

HINDENBURG MACHINE IS BATTERED AND EXHAUSTED

Pershing Pleadsto Allow Entire American Forces to Enter the Big Battle

COUNTER OFFENSIVE HAS ALREADY BEGUN

French Are Firmly Holding Territory Recaptured Yesterday--Intact Allied Reserves to Strike When They Please.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—American army officials at Washington believe a big allied counter offensive has already begun. They see the first stages of the passing of the initiative in Haig's thrust on the northern flank and Petain's attack on the south flank. They also believe that the necessary dispositions of troops have been made and that the mysterious army of maneuver is ready to strike. The Hindenburg machine is believed to have been battered and exhausted until it has become most vulnerable.

PERSHING WANTS HIS MEN IN FIGHT

PARIS, March 29.—General Pershing, conferring with French officials at the front Thursday, asked in his own name and his country's name that the entire American forces be engaged in the present battle, the war office has announced. Pershing has placed the American army entirely at the disposition of the French. He made his request to General Foch in the presence of Premier Clemenceau, Minister of Munitions Locheur and General Petain.

"I come to tell you the American people would feel highly honored if our troops were engaged in the present battle. I ask this in my own name and in my country's name," General Pershing said.

TOOK PRISONERS AND MACHINE GUNS.

LONDON, March 29.—There is no reason yet to believe that von Ludendorff has increased his prospects of winning the great political gamble represented by the German offensive. Every effort to draw the allied reserve still fails, while the German reserves are increasingly coming in. Meanwhile the German line is increasingly in a precarious position. The time is approaching for an intact allied reserve to strike where it may please. Haig has reported that the British took prisoners and machine guns north of Somme, inflicting heavy losses.

"The Germans' frequent attacks with the greatest determination throughout Thursday gained only our outposts by the severest hand-to-hand fighting. His reserves were thrown back everywhere. Our machine gun, artillery and rifle fire are doing the greatest execution. There was heavy, continuous fighting south of the Somme until night Thursday. We maintained our line against greatly superior numbers throughout, giving up only advance posts," the report says.

ENEMY HELD AT ALL POINTS.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Chief of Staff March read General Bliss' dispatch to the house military committee today in which it was stated "Enemy being held at all points." The dispatch further indicated that the situation though still grave is gradually assuming a more favorable aspect.

FRENCH HOLD RE-CAPTURED TERRITORY

PARIS, March 29.—The French are firmly holding the territory recaptured yesterday in the Montdidier section. An official report says: "We stormed and captured Montchy, and repulsed a counter attack against Plessisden."

GERMAN CLAIMS OF SUCCESS.

AMSTERDAM, March 29.—The Berlin Vossische Zeitung says the German supreme command is about to deliver a fresh, mighty blow at another sector, making a new breach in the allied lines.

LARGE CAPTURES CLAIMED.

BERLIN, March 29.—Seventy thousand prisoners and eleven hundred guns captured, is the claim of Berlin officials.

Battle Raging Along Front of Seventy Miles

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY, March 29.—The tide of battle is ever rising. The great struggle is extending northward and southward. The battle line is over seventy miles long. There are three principal fighting centers, on the north flank towards Arras, astride the Somme, and the third is against the south flank, between Montdidier and Noyon.

The fighting continues despite a sudden change in the weather, and a gale and rain is sweeping over the battlefields. The Germans, with oxlike perseverance, are butting away against the British near Arras and are making some progress, occupying front line trenches at Orange Hill and Neuville Vitasse.

SENATE REJECTS MILITARY TRAINING

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The senate today by a vote of 36 to 26 rejected Senator New's universal training proposal. The senate passed the resolution making subject to draft all men who have become twenty-one since June, 1918.

DESERTER STILL ALIVE

Benton, His Companion, So Far Eludes Pursuers.

BAKER, March 29.—Franklin, the deserting soldier shot by Weisner, was still alive last night and was thought to have a fighting chance for recovery but the attending physician stated that his chances were very slight, with the odds against him. Franklin stated yesterday that both he and Benton were members of Company C, 354th Infantry. Benton has not been captured.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE

Obsequies Over Late John T. Williamson Tomorrow Afternoon.

