

GERMANY SEEKING SPEEDY DECISION

America Looms Big as War Factor of Future, Hence Enemy's Pace Is Swift,

OFFENSIVE IS HUGE GAMBLE

Highest Price in Human Lives and in High Explosives Paid by Teutons for Gains—Force of Over 6000,000 Engaged.

BY ARTHUR S. DRAPER.

LONDON, March 24.—(Special.)—By a lavish expenditure of men and an unprecedented bombardment with high explosive and gas shells, the Germans have succeeded in recovering all the positions of the Hindenburg line and are advancing in some places several hundred yards beyond the old British line.

Roughly, the new British line on the morning of the third day of battle ran through St. Leger, Vouilly-Vaucourt, Moreux, Beaumont, Hermès, Havrincourt and Maré, then south along the west bank of the canal to Ronsart.

Three Attacks Launched.

Apparently one attack has been focused on Bapaume with the old ridge as the objective, a second directed in a northerly direction toward St. Quentin, while a third has been pointed southward toward Noyon.

The third attack, according to latest reports, succeeded in penetrating the British positions, and Haig was forced to fall back to prepared positions further west.

Strategic Value Great.

Here is the junction between the British and French north of the Aisne. This is the devastated area across which the Germans withdrew last March, destroying everything.

It is the extreme right of the British line and a strategic point of great importance, but Haig reports an orderly withdrawal under the heavy pressure of fresh troops hurled in during the night.

The enemy is expending men prodigally in both his northern and southern attacks.

Huge German Force Engaged.

The French left may soon be drawn into the main battle. From a quarter to a third of the whole German army has been already engaged, representing a force of over 600,000.

Observers say that the enemy's pace is so swift that the battle cannot last over a week unless the Germans elect to shorten the front of the attack.

So far he has attempted to overwhelm the British, but although Haig's troops have been greatly outnumbered in certain sectors, and although frightfully buffeted, they are staunch, even around St. Quentin.

offensive May Be Brief.

The policy of quick, bloody drives leads to an early decision. That the offensive is planned to extend over months as those on the Somme, at Verdun and at Toul, seem improbable. This is the theory that Haig's thrust on the Somme, although it is doubtful whether the enemy's superiority now equals that of the British and French in 1917.

The Germans have admitted that time is not on their side and that America looms big in the future. So they are making the greatest gamble in the world's history.

Enemy's Last Card Played.

If the enemy fails to break through he is beaten. He has no more cards to play.

At an enormous cost he has captured a number of villages and a considerable number of prisoners and guns.

There is no denying that the situation around St. Quentin will cause worry for some time, but elsewhere along the whole wide battlefield Ludendorff and his staff have been successful in capturing more than 100,000 prisoners and 1,000 guns.

If Haig's secondary positions at St. Quentin hold, the situation is not so serious. The Germans fail to increase their present pace, then the allies can claim the greatest success of the war and possibly the decisive victory.

A heavy ground mist has been a considerable handicap to the British aviators and the dry battlefield has been another valuable advantage to the enemy, who has shown great speed in moving forward the artillery.

Naval Features Lacking.

The tactics at St. Quentin disclose nothing new. It has only been a few weeks since the British took over this sector at the request of the French.

After shelling into the night, the whole area for a mile behind the lines, the enemy put down a barrage and hurried his masses into the battle.

The British machine gunners then cut down the advancing hosts until they were smothered by the weight of the enemy forces.

The Germans continue to use a tremendous number of shells. It would cause no surprise if the German fleet attempted to assist the army. In the present crisis a fleet would be expected to use every weapon.

An attack on the British coast is not improbable. British civilians are grimly silent. They are united after many months of internal conflict. They appreciate that they have reached the final stage of the mighty conflict.

The British will hold firm.

RESISTANCE IS GALLANT

German Correspondent Thinks British Were Found Unready.

LONDON, March 24.—The Berlin Vossische Zeitung's war correspondent telegraphing from the neighborhood of the Oise, is quoted by the Central News correspondent at Amsterdam as saying:

"All our movements have taken place with marvellous exactitude, according to the plans of the master who organized the attack. The English, who were expecting themselves bravely, but the British command was not equal to the attack, which, although doubtless foreseen, probably was not expected so early."

