

AMERICANS CRUSH BIG BOCHE ATTACK

Yankees Mow Down Huns at Villers-Bretonneux.

FIGHTING HAND TO HAND

United States Troops Betray Great Gallantry in First Clash of Present Battle.

GERMAN ARTILLERY ACTIVE

Preparations for Resumption of Offensive at Ypres Made by Battered Enemy.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, May 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—A heavy German attack launched yesterday against the American in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux was repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy. The German preliminary bombardment lasted two hours and then the infantry rushed forward, only to be driven back, leaving large numbers of dead on the ground in front of the American lines.

The German bombardment opened at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and was directed especially against the Americans, who were supported on the north and south by the French.

Fighting Is Desperate.

The fire was intense, and at the end of two hours the German commander sent forward three battalions of infantry. There was hand-to-hand fighting all along the line, as a result of which the enemy was thrust back, his dead and wounded lying on the ground in all directions. Five prisoners remained in American hands.

The struggle, which lasted a considerable time, was extremely violent, and the Americans displayed remarkable bravery throughout.

It was the first occasion in which the Americans were engaged in the battle, which has been raging since March 21, and their French comrades are full of praise for the manner in which they conducted themselves under trying circumstances, especially in view of the fact that they are fighting at one of the most difficult points on the battlefield.

Americans Suffer Losses.

The American losses were rather severe.

LONDON, May 1.—The enemy's artillery has been active today against the back areas in the neighborhood of Bethune and has heavily shelled French positions on the Loere sector," says Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

"On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report beyond the usual artillery activity and local encounters on both sides.

"The number of German prisoners captured by the British armies in France during March was 1061, including 69 officers. In April a further 5241 prisoners, including 136 officers, were captured. These figures are inclusive of the prisoners taken by the French."

French Improve Positions.

French troops last night improved their positions in the neighborhood of Loere, on the Flanders front. The British rushed German posts in the Meteren sector and took prisoners.

PARIS, May 1.—Artillery duels of some intensity occurred last night on the Somme front near Villers-Bretonneux and on both sides of the Avre, southeast of Amiens, says today's War Office report.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 1.—The Franco-British batteries are constantly shelling Mont Kemmel. Unless the enemy can push on beyond this isolated stronghold the hilltop may become virtually a deathtrap.

Enemy Must Try Again.

The advantage of Kemmel to the enemy is a tactical one. He is now committed to an attempt to push on and capture the whole chain of hills.

General von Arnim made no further move along the Flanders battlefield last night, nor had an attack been expected. The heavy defeat which the Germans suffered Monday forced them to pause and bring up fresh troops before continuing their drive.

BERLIN SAYS POPE WILL SEEK PEACE

WHITSUNDAY TO BE OCCASION FOR PAPAL MOVE.

Washington, Lacking Authentic Intimations of Rome's Intention, Sees Fine German Hand.

THE HAGUE, May 1.—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press.)—Pope Benedict intends to issue a new peace offer on Whitsunday (May 19), Cologne newspapers announce. The document, it is said, will be of a more pressing nature than formerly and will contain concrete offers of mediation of the pope with the possible co-operation of neutral sovereigns.

Similar information of the pope's intention, it is said, has reached Berlin, where it has been received sympathetically.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Wireless dispatches dated The Hague and quoting Cologne newspapers as saying Pope Benedict intends to issue a new peace offer on May 19 were accepted in official circles here today as another bit of German propaganda. Heretofore the State Department has been able to gather an intimation of the purpose of the pontiff to initiate peace proposals, but not a suggestion of such an intention has come from any source recently.

The State Department in the dispatch that the news of the pope's purpose has reached Berlin, "where it had been received sympathetically," was taken here to indicate that German influence is being brought to bear on the pontiff to intervene. Assuming such to be the case, officials here today are not without some grounds for believing that the Germans now recognizing that their efforts to attain a military decision in the west this summer are doomed to failure.

PHONE COMPANY ACCUSED

Employees' Representatives Demand Government Control.

TACOMA, Wash., May 1.—Charging the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company with having violated its agreement not to discriminate against those of its employees who participated in the recent strike, and demanding that the Government take over the system, representative of more than 2500 telephone workers in Washington and Oregon met here today to discuss their grievances. It was decided to hold another meeting in Portland May 22, when representatives of the Government and of the telephone company will be invited to be present.

