

GERMANS DIE BY OWN POISON GAS AS WIND SHIFTS

Hun Divisions, Hit Hard by Allied Gunners, Withdrawn for Fresh Troops as Battle Rages.

With the French armies in France, June 11.—The fierce opposition offered by the allied troops appears to have disconcerted the German high command, which expected to be able to reduce the allied salient around Boyou much more easily. The enemy guns were very busy throughout yesterday and last night, but were well countered by the allied artillery. In addition, the wind changed its direction and tens of thousands of poison gas shells fired by the Germans did more damage to themselves than to the allies. Indications show that some of the enemy divisions which started the attack are already being withdrawn from the line, because of the severity of their casualties and are being replaced by fresh units. This new battle is entirely different in its characteristic features from either the offensive of March or that of May. The attack along the Montdidier-Neoyon line was no surprise for the allies and the German forces, although extremely strong, have not submerged the defenders as in the case of the two former offensives. The armies are fighting it out foot by foot and it cannot be claimed up to this writing that the enemy has gained any definite advantage, despite the fact of the indentation he has made in the allied line.

NEARLY MILLION AMERICANS NOW ON BATTLE FRONT

Washington, June 11.—More than 700,000 American soldiers have gone overseas to carry back to France the encouragement and assistance which Lafayette and Rochambeau brought to America. Secretary Baker told the French Alpine chassours in bidding them farewell here at the base of the Washington monument. The war secretary's last announcement some weeks ago concerning the size of the American forces abroad was that 500,000 men had sailed for the battle front.

PORTO RICO AND HAWAII TO SEND 17,000 TO FIGHT

Washington, June 11.—Porto Rico and Hawaii were called on by Provost General Crowder today to furnish 17,000 draft registrants for the national army. Porto Rico was asked to send on June 20 and July 1 12,468 men to Camp Las Casas, San Juan. Hawaii was directed to send 4,336 to Fort Armstrong, Honolulu, on July 1.

Contracts Let for Building Forty Concrete Ships

Washington, June 11.—Contracts for building 40 concrete ships of 1,500 tons each in five government yards were awarded today by the shipping board. The first ship way at Wilmington will be completed early in July and ship building will commence immediately thereafter. The yard at San Francisco is in operation, and preparations for construction of the other three are well under way. The concrete ship "Faith," first of the big experimental concrete vessels, has completed successfully a trip from San Francisco to Van Couver, and has sailed for Seattle to take on cargo for the return trip to San Francisco.

Men of 1918 Draft May Enlist in Navy and Marine Corps

Washington, June 10.—Men of the 1918 class of draft registrants may enlist in the navy and marine corps, according to a new ruling today by Provost Marshal General Crowder. Order numbers and serial numbers have not been assigned the registrants, but this contingency was waived.

Senate Bill Gives President Power to Take Wire Lines

Washington, June 11.—The president would be empowered to take possession of all cable, telephone and telegraph lines under an amendment to the \$12,000,000 army appropriation bill introduced by Senator Sheppard of Texas. The purpose would be to assure secrecy of military information and to prevent communication among spies.

Cut in Supply of Coal to Passenger Auto Makers

Washington, June 11.—Curtailed supply of coal to manufacturers of passenger automobiles for the year beginning August 1, to 25 per cent of the quantity consumed in 1917-18, was announced tonight by the fuel administration. This is one of the steps in a drastic program for reduction of fuel allowed non-war industries to meet the expected coal shortage next winter.

Premature Explosion of Shell Kills One Soldier

Camp Fremont, Palo Alto, Cal., June 11.—One soldier was killed here yesterday by the premature explosion of a shell. Unofficial reports say that eight were injured, none fatally. A "time shell" was said to have been placed in a 6-inch gun and not fired before the charge was ignited. The man killed was said to have been standing 40 feet from the gun.

Legal Battle Over Stewart Estate Comes to an End

Chicago, June 11.—The court battle over the \$7,000,000 estate left by John Stewart, ended today in a compromise by which Mrs. Martha C. Love of Pasadena, Cal., and her young son, Edward S. Clark, will receive \$250,000. Mrs. Love is the widow of a former partner of Mr. Stewart.

Harry Lauder in the War Zone

"A Minstrel in France" Tells His Personal Experiences on the Western Fighting Front

CHAPTER XVIII. Rest Billets.

"You'll see another phase of the front now, Harry," said Captain Godfrey, as I turned my eyes to the front once more. "What's the next stop?" I asked. "We're heading for a rest billet behind the lines. There'll be lots of men there who are just out of the trenches. It's a ghastly strain for even the best and most seasoned troops—this work in the trenches. So, after a battalion has been in for a certain length of time, it's pulled out and sent back to a rest billet." "What do they do there?" I asked. "Well, they don't loaf—there's none of that in the British army, these days! For one thing, there isn't the constant danger there is up front. The men aren't under steady fire. Of course, there's always the chance of a bomb dropping raid by a Taube or a Fokker. The men get a chance to clean up. They get baths, and their clothes are cleaned and disinfected. They get rid of the cooties—you know what they are?" "I could guess. The plague of vermin in the trenches is one of the minor horrors of war." "They do a lot of drilling," Godfrey went on. "Except for those times in the rest billets, regiments might get a bit slack. In the trenches you know, the routine is strict, but it's different. Men are much more on their own. There aren't any inspections of kit and all that sort of thing—not for neatness, anyway. "And it's a god thing for the soldiers to be neat. It helps discipline. And discipline, in time of war, isn't just a parade ground matter. It means lives—every time. Your disciplined man, who's trained to do certain things automatically, is the man you can depend on in any sort of emergency. "That's the thing that the Canadians and the Australians have had to learn since they came out. There never were any braver troops than those in the world, but at first they didn't have the automatic discipline they needed. That'll be the first problem in training the new American armies, too. It's a highly practical matter. And so, in the rest billets, they drill the men a goodish bit. It keeps up the morale, and makes them fitter and keener for the work when they go back to the trenches." "You don't make it sound much like a real rest for them," I said. "Oh, but it is, all right! They have a comfortable place to sleep. They get better food. The men in the trenches get the best food it's possible to give them, but it can't be cooked much, for there aren't facilities. The diet gets pretty monotonous. In the rest billets they get more variety. And they have plenty of free time, and there are hours when they can go to the estaminet—there's always one handy, a sort of pub, you know—and buy things for themselves. Oh, they have a pretty good time, as you'll see, in a rest billet." "I had to take his word for it. We went bowling along at a good speed, but pretty soon we encountered a detachment of Somerset men. They halted when they spied our caravan,