SIBERIA INVASION URGED

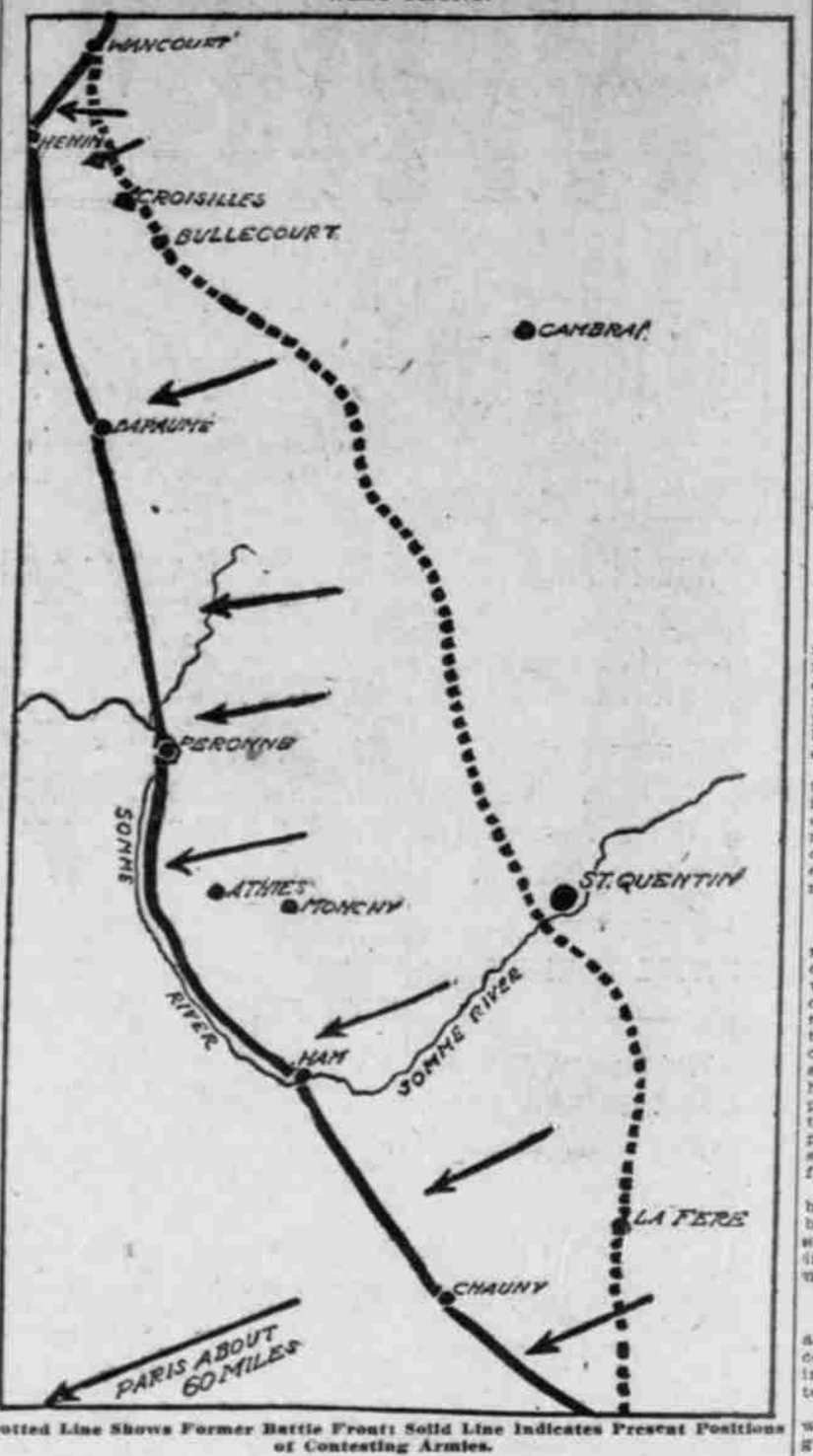
Japanese Professors Favor Sending Troops to Check Huns in East.

LONDON, March 24.—A Daily Mail dispatch from Tientsin says that Japanese university professors are conducting a campaign in favor of sending half a million troops as far as Irkutsk into Siberia to check the German ambitions in the Far East before it is too late.

Italian Socialists Hold Aloof.

ROME, March 24.—It is officially announced that the Italian Socialists have declined to participate in an international Socialist conference in New York.

TERRITORY TAKEN BY GERMANS IN MIGHTY OFFENSIVE ON THE WEST FRONT.



NEW FRONT IS HELD

Allies Now in Positions Long Ago Prepared.

TEUTON ADVANCE CHECKED

British and French Now View Hun Offensive With Optimistic Eyes—Germans Lose Heavily in Assault.