"We are going to put the matter squarely up to the Government and the telephone company," said James Sutton, who presided at the meeting. "We have evidence to show that the agreement has been broken and we will demand that the Government take over the telephone company. We are willing to work on a subsistence basis for the duration of the war if the system be operated for public benefit and not for profit."

DEATH PREFERRED TO ARMY

Youth of 23, Drafted, Shoots Himself Through Brain With Rifle.

CLATSkanie, Or., May 1.—(Special.)—Fred Parkenon ended his life by suicide Sunday near Mist, about ten miles from here. Parkenon was to have reported for Army duty today. Sunday he went out hunting alone. Neighbors heard a shot in the woods and that night Parkenon did not return home.

Searching parties looked all day Monday and last night about 5 o'clock he was found about 200 yards from his house. He shot himself through the brain with a rifle.

Parkenon was about 23 years old and his parents reside in Mist.

RESORTS MAY BE CLOSED

Saloons in Vernon, Cal., Held Mense to Soldiers.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 1.—The War Department was asked to close saloons in Vernon, adjoining Los Angeles on the south, in resolutions adopted today by the City Council and ordered telegraphed to Washington. It was said that Vernon had become a menace to soldiers and sailors.

Vernon is a small incorporated city, noted for resorts since Los Angeles abolished saloons and limited liquor sales.

BAGGING TROUSERS CLEW

Actress, Gagged and Robbed, Identifies Assailant in Court.

CHICAGO, May 1.—(Special.)—Miss Rosaline Lee, of Los Angeles, a petite, pretty actress who was bound and gagged by a robber who gained entrance to her room last night at the Windsor Chilton Hotel, appeared against the man today at the Boys' Court after she had positively identified him at the Central Police Station by the bagginess of his trousers at the knees.

IRISH QUESTION HALTED

Home Rule and Draft to Be Abandoned for Present, It Is Expected.

LONDON, May 2.—According to the Daily News, the government is in serious trouble over the home rule bill. The deliberations of the drafting committee have been met by difficulties connected with Ulster's claims.

"It is not improbable," says the Daily News, "that both conscription and home rule will be temporarily abandoned."

66 LIVES LOST IN COLLISION AT SEA

City of Athens Rammed off Delaware Coast.

VESSEL SINKS IN 7 MINUTES

Unnamed French Cruiser Runs Down Doomed Craft.

SIXTY-EIGHT LIVES SAVED

Fire Develops in Hold of Sinking Ship, Lifeboats Are Unavailable and Most of Those on Board Leap Into Sea.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, May 1.—Sixty persons lost their lives when the steamship City of Athens, bound from New York for Savannah, was rammed and sunk by a French cruiser off the Delaware coast at 1 o'clock this morning. The missing include 10 men and two women, who were passengers, seven out of 24 United States Marines who were on board, 14 out of 29 French sailors, and 33 members of the crew.

All the passengers and many of the crew were in their berths when the bow of the warship plunged into the side of the 2800-ton coastwise vessel. Fire broke out almost immediately afterward in hold No. 1, but it had no bearing on the fate of the ship, for the flames were quickly quenched by the rush of water which poured in.

Captain Acts Calmly.

Captain J. Forward, one of the veteran commanders in the service of the Ocean Steamship Company, owners of the vessel, did his best to avert a panic and the lifeboats. So quickly did the doomed vessel sink, however, that there was no time to get the boats away, and many of those who perished were trapped in their berths. Seven minutes after the collision the City of Athens disappeared beneath the waves.

Those of the passengers and crew who were able to reach the deck, all of them timely and many without life preservers, plunged into the sea.

The cruiser, launched lifeboats immediately after the crash and turned its searchlights upon the waters in which men and women were struggling for their lives. Sixty-eight persons were picked up and brought back to this port by the warship, which was not seriously damaged.

