sacrifice of human lives.

BROADWAY RUNS RIOT WHEN WAR HEROES PASS BY

New York Ablaze With Patriotism as American and French Soldiers From Battlefield March to City Hall.

New York, April 29.—One hundred and five heroes of the French army, members of the famous Chasseurs Alpins corps, nicknamed "Blue Devils," who arrived today, and the 50 veterans of General Pershing's army who came yesterday from overseas, gave New Yorkers a series of thrills today.

Patriotic fervor reached a high pitch when General Pershing's soldiers, many of them wearing the French war cross awarded for bravery, marched up Broadway from the Battery to the city hall, where they were formally received by Mayor Hylan. After the ceremony they scattered throughout the city to aid in the Liberty bond campaign.

The arrival of the Frenchmen was entirely unexpected. They also came to help the Liberty loan campaign.

Women Kiss Heroes. Spectators went wild with enthusiasm as the men filed by. Dignified business men and financiers threw their hats high into the air and danced in boyish glee, while several women broke through the police cordon to kiss the marchers.

The cheering all along the route was deafening and the flag and handkerchief waving led a kaleidoscopic effect to the scene.

At the city hall, Mayor Hylan addressed the soldiers from the balcony, saying:

Mayor Hylan's Welcome. "I welcome you men in the name of your proud countrymen. I welcome you in the name of the men, women and children of this city, and I wish to say to you that we are proud of you and of the manner in which you have conducted yourselves while on foreign soil."

The city was just recovering from this outburst of enthusiasm when the visiting Frenchmen—heroes all—and named "Blue Devils" by the Germans because of the color of their uniforms and their fighting qualities arrived. They appeared at Liberty loan committee headquarters on lower Broadway after having traveled through Fifth avenue and several downtown streets on auto buses from the steamship pier. Their reception was only exceeded by that accorded Pershing's veterans.

When the struggle was going on before Ypres, the British positions from La Basse to Houtholst wood and from Lens to Vimy were deluged with shells, but so far there has been no infantry fighting reported from that part of the front. An attack on this salient in the German lines is expected soon, however, for it stands as a constant menace to a further advance by the enemy.

Along the front in the Somme sector, part of which is being held by Americans, there has been little fighting of note. Further south there have been only patrol encounters.

BRITONS WRANGLE OVER AIR STAFF CHANGES IN ARMY

London, April 29.—There was interest in today's debate in the House of Commons over the recent resignations from leading positions in the air forces, during which Lord Hugh Cecil and others urged that Major General Trenchard, former chief of the air staff, be reinstated in that office.

Replying to the criticisms, Premier Lloyd George complained of and repudiated as offensive the suggestions that amateur strategists in the cabinet had been trying to advise General Trenchard. The premier announced that Lieutenant General Smuts, a member of the privy council, has been appointed to investigate the dispute between General Trenchard and Baron Rothermere, brother of Lord Northcliffe, who resigned as air minister last Thursday, and that General Smuts had arrived at the conclusion that General Trenchard's qualities were better suited to leadership than to staff duty.

It was hoped, added the premier, that General Trenchard's services would be retained in a position of considerable power in the air force.

Uruguay Again Requests Explanation From Germany

Montevideo, April 9.—The Uruguayan government has again requested a definite reply to the query, previously forwarded, as to whether Germany considers a state of war existing between the two countries.

Germany's answer to Uruguay's first request evades this point, but in the meantime the Uruguayan foreign minister declines to discuss the matter.

"SHELLPROOF MACK'S" Gripping Story of Trench Fighting is Continued on Page Twelve of The Bee Today.

Here's the Circulation of the Omaha Papers On 10th St., 3000 Block

State of Nebraska } County of Douglas } ss

F. S. Dilley, being duly sworn, says that on April 6th he took a newspaper census of South 10th street, Thirty-third block, Omaha, and that there are six houses:

5 houses take THE BEE. 2 houses take the World-Herald. 3 houses take the News.

(Signed) F. S. DILLEY. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 8th day of April. (Seal) HILMA DAHLQUIST, Notary Public.

Another Block Tomorrow Keep Your Eye On The Bee IMPROVING EVERY DAY

Two-Thirds of Three Billion Liberty Loan Now Subscribed

Washington, April 29.—Seventy-six per cent of the \$3,000,000,000 Liberty loan minimum has been subscribed, according to treasury tabulations tonight covering business up to the opening of banks today. For the five days remaining canvassing committees have instructions to devote their energies to soliciting personally the thousands of individuals and business interests who have delayed subscribing.

"We have attained 104 per cent and are going forward to 150 per cent if possible," said a telegram from the Kansas City district, the third to achieve its quota.

Subscriptions by states in the Kansas City district are: Missouri, \$24,173,450; Colorado, \$17,605,050; Kansas, \$31,876,250; Nebraska, \$31,312,000; Oklahoma, \$24,756,050; Wyoming, \$4,408,650; New Mexico, \$1,199,000.

Dispatches today said that at a meeting in Baltimore, addressed by Secretary Baker, \$19,600,000 was subscribed. This is believed the largest amount subscribed at any one meeting during the campaign.