The remains of the late John T. Williamson, who died in Portland Wednesday night, arrived here last night accompanied by Mrs. Williamson and H. E. Coolidge.

Local Masons, members of the Eastern Star and business men formed an escort to the remains which were taken to the Bohnenkamp Chapel where they will lie until tomorrow morning when they will be taken to the family residence.

The funeral will be held tomorrow, Saturday, afternoon at 3 p. m. from the Presbyterian church in charge of Rev. Chas. A. Phillips. Friends desiring to view the remains may do so at the residence tomorrow as the casket will not be opened at the church.

Germans Are Forced to Sullen Defensive Tactics; Retirement Is Probable

NEW YORK, March 29.—Apparently the Western combat has definitely turned favoring the Allies. The Germans are beginning sullen defensive tactics at important points. The German front is precarious and formation for retirements is probable.

PRESIDENT APPEALS IN BEHALF OF MOONEY

WASHINGTON, March 29.—It is learned that President Wilson has again wired the Governor of California, asking him for intervention in behalf of Thomas Mooney, who is under sentence of death for participation in the San Francisco Preparedness Day parade.

Parent-Teacher Meeting Held.

The Riverla Parent-Teacher association and the Home Economics Study club met at the Riverla school yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Walker presided.

County superintendent, Mrs. Ivanhoe, was present and gave a brief discussion on conditions at the present time and how we must meet these changed conditions.

Miss Murphy, home demonstration agent, gave a helpful talk on the needs of the body and the functions of food. She also advised the raising of chickens as a means of solving the meat problem.

A number of government bulletins on food, gardening and poultry were distributed by Miss Murphy.

U. S. AVIATOR FALLS 'BEHIND FOE LINES'



CAPT. J. E. MILLER

Captain James E. Miller, U. S. aviator, is reported killed or taken prisoner by the Germans. He was flying in squadron formation when his machine suddenly darted downward and landed behind the German lines. It is believed that the plane had been so badly damaged by gunfire that it became unmanageable.

J. D. M'KENNON RELATES HIS EXPERIENCES

CITY COMMISSIONER RETURNS FROM BUSINESS TRIP EAST.

Money Is Plentiful in Oklahoma—Crop Prospects Poor—Produce Market Shot to Pieces.

City Commissioner J. D. McKennon has returned from a business trip to the east and south, including Denver, Topeka, Oklahoma City and other centers. Oklahoma, Mr. McKennon reports, is flowing with money. This is because of the development of oil fields more than anything else. Wherever there are discoveries there is a rush and the excitement runs high. "I was told," he says, "that in Tulsa the banks have more money than there was formerly in all the banks of Oklahoma and surrounding states. The farm prospects do not look favorable on account of the dry weather. There are exhibitions of Uncle Sam's uniforms on every hand. Every train almost is crowded with soldiers."

Produce Market Collapsed. The trip was made by Mr. McKennon principally to close up his business in connection with the shipment during the past few months of a total of about thirty cars of potatoes and six cars of apples.

He says that he did fairly well on five of the cars of apples but the last one netted a loss of about sixteen cents a box. All the apples that have gone into the southern section recently have deteriorated rapidly and the market is dead. It is practically the same way with potatoes; the market is shot to pieces.

Mr. McKennon's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Berry, former La Grander, are spending the winter in Oklahoma City.

Alicel Boy on Furlough

ALICEL, March 25.—(Special)—Harry Plasse visited relatives in Alicel Saturday evening. Mr. Plasse is home from Camp Lewis on a short furlough.

Mrs. W. H. Oliver and children left for Portland Saturday evening where they will be joined by Mr. Oliver.

Miss Gladys Van Housen, of Island City, spent Friday in Alicel. Mrs. B. F. Webb, Clyde and Mildred Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Ledbetter, R. L. Taylor, Margaret and Reed Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Murphy, Chas. Smith, Ira and Minnie Watkins, Ona Hudson and Pansy Van Housen attended the opera at the La Grande high school Friday evening.