The following passengers are believed to have been lost: M. Green, Astoria, N. Y.; James J. Kastl, Morristown, N. Y.; Richard Bonseiner, Mobile, Ala.; Miss E. G. Stiles, New York City; Jean Cadron, New York City; Rev. J. P. Reynolds, New York City; Isaac Dazell, Paterson, N. J.; Mrs. F. D. Holtman, Hyde Park, Mass.; Edward Chug, Savannah, Ga.; Gaw Donk, Brooklyn, N. Y.; R. A. Young, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Marines Are Missing.

The following United States Marines (Concluded on Page 2, Column 2.)

2 TURKISH ARMIES BEATEN BY BRITISH

ADVANCES MADE IN PALESTINE AND IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Beyond Bagdad English Forces Are Driving on Mosul—Many Prisoners and Guns Are Captured.

LONDON, May 1.—An official communication issued this evening regarding the operations in Palestine says the British have advanced along a line of one mile in the vicinity of Mezrah and occupied that village.

The British troops east of the Jordan River attacked the enemy holding the foothills south of the Es-Salt Tuesday and the mounted troops were within two miles of Es-Salt by nightfall, says a British official communication tonight dealing with the fighting in Palestine and Hadjas. The communication adds that 260 prisoners had been taken.

Information from the Arab forces operating in the Moab area shows that 550 prisoners were taken in the course of the recent attack along the Hedjaz railway. West of the Jordan the British line advanced to a maximum depth of one mile in the vicinity of Mezrah. The village and high ground to the west were occupied after slight enemy resistance.

British troops in Mesopotamia carrying out their pursuit of the retreating Turkish forces have advanced as far as the Taurk River, it is officially announced this afternoon. Twelve additional field guns were captured on April 2. The total of prisoners has reached 1890.

The new ground covered by the British represents an advance of approximately 20 miles from the point farthest north mentioned in the official statement of yesterday announcing the beginning of the drive north from Bagdad toward the Turkish base at Mosul.

U. S. WILL PLEDGE LAST MAN TO WIN

Congress to Be Asked for Big Army.

MILLIONS TO CROSS SEAS

War Department Now Able to Handle 3,200,000.

DENT ASKS 4,000,000 MEN

Secretary Baker May Ask Congress to Authorize Mobilization of Every Man Nation Can Send to French Battlefield.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Secretary Baker will carry to Congress tomorrow the Army increase programme mapped out by President Wilson and his advisers and based on the determination to win the war, if it takes the whole man power of the Nation to do it. There are indications that he will ask that all restrictions on the number of troops to be raised be removed and the Government authorized to mobilize as many men as it can equip, train and send to the battle front in France.

When the Secretary appears before the House military committee with supplemental estimates for the Army he is expected to disclose that the department has reason to believe it can handle during the present year at least double the existing force under arms of approximately 1,600,000 men. That would mean a total of 3,200,000 soldiers for whom clothing, equipment and transportation are now in sight. Should additional facilities become available, however, it is indicated that President Wilson wishes to be able to call out more men without delaying to seek authority.

War Cabinet Meets.

The President's war cabinet met with him today at the White House and went over the ground thoroughly. Secretary Baker remained more than an hour with the President after the other members of the war cabinet had left.

In the House Chairman Dent, of the military committee, introduced a bill that would authorize the mobilization and organization of 4,000,000 selective service men, instead of the 1,000,000 to which the Government is limited by the existing act. Mr. Dent said the measure was his own and he had not consulted the War Department on it. Under the new classification scheme there are understood to be 1,800,000 men immediately available for active military service in class 1. That estimate is based on the returns of numerous states and the law of averages. It excludes all men rated as fit only for limited special service, all delinquents, slated for immediate induction into class 1 when apprehended, and all of the so-called remedial cases.

SHEEP BRINGS IN \$1017

Red Cross Animal Auctioned at the Dalles; Wool Sold for \$15.

THE DALLES, Or., May 1.—(Special.)—The Red Cross sheep, which was auctioned last night at the Red Cross dance in the Elks' Temple, brought \$1017. The sheep was immediately presented by Mrs. Charles Johnson to the Red Cross organizations of Wheeler County. The wool from the sheep weighed 13½ pounds and was auctioned by Judge J. T. Rorick and was bid out to Max A. Vogt for \$15, and he will have it skinned and sent to the Oregon Woolen Mills to have it made into yarn for the Red Cross knitters.

