

AMERICANS FIGHT HEROIC WAR

United States Troops Distinguish Themselves in Apremont Wood Struggle.

ENGINEERS DO FINE WORK

American Regiment Co-operates With British in Battle and by Excellent Assistance Win Admiration of English Generals.

(By the Associated Press.)
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Wednesday, April 17.—Commanders of units who participated in the several days of fighting last week in company with the French in the Apremont wood sector are finding it difficult to pick out men who especially distinguished themselves in the operations.

A story from the American lines is that of a young corporal who was wounded fatally after fighting for four hours. A piece of shrapnel struck him in the head. He had a grenade in each hand. Giving them to his companion, he said: "I guess I'm done. Here—take these grenades and for God's sake don't waste them."

At one point on this sector there was a space of only 15 yards between the opposing trenches. A day before an attack, the Germans threw a note into the American trench. It read:

"What are you? Canadians or Australians?"

"Come over and find out," was the reply thrown back by an American soldier.

The infantryman who related the incident added:

"I guess they know who we are now and they will not be likely to forget it for some time."

One Lieutenant in a listening post with a small party of men was cut off from the remainder of the platoon in Friday's attack. He tried to send up rockets to signal an American barrage, but the rockets failed to work. A private then volunteered to run back with the message. He was shot three times in the back and delivered the message. The American gunners laid down a barrage immediately and saved the Lieutenant and his party from the hands of a superior enemy force which was headed in their direction.

Lieutenant George Patton, of New York City, of the American Army Medical Corps, has been awarded the French Croix de Guerre for gallantry in treating wounded men while without a gas mask during a heavy bombardment of gas shells. The Lieutenant found it was impossible to treat the wounded while wearing his mask. He took it off and continued to dress wounds until overcome by gas fumes.

Reports from British commanders which have just been received at American Army headquarters give the first definite information that American engineers were in last week's operations. The American engineers were working on the line made by the Germans at the opening of their offensive last month.

The American engineers were working on the line made by the Germans at the opening of their offensive last month. Three companies of an engineering regiment were assigned to the early bombardment and ordered to fall back. To one of the American companies which had been consolidated with the British Royal Engineers, was delegated the task of guaranteeing the destruction of an engineers' dump which it had made a rapid retreat, caught up with the larger group and immediately resumed work laying out trenches. These operations lasted from March 22 to 27. As the German attack became more intense, the engineers were joined by cooks, orderlies and railway men as part of General Carey's force.

Americans Win Admiration.
The commanding officer of an American regiment took charge of an infantry sub-sector and directed the action of his troops for one week, until the emergency passed at that point. To this officer, General Rawlinson, commanding the British army engaged in that sector, sent the following letter:

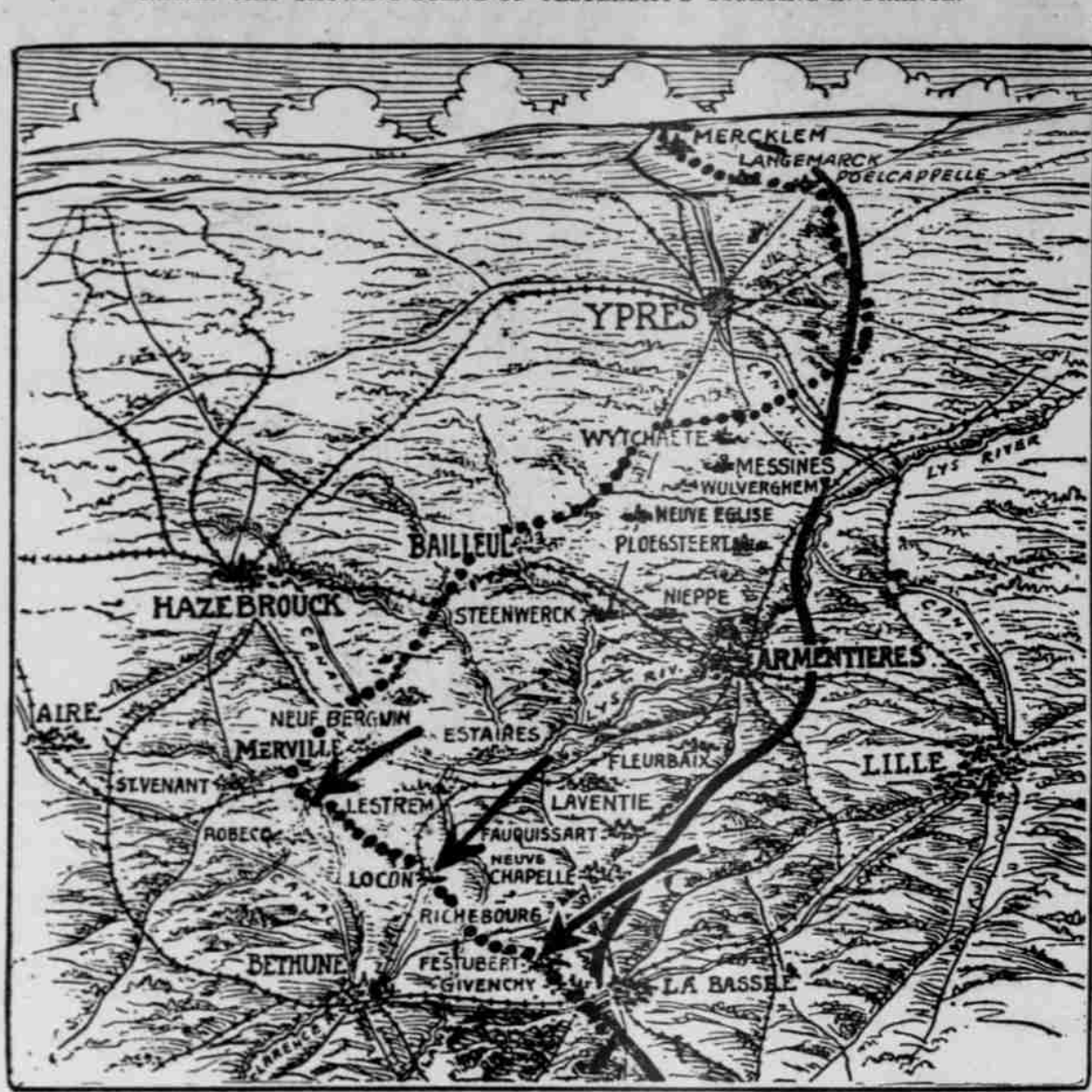
"The army commander wishes to record officially his appreciation of the excellent work your regiment has done in assisting the British army to resist the enemy's powerful offensive during the last 10 days. I fully realize that it has been largely due to your assistance that the enemy has been checked and rely on you to assist us still further during the few days which are still to come before I shall be able to relieve you in the line."

"I consider your work in the line to be greatly enhanced by the fact that for six weeks previous to taking your place in the front line your men had been working at such high pressure, erecting heavy bridges on the Somme. My best congratulations and warm thanks to all."

RAWLINSON.

British General Appreciative.
When the British General, H. L. Mul-

RELIEF MAP SHOWING SCENE OF YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING IN FRANCE.



Heavy Unbroken Line Marks Position From Which Present Drive by Germans Started. Heavy Dotted Line Marks Present Battle Front. Arrows Indicate Section Where Germans Attacked Yesterday in Effort to Widen Wedge of German Ground From Its Southern Side. Farther North is Shows Ypres, Which is Main German Objective and Near It Wytschaete, Where Germans Took After Desperate Battle Two Days Ago. At Top Are Shown Mercklem, Langemark and Poeleappelle, All of Which Have Been Bitterly Contested Within Past Few Days.

ers, commanding a cavalry division, received from his superior congratulations and thanks for the work of his command in heading off the enemy, he forwarded the letter to the commander of one of the American engineering units.