(Continued From First Page.)

ing the river Somme at certain points. These are being dealt with.

"Fifty-four enemy airplanes have been brought down. The text of the statement reads:

"The enemy's low flying airplanes were most persistent in their attacks on our infantry in the forward areas. Many of these machines were attacked and brought down by our pilots. A total of 29 hostile machines were brought down and 25 others were driven down out of control. Two enemy balloons also were destroyed. Nine of our machines are missing.

"German Factories Raided.

"Our machines on Saturday carried out another most successful raid on factories in Mannheim. Nearly one and a half tons of bombs were dropped, and bursts were seen on a soda factory, the railway and docks.

"Several fires were started, one of which was of great size, the flames reaching to a height of 200 feet and smoke to 500 feet. The conflagration was visible for a distance of 25 miles.

"During the night ten heavy bombs were dropped on an important railway bridge and works at Ronsart, just south of Treves, in Germany. Most of these bombs were clearly seen to be bursting among the railway works.

"Our bombing airplanes were attacked by 12 hostile machines and a fierce fight ensued. One of the enemy's airplanes was brought down in flames and another was downed and fell in the center of Mannheim. Five others were driven down out of control.

"Despite this severe combat and the enemy's heavy anti-aircraft gunfire, all our machines returned except two."

"Assaults Repulsed.

"North of Peronne enemy attacks were directed with the greatest violence against the line of the river Tortille (a tributary of the Somme).

"The British retired in good order, ceding ground foot by foot, to strong positions prepared in advance.

"In the latter stages of the battle 37 German divisions were engaged. Thus the German command concentrated against the British front half of the forces at their disposal on the whole western front."

Based on 12,000 men to a German division, the number of German engaged, according to the Havas correspondent, was approximately 1,164,000.

British Hold the Somme.

Describing the great struggle in France the Havas correspondent says:

"The British retired in good order, ceding ground foot by foot, to strong positions prepared in advance.

"In the latter stages of the battle 37 German divisions were engaged. Thus the German command concentrated against the British front half of the forces at their disposal on the whole western front."

Based on 12,000 men to a German division, the number of German engaged, according to the Havas correspondent, was approximately 1,164,000.

British Hold the Somme.

Describing the great struggle in France the Havas correspondent says:

"The British retired in good order, ceding ground foot by foot, to strong positions prepared in advance.

"In the latter stages of the battle 37 German divisions were engaged. Thus the German command concentrated against the British front half of the forces at their disposal on the whole western front."

Based on 12,000 men to a German division, the number of German engaged, according to the Havas correspondent, was approximately 1,164,000.

British Hold the Somme.

Describing the great struggle in France the Havas correspondent says:

"The British retired in good order, ceding ground foot by foot, to strong positions prepared in advance.

"In the latter stages of the battle 37 German divisions were engaged. Thus the German command concentrated against the British front half of the forces at their disposal on the whole western front."

GIGANTIC FEAT IS HUNS' ONLY HOPE

Offensive Necessary to Hold Masses in Leash When Politics Fails.

POLITICAL PURPOSE CLEAR

Aim of Teuton High Command Is to Reassure People of Central Empires and if Possible Force Victorious Peace.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The German offensive, says the War Department's weekly communiqué, issued today, proves that the German military is no longer able to control the German people by political maneuvers, have been forced to attempt a gigantic feat of arms to maintain their domination.

While the great attack has been able to make headway, no definite enveloping movement has been outlined. The communiqué says, and it would be premature to express opinions on the tactical phases with a combat situation inevitably changing in a battle of such magnitude.

Eighting Season Reopened.

"The assault launched by the Germans against the British front has reopened the fighting season in the west," says the communiqué. "This operation confirms to us that the German high command, unable to control the strategic situation through political agencies, has been increasingly attempted during the past four months, has been forced to engage in a desperate military venture in an effort to retain its domination over the people of the central empires and, if possible, force a victorious peace by the force of arms."

The German attack began with a brief but overwhelming artillery bombardment with high explosive and gas shells, at dawn on March 21 in the rolling country north of the Oise, 24 miles northeast of Paris.

Austrian Batteries Assist.

"From Croisilles, south of Vendoull, a distance of 47 miles, the Germans concentrated this preliminary barrage in which a number of Austrian batteries participated."

"At the same time hostile artillery was active in the Ypres-La Bassée region."