The dance was largely attended.

BOCHE SOUVENIRS DEADLY

Hans Strew No Man's Land With Infernal Devices to Trap Yankees.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—Knowing that the Americans are persistent souvenir hunters, the Germans in the Toul sector have been strewing No Man's Land with all sorts of infernal devices. These consist of electric wires attached to bells, helmets, rifles and other paraphernalia connecting with concealed bombs.

In a number of instances American soldiers have tripped over these and escaped.

U. S. TO BUILD MORE WOOD SHIPS

Vessels to Be Ballin or Dougherty Type.

BEST YARDS TO GET ORDERS

Chairman Hurley Says Most Effectively Managed Plants Will Do New Work.

PORTLAND SETS RECORD

Shipping Board Learns Supple & Ballin Company Assembles Hull in 44 Hours.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Expansion of the shipbuilding program to provide for the construction of 200 additional wooden vessels of 4500 or 4700 deadweight tons was announced tonight by Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board. This will increase to 580 the number of wooden ships completed, building or planned.

The vessels, which will be either of the Dougherty or Ballin type, will be constructed in shipyards already established and will be allotted, Mr. Hurley said, among yards which are most efficiently managed.

Work to Start Soon.

Construction of the ships will be started as soon as vessels now building are off the stocks.

The board also decided today to authorize the construction of 25 new sea-going tugs, increasing to 100 the number of such craft now building for the board. The tugs will be employed in Coast traffic, replacing those diverted overseas.

Great Lakes Send Vessels.

It also was made known today that with the reopening of navigation on the Great Lakes 34 vessels built there since last Fall were brought to the Atlantic and now are at Atlantic ports or are loading preparatory to their maiden voyages. They aggregate approximately 100,000 tons.

Of 23 ships in lake yards scheduled for completion this month 16 are so far advanced that they have begun to take on crews and cargoes. These new vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 50,000, have been allotted by the bureau of operations of the Shipping Board to the New England coal-carrying trade.

Portland Sets New Record.

A new American wooden ship construction record was reported to the Shipping Board today by the Supple & Ballin Company, of Portland, Or., which claimed the assembling and placing of 79 frames in a new vessel in a total working time of 44 hours.

Fred A. Ballin, of the Supple-Ballin Shipbuilding Corporation, of this city, is the designer and patentee of the Ballin type of vessels mentioned by Chairman Hurley, the vessel being triple planked and with a steel topside, classed as a composite ship.

Five Ships Already Floated.

The corporation has floated five of the ships ready, the first being the motorship Mount Hood, now loading lumber on Grays Harbor and the second is her sister ship, the Mount Shasta, which is about ready for her trial. They are owned by the New York firm of Gaston, Williams & Wigmore and are 4600 tons deadweight, while in the water in front of the Supple-Ballin plant are three of the Emergency Fleet Corporation ships—the Harney, Wallowa and Calala.

When J. W. Hall, assistant supervisor of the Oregon district of wooden ship construction, was summoned to Washington last month it was known that he carried with him all data with reference to the Ballin ship, and since new plans for a vessel of 5000 tons deadweight were forwarded and were due there last night.

Dougherty Type for Small Timbers.

The Dougherty type is said to have no steel reinforcement, but, like the Ballin design, has double diagonal planking over the framing, and the outside "skin" or heavy fore and aft planking goes on over that. The feeling here is that the Dougherty ship is designed for the use of small timbers, such as are available in the East and South, and it is not improbable contracts will be let for that class of

BOHEMIAN TROOPS FIGHT WITH ITALY

EMPEROR CHARLES' FORMER SUBJECTS OPPOSE AUSTRIA.

Detachment of Czecho-Slovaks in Front Line, Hoping to Win Freedom for Their Country.

LONDON, May 2.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Italian headquarters says that Bohemian troops are joining the Italian troops against Austria and that the first detachments are already on the Italian fighting line, wearing Italian uniforms.

The detachments belonged to a Czecho-Slovak army which is being formed in many centers from former subjects of Emperor Charles. They already occupy positions at various points.