and so did we. As usual they recognized us. "You're Harry Lauder!" said one of them, in the broad accent of his country. "Us has seen 'ee often!" Johnson was out already, and he and the drivers were unlimbering the new piano. It didn't take so long now that we were getting used to the task, to make ready for a road-side concert. While I waited I talked with the men. They were on their way to Ypres. Tommy can't get the name right, and long ago ceased trying to do so. The French and Belgians call it "Epre"—that's as near as I can give it to you in print at least. But Tommy, as all the world must know by now, calls it Wipers, and that is another name that will live as long as British history is told. The Somerset men squatted in the road while I sang my songs for them, and gave me the most rapt attention. It was hugely gratifying and flattering, the silence that always descended upon an audience of soldiers when I sang. There were never any interruptions. But at the end of a song, and during the chorus, which they wanted to sing with me, as I wanted them to do, too, they made up for their silence. Soon the Rev. Harry Lauder, M. P., tour was on its way again. The cheers of the Somerset men sounded gayly in our ears, and the cars quickly picked up speed and began to mop up the miles at a great rate. And then, suddenly—whoa! We were in the midst of soldiers again. This time it was a bunch of motor repair men. They wandered along the roads, working on the trucks and cars that were abandoned when they got into trouble, and left along the side of the road. We had seen scores of such wrecks that day, and I had wondered if they were left there indefinitely. Far from it, as I learned now. Squads like this—there were 200 men in this particular party—were always at work. Many of the cars they salvaged without difficulty—those that had been abandoned because of comparatively minor engine troubles or defects. Others had to be towed to a repair shop, or loaded upon other trucks for the journey, if their wheels were out of commission. Others still were beyond repair. They had been utterly smashed in a collision, maybe, or as a result of skidding. Or they had burned. Some times they had been knocked off the road and generally demoralized by a shell. And in such cases, often, all that men such as these we had met now could do was to retrieve some parts to be used in repairing other cars in a less hopeless state. By this time Johnson and the two soldiers chauffeurs had reduced the business of setting our stage to a fine point. It took us but a very few minutes indeed to be ready for a concert, and from the time we sighted a potential audience to the moment for the opening number was an almost incredibly brief period. This time that was a good thing, for it was growing late. And so, although the repair men were loath to let me go, it was but an abbreviated program that I was able to offer to them. This was one of the most enthusiastic audiences I had had yet, for nearly every man there, it turned out, had been what Americans would call a Harry Lauder fan in the old days. They had been wont to go again and again to hear me. I wanted to say and sing more songs for them, but Captain Godfrey was in charge, and I had to obey his orders, reluctant though I was to go on. Our destination was a town called Aubigny—rather an old chateau just outside the town. Aubigny was the billet of the 15th division, then in rest. Many officers were quartered in the chateau, as the guests of the French owners, who remained in possession, having refused to clear out, despite the nearness of the actual fighting front. This was a Scots division. I was glad to find. I heard good Scots talk all-around me when I arrived, and it was Scottish hospitality, mingled with French, that awaited us. I know no finer combination, nor one more warming to the cockles of a man's heart. Here there was luxury, compared to what I had seen that day. As Godfrey had warned me, the idea of resting that the troops had was a bit more strenuous than mine would be. There was no lying and lolling about. Hot though the weather was a deal of foot ball was played, and there were games of one sort and another going on nearly the time when the men were off duty. This division, I learned, had seen some of the hardest and bloodiest fighting of the whole war. They had been through the great offensive that had pivoted on Arras, and had been sorely knocked about. They had well earned such rest as was coming to them now, and they were getting ready, in the most cheerful way you can imagine, for their next tour of duty in the trenches. They knew

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DANCES TAKING ON ARMY NAMES NOW THE THING

Chicago, June 11.—The "trench trot," the "camouflage waltz," and the "cantonment canter," have displayed the "gavotte," the "minuette," and the old fashioned waltz, it was said Monday at the convention of the International Dancing Masters' association. Other new dances displayed were the "war stamp," and the "airplane spin." Plans were announced for a dancing

Employees in Cotton Mills To Get Increase in Pay

Lowell, Mass., June 11.—Seven cotton mills employing 20,000 persons, posted notices today of a 10 per cent increase in pay, effective next Monday. This makes an increase in wages of approximately 95 per cent in these mills during the last two years.

Masters' unit, which will soon embark for France to instruct American soldiers regarding the newest steps.

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Rate Increases Refused

Washington, June 11.—Applications of railroads to make increases in rates on grain in carloads from Sioux City, Ia., and points in Nebraska, north of Omaha, to Colorado cities, south of Pueblo, were refused today by the Interstate Commerce commission.

Muscalonge AND BASS

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