"As a United States engineering battalion was fighting with the First Cavalry division in the line on March 29, the army commander's congratulatory message applies to them equally with the units of the First Cavalry division. It has been brought to my notice that the men under your command fought most gallantly alongside the British cavalry. I am most grateful to you and the unit under your command for the invaluable assistance you gave us on March 29, 1918. Please convey my thanks and congratulations to all ranks."

The reports of the gallant conduct of the Americans on the British front have caused General Pershing to send the following letter to the engineering commander:

"The Commander-in-Chief has noted with great satisfaction the fine conduct of the officers and men of your regiment during the recent German offensive, as testified by British army commanders."

SLACKERS IN UNIFORMS

DEMOCRATIC LEADER GOES ON RECORD AGAINST HIDING.

Securing of Officer's Rank in Certain Instances Declared Due to Desire to Escape Service.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—A declaration that no physically fit man within the draft age should be admitted into the ordinary noncombatant branches of the military service, if men outside the draft age can be found equally competent, is made in a letter which Representative Claude Kitchin, Democratic leader of the House, has sent to a Western lawyer who wrote to him.

His chief protest is that young men within the draft age, who never saw a military training camp, who never served in the Army, with no military experience and with no qualifications as a soldier officer, have been, and are being, commissioned in the noncombatant branches of the service.

"Many such young men, perhaps, have succeeded through some kind of influence, in securing commissions for no other purpose than to escape service at the front."

"The uniform of the American soldier, instead of being an insignia of pride and honor for the country, is being used as a shield and protection to slackers."

"And I further object to the real soldier, officer or private, the man who must face danger for his country, being required on all occasions to defer to the commission of a noncombatant."

"This tends to destroy the morale of the Army, and is an injustice and humiliate to the real soldier."

"My position is that no man within the draft age, and physically fit, should be admitted into these noncombatant branches of the service, either as a private or commissioned officer, if men under or over the draft age can be found equally competent to perform the duties."

"In my judgment, such men can be found by the tens of thousands, ready and willing to undertake the performance of such duties."

RAWLINSON.

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FRENCH MAKE GAINS

Germans Are Forced to Retire Along Several Sectors.

SENECAT WOOD REGAINED

British Hold Fast and Repulse All Enemy Attacks on Givenchy-River Lys Line, Where 10 Divisions Charged Furiously.

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(Continued From First Page.)
Germans who crossed were those who ran over and surrendered.

The British artillery and machine guns poured a deluge of steel about the front bridges, and the slaughter of the opposing troops was heavy. One party of 200 Germans advanced at one time with hands over their heads to surrender. For some reason they changed their minds abruptly and fled. They were shot to pieces as they ran.

There also was hard fighting about Pacaut, near the canal, and between Robecq and St. Venant, where the Germans hoped to improve their positions in order to facilitate operations to the north and south. The attacks in this region were repulsed completely. A concentration of the enemy infantry in Calonne, west of St. Venant, was caught in the British artillery barrage and badly cut up.

British troops in the neighborhood of Wytschaete this morning were continuing their all-night battle with the Germans. A German attack yesterday resulted in pushing a salient out north-west of the place, but a subsequent British counter attack again drew the British line close about the town, and at one time a small body of British infantry penetrated to the southeastern sector.

The British lost a very small part of territory between Bailleul and Dranoutre yesterday, but the German attack here must be recorded as a failure. Further close about the town, the British continued to fight, and this place today apparently was no man's land. A heavy German attack east of Meteren was smashed.

Just south of this place, near Merris, the British by a counter stroke succeeded in pushing their lines forward toward the Western outskirts of the village.

Troop Weakness Seen.
The Germans have been bringing up fresh divisions to the Bailleul sector, but the last few days the high command appears to have departed from its usual careful methods.