It is known, adds the correspondent of the Daily Mail, that their arrival already has caused perturbation among the Austro-Hungarian commanders, who fear the effect on their Slav troops. Now that the enemy Slav troops, now that the enemy Slav fighting under the Italian banner in complete accord with the Italians and with a definite programme of winning absolute independence for their common country, their whole attitude toward the war, he adds, may undergo an important change.

The new position of affairs is being explained adequately to them by airplane propaganda and committees of their own race are accredited to and co-operating with the Italian command.

U. S. INSURANCE RATE CUT

Reduction on War Risks Indicated U-Boats Are Being Held.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The Treasury is considering reducing from 3 to 2 per cent the Government marine insurance rate on steamers and cargoes passing through the war zone and Secretary McAdoo will act on this recommendation soon after he returns Friday.

This would be proportionately the greatest decrease made since the organization of the Government marine insurance system and represents the lessening danger from submarines. The rate last August was 6½ per cent.

ALLIES IN CONFERENCE

Important Gathering Now in Session at Versailles.

VERSAILLES, May 1.—An important conference of the allied nations opens here today and will be carried over tomorrow.

The participants comprise Premiers Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando, or Great Britain, France and Italy, respectively, and representatives of France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States in the Supreme War Council.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 76 degrees; minimum, 48 degrees.

TODAY'S—Moderate northerly winds.

War.

Americans crush big German attack at Villers-Bretonneux. Page 1.

British defeat Turks in Palestine and Mesopotamia. Page 1.

Bohemian troops fight with Italy. Page 1.

Foreign.

British Catholics address Pope in regard to Irish hierarchy's opposition to draft. Page 2.

Austrian Emperor and Kaiser to confer on Ukrainian and Balkan issues. Page 4.

Bacon Goto, Japanese Foreign Minister, reassures determination to work for Kaiser's defeat. Page 3.

Dispatch from The Hague quotes German Press as saying Pope will make new peace offer May 19. Page 1.

Shin Pein will not accept home rule. Page 2.

National.

United States to build 200 additional wooden ships. Page 1.

Liberty loan total today only \$2,578,079,400. President asks consent. Page 2.

War Industries Board sets price of raw wool at price prevailing July 30, 1917. Page 4.

Telegraphers willing to arbitrate differences with telegraph companies. Page 4.

U. S. will pledge last man to win war. Page 1.

Domestic.

Sixty-six lives lost at sea when French cruiser sank. Page 1.

Former instructor at Vassar College to be interned as alien enemy. Page 2.

A. C. Townley, Non-Partisan League president, says league with income of \$1,600,000 invested \$5000 in third liberty loan. Page 4.

Mayor of crew of Florence H. trapped below when powder cargo exploded. Page 7.

Chief of German propaganda taken. Page 5.

Sports.

Buckaroos again defeated 8 to 2. Page 14.

St. Louis wins from Detroit in 10th inning. Page 14.

Shipyard offers prove tempting to Pacific International League players. Page 14.

Pacific Northwest.

Scientists in Baker preparing for observation of eclipse. Page 8.

Commercial and Marine.

Oregon grain crops are making good progress. Page 19.

Corn and oats sharply lower in Chicago market. Page 19.

Stocks higher on further check to Germans and favorable steel report. Page 19.

Oregon drydock may not be moved to Puget Sound. Page 15.

Yellow-stack steamer service on Willamette will be abandoned. Page 15.

Portland and Vicinity.

Impressive ceremonies attend laying of cornerstone of Oregon University Medical School by Governor. Page 6.

Oregon men immediately available for active military service number 986. Page 8.

Service flag of Union Stockyards unfurled. Page 15.

Reed College has need of funds to maintain war activities here. Page 8.

J. C. Tait, of Portland, formerly of H. M. S. Brilliant, discusses sinking of craft at Zebrugg. Page 20.

Mayor Baker's plan to launch many ships when Schwab is here to be carried out. Page 7.

Organized labor this year doubtful factor in politics. Page 13.

A. T. Link branded as bond slacker. Page 5.

John H. McNary Senator's brother arrested latter's Republicanism. Page 7.

Ivan de Marcel, ballet dancer, arrested, charged with fraudulent advertising. Page 7.

Weather report, data and forecast. Page 15.

THE WEATHER IS GETTING A LITTLE WARMER IN OREGON.