Saturday evening a crowd of young people celebrated the birthday of Hazel and Eva Wright at their home.

Rev. Cullison, of Berkeley, Idaho, conducted church services Sunday morning. Clyde Webb led league Sunday evening.

Easter Sunday the Sunday school will give an Easter program beginning at 11:30 a. m.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Van Housen moved from Alicel Tuesday to Union where Mr. Van Housen will be foreman of a ranch for Chas. Plasse.

R. C. Plasse returned from Walla Monday evening when he has been visiting his sons.

School Notices.

Beginning March 31 and lasting until October 22 the schools of this county will begin at nine o'clock a. m. by the new time. This must be done in order to comply with the state and federal law.

PRESIDENT CABLES CONGRATULATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 29.—President Wilson cables to General Foch, congratulating him on "Your new authority." It is indicated that General Foch has been named inter-allied commander of all forces in France. The President said: "Such unity of command is a most hopeful augury of ultimate success."

MRS. MOSSMAN HOME FROM LONG TRIP

REPRESENTATIVE LA GRANDE RED CROSS VISITS HEAD QUARTERS.

Flattering Testimonials Are Received As To Splendid Work of the Local Chapter.

Mrs. E. P. Mossman, representing the La Grande Chapter of the American Red Cross, visited the northwestern division headquarters at Seattle, Washington, and also spent much time in the workrooms of the Seattle and Portland Chapters and the following is an account that Mrs. Mossman gave to a representative of the Observer.

"My trip was wholly one of study of Red Cross methods and not for pleasure," said Mrs. Mossman. "However there was pleasure awaiting me at every turn."

"It was a pleasure to find that all along the line La Grande was rated as one of the very best in the state, both in the amount and quality of work and has won a name for itself that may well be the pride of its constituents in the twin counties of Walla and Union."

"It was particularly gratifying in going through the many departments at Division headquarters, where the work is carefully inspected, to find recorded only two slight criticisms of this chapter's splendid output of 125 boxes, or 168,650 articles."

"It was a pleasure to note that the boxes in which the product of this Chapter is packed were the best looking among hundreds of others. These boxes are shipped to France, where they are knocked down and used to make furniture for base hospitals. Our boxes are made by the Palmer Lumber Company of this city."

"The reputation of our Junior work is gaining every day at division headquarters. It was most gratifying to being back to our Junior Chapter the request from Dr. Garret, the director of the Junior Red Cross chapters, for samples of wooden forms for sizing socks. The Chairmen of Seattle and Portland chapters made the same request for samples. These forms are being made in the Manual Training Department of the La Grande schools under the direction of Mr. McEachern."

"The Juniors made many of these forms early in the winter and have thus had a share in earning the good record to be found in the files of the knitting inspectors' reports at division headquarters 'La Grande chapter always up to the standard.'"

"There is a decided improvement in methods being developed. The American Commission in France makes requisition to Washington for the exact amount of any article needed. These are divided pro-rata among the thirteen divisions of the A. R. C., where they are allotted to the chapters by the same method. The chapters are expected to supply their quota and no more. This will curtail over production of any line and conserve both materials and time."

"All chapters are facing the question of finance. Many are arranging for some regular income to meet the steadily increasing demand for materials. That there must be no lack of life-saving supplies 'over there' is the spirit that dominates every chapter. They say to the workers 'keep up the work, we will attend to the finances.'"

"The output of all chapters has increased in the last few months in such proportions as to outdistance imagination, yet it seems only well started. With saner methods of financing the work, of curtailing unnecessary output, coupled with greater efficiency in the workrooms, the American Red Cross will be able to deliver to the Commission on the other side all the supplies needed to succor soldiers and suffering humanity in war-ridden countries."

Pythian Sisters to Meet.

The Pythian Sisters will hold a meeting tonight. Refreshments will be served.