In order to save time and to push forward quickly before the Germans are able to get up more reinforcements, the enemy seems to have been sending troops into the attack without any plan of attack, and they must get to a certain general objective. Junior officers have been directing much of the fighting and going ahead of their own initiative. The result of this has been quite apparent, for the enemy undoubtedly has been missing affairs at numerous points.

The most noticeable feature of the conversations of German prisoners as contained in captured documents and letters is the continual reference to the great casualties ever since the Germans began the offensive. They were certainly excessive in the first days of the big push and now the northern battlefields are covered with the bodies of enemy dead.

The Germans are continuing to push forward cautiously into the positions the British have evacuated. East of Ypres and the defending artillery has been playing havoc with the advancing troops. Twice the enemy massed to come into the Polygon wood and on each occasion they were smashed by artillery fire. The Germans did not actually get under way for the occupation of the Pusschendale defenses for many hours after the withdrawal was completed.

Refugees Fill Roads.
The country from which the British pulled back is an awful mudhole and it will take the enemy a long time to man the new positions and get his artillery forward through the muck. The exodus of refugees through the fighting zones continues. This morning the correspondent passed a large number of cattle on the highway which were being driven back by the military. The

cattle had been abandoned by their owners when the shell fire began to plough up the pastures.

Mont des Cats, with its famous monastery, lying east of Salsel, has been shelled by the Germans. Several have found a mark in the Censelless home of the Trappist monks.

BERLIN, via London, April 18.—The evening report from headquarters says: In Flanders, on the Lys battlefield, the situation is unchanged.

"Northwest of Moreuil strong French attacks broke down with sanguinary losses."

(By the Associated Press.)
Reinforced by French troops, the allied line is holding hard against further incursions by the Germans from the region of La Bassée to the north of Ypres.

Everywhere that the Germans have struck the line in an endeavor to press back the defenders they have been repulsed with heavy losses and have been successful nowhere in gaining further ground.

Attacks of an extraordinarily violent nature are being thrown by the Germans on the 10-mile front between Givenchy and Robecq, where an endeavor is being made to cross the La Bassée Canal and bend southward the salient which now outflanks the important railroad town of Bethune. A division of troops to each mile is being used by the Germans on this sector, but the British at last accounts were holding well and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Enveloping Movement Tried.
If successful the new attack of the Germans would jeopardize the entire French sector, which includes the famous French coaling region about Lens and the equally famous Vimy ridge, where the Canadians are holding forth. It seems evident that it is in part of the strategy of the German high command to wipe out the salient by an enveloping movement.

John R. Gray, heavily camouflaged under a wig and a long, flowing mustache, was arrested shortly after 11 o'clock last night by Patrolman Bob Phillips at the Union Depot. Gray and a woman companion, who gave her name as Mrs. M. E. Sanford, had just left a California train and were making their way up town when Phillips, becoming suspicious of Gray's ludicrous appearance, placed the pair under arrest.

Mrs. Sanford gave her age as 41, while Gray insists that he is between 20 and 21 years. He is not certain, however, as to the month and date of his birth, but is positive that he has not reached a majority as yet.

"I am not a slacker," he said when interviewed at the station by Lieutenant Harvey Thatcher.

Gray and Mrs. Sanford were riding on tickets purchased at Reno, Nev. Gray's transportation was made out in favor of Mr. Sanford, believed to be the husband of his traveling companion.

"Why the disguise?" asked Lieutenant Thatcher, as he picked off Gray's mustache and removed his wig.

"Well, I'll tell you," came the reply. "Mrs. Sanford is somewhat interested in theatricals in a small way and in a spirit of fun she and I agreed to see if I could wear the wig and mustache through to Portland without being detected."

As Gray's interview by the police began.

"BLOOD AND IRON"

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J. R. GRAY ARRESTED WITH COMPANION AT DEPOT.

Prisoner Says He Was Accompanying Mrs. Sanford to Bend and Wore Disguise "Just for Fun."

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