"The German infantry divisions thereupon advanced to the attack along the flank of the salient in front of Cambrai. Furious fighting continues on the northern flank between Croisilles, Bullecourt and Lagnonville; on the southern, along the line Guesnart-Hazebrouck-Leverguier and extending across the Crozat Canal to beyond La Fere."

British Heavily Engaged.

"The British forces are heavily engaged. While the Germans have been able to make headway no definite enveloping movement is as yet outlined."

"It would be premature to express an opinion regarding the tactical phases of the operations now taking place. We must expect the situation to change in the combat situation, which are inevitable in a battle of such magnitude."

"Enemy casualties have been exceedingly heavy."

"Our own forces in training in Lorraine are still holding out the trenches northeast of Badonviller which we recaptured last week. In this region our artillery is continuing to batter the German lines and a number of scouting parties, which have penetrated the German positions, report that enemy works have been considerably damaged."

American Artillery Busy.

"In our sector north of Toul our artillery has successfully bombarded enemy works and billets behind their lines."

"Simultaneously with the German offensive operations in the west, we note further hostile activity in Italy, which may be the prelude of an offensive in this theater."

"Peace between Russia and the central powers has been generally displayed by President Wilson himself in the most eager interest in every item of news as to the German drive. The Government may have received some confidential advice from General Pershing on the situation, but General March said nothing was to be given out."

The intense interest in press reports displayed by President Wilson himself indicated that official information was being transmitted to him during the evening.

The official British and German reports were taken here as showing that a second phase of the great battle had begun and was continuing throughout the day with no decisive results. It appeared that the British line in general was still intact at the close of the day.

Big Gun Is Surprise.

The announcement from Berlin that Paris had been bombarded by long-range guns seemed to settle any doubt there has been as to what transpired in the French capital yesterday and today. The range of the new weapon—75 miles—exceeds anything ever dreamed of by ordnance experts here, so far as known.

Whatever the Germans may have discovered in the way of new explosives or new gun metal that permits the use of heavier charges of powder without destruction of the weapon itself, it is noted with satisfaction here that the first employment they have given their new monster has resulted in no military advantage whatever. The damage in Paris from an all-day bombardment was insignificant.

Left to his own choice, a citizen of Paris probably would prefer the new gun to airplane bombs.

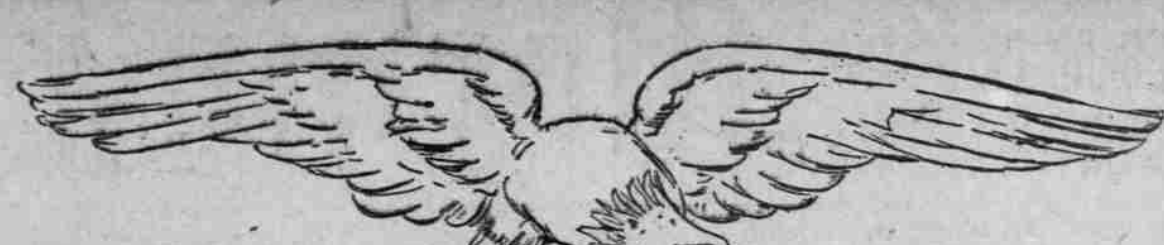
Burglars Rob Students.

Fund of \$15 at Benson Polytechnic School Is Stolen.

Burglars, apparently novices, broke into two offices of the Benson Polytechnic School and after rummaging several desks and drawers got away with about \$15 in cash and some stamps and pennies.

Entrance was gained by breaking the glass in two doors and turning the latches from the inside of these doors. The money stolen was in a fund contributed by students for the purchase of a slide rule.

See classified ad, men wanted, West Linn Mills, page 12.—Adv.



America—the Unconquered

Let every true American stand by her in her time of greatest need

THE hour draws near when one hundred million Americans will act in the cause of human liberty and human progress, to sustain their common Government, for America—America, the unconquered—is now called on to make the mightiest military effort in all her history.

The fateful hour of American liberty has come—the hour when every American must sternly search his soul and mind and heart; when every true American will rally to the support of his Government—in word and thought, as well as in deed.

Sound a trumpet call to every loyal American to remember what America stands for, and to hold high the torch of faith and courage—faith in America's great destiny; courage to make the American dream come true of a world set free for Democracy.

The United States National Bank

J. C. Ainsworth, President.

On SIXTH at Stark.

PLANS FALL SHORT

Germans Behind Schedule in Great Offensive.

CAPTURED PAPERS SHOW

Among Machine Guns Taken From Huns Are Some That Were Used in the Balkans Last Year.

Somme Attempts Fail.

LONDON, March 24.—Copies of the German plan of offensive taken from prisoners, according to Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters, show the enemy's objectives were as follows:

First day, average penetration along the whole front of attack, eight kilometers; second day, 12 kilometers, and on the third day, beyond which the scheme does not appear to be carried, 20 kilometers.

The success attained thus far falls much short of these objectives, the dispatch states.

The correspondent reports that among the captured machine guns are some that were identified as having been used in the Balkans last year.

The Germans made attempts on Friday night to cross the Somme by means of four bridges. The attempts, however, were detected and frustrated with loss, by the British artillery fire, his message states.

All the roads in the rear of the German advance, the dispatch continues, are blocked by columns of troops, guns and transport vehicles, furnishing targets upon which the British artillery is making deadly play. Rough estimates of the casualties inflicted vary between 30 and 50 per cent of all the enemy divisions identified.

"I give these figures for what they are worth," the correspondent adds. "They probably are based mainly upon statements made by prisoners."

SPANISH CABINET FORMED

Personnel Includes Four Former Premiers—Maura Is Premier.

MADRID, March 24.—With the appointment of three more ministers, the cabinet, formed by Premier Antonio Maura, is completed. Raymond Marqués Pidal becomes Minister of Marine, a portfolio he held in 1912. The Duke of Alba is appointed Minister of

DANCING

DeHoney's beautiful academy, 23d and Washington streets, now classes for beginners start Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings next week. All dances taught in 4 class lessons—\$4. This is the only school teaching classes privately and delecting the entire evening, 8 to 11, teaching one class lesson, and guaranteeing to teach you to dance. You will not become embarrassed, and are sure to learn. Private lessons given all hours. Learn from professional dancers. Phone Main 754.

Grand Ball, Saturday Evening, March 9.

HOTEL PERKINS

FIFTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS, PORTLAND, OREGON.

At City's Retail Center.

Rates to Suit You

Special Low Rates to Permanent Guests.

LAND LOTTERY DATE SET

Drawing for Homesteads in O. & C. Grant to Be May 28.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU.

Washington, March 24.—Three hundred thousand acres of Oregon & California grant lands lying in Jackson and Josephine counties will be opened under the lottery system, the drawing being set for May 28. Between April 25 and May 25, persons desiring to homestead not more than 160 acres of this area may file their applications at the Roseburg land office and must put up 50 cents for each acre applied for. This amount will be applied against the \$2.50 per acre which the Government is to receive, the bulk of the payment to be made at the time of making final proof.

While all this land is listed as agricultural, some is covered with heavy brush or with timber running less than 300,000 feet to the 40-acre tract and is suitable only for grazing.

Senator Poindexter has proposed an amendment to the naval bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for mining coal in Alaska.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

FRENCH OFFICER CHEERFUL

"Unconquerable Soul" of America, France and Britain Gives Hope.

"COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

FRENCH OFFICER CHEERFUL

"Unconquerable Soul" of America, France and Britain Gives Hope.

"COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

FRENCH OFFICER CHEERFUL

"Unconquerable Soul" of America, France and Britain Gives Hope.

"COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

FRENCH OFFICER CHEERFUL

"Unconquerable Soul" of America, France and Britain Gives Hope.

"COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

FRENCH OFFICER CHEERFUL

"Unconquerable Soul" of America, France and Britain Gives Hope.

"COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

FRENCH OFFICER CHEERFUL

"Unconquerable Soul" of America, France and Britain Gives Hope.

"COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—Lieutenant Paul Perigord, of the French Army, in an address here last night at a patriotic mass meeting, at which Secretary Houston was a speaker, declared that news from the western front "may be without great anxiety and apprehension."

"There is something between Von Hindenburg's gray waves of shock troops and Paris," said the French officer. "This barricade is the unconquerable soul of the American people, that of the French people and the British Empire."

Three Beautiful Red Seal Records

\$1.00 Each

GALLI CURCI

Sings "I Know Not What I'm Doing" from "Marriage of Figaro."

HEIFETZ Plays "La Capricieuse"

De GOGORZA Sings "Thou Art Near Me, Margarita"

Victrolas, \$20 to \$380

Convenient Payment Terms

Dealers in Steinway and Other Pianos, Pianola Pianos, Victrolas and Records, Player Music, Music Cabinets, etc.

Sherman, Clay & Co.

SIXTH AND MORRISON STREETS (Opposite Postoffice)

PORTLAND

SEATTLE—TACOMA—SPOKANE