

## FRANCIS HOPKINS REPORTS ON HINDENBURG LINE

### Outposts of Defensive System of La Fere Occupied by Attackers.

### BRITISH CAPTURE ROISEL

Advance Carries Forces to Seven Miles East of Peronne—German Position Precarious in Many Places.

PARIS, March 24.—Two of the advance forts in the defensive system of La Fere, a strong point on the Hindenburg line, have been captured by the French, who are attacking the river at the west bank of the River Oise from the outskirts of La Fere as far north as Venduville, a distance of about four miles. The French success is chronicled in the official report tonight, which adds that several villages on the east bank of the Ailette, near Neuville and Margival, have been taken. The German rear-guard has been driven back.

LONDON, March 24.—The British have occupied the village of Roisel in the Somme, according to the official statement tonight. Roisel is seven miles east of Peronne. Heavy fighting took place at Beaumont-Les-Cambrai, where the Germans, in a strong attack, gained a footing. By a counter-attack the British again drove them out.

PARIS, March 24.—The allies continued to forge ahead on the center and extreme right and had substantial progress yesterday in the direction of St. Quentin and La Fere in the teeth of German determined resistance.

French Bring Up Artillery. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Germans to destroy the roads as they retired, the allies have managed to bring up a good force of all but their heaviest artillery, and the guns are again busy after a long rest.

The pressure of the French from St. Quentin to the Aisne is so powerful that it begins to seem doubtful, in the opinion of the French military critics, as to whether the Germans will be able to hold on to the so-called Hindenburg line. The invaders have opened the sluices at La Fere, apparently feeling that their chances of holding the town are good now that the French have got a footing on the high ground in the Jussy region, northeast of Tergnier. If General Nivelle is able to establish himself in this position his guns will command La Fere.

Further south the French are making solid progress against the five-mile salient covered by the Germans and formed by the lower Coucy forest.

German Wing Exposed. The columns here are working hand in hand with columns operating north-east of Soissons, and the result is that it begins to seem doubtful, in the opinion of the French military critics, as to whether the Germans will be able to hold on to the so-called Hindenburg line. The invaders have opened the sluices at La Fere, apparently feeling that their chances of holding the town are good now that the French have got a footing on the high ground in the Jussy region, northeast of Tergnier. If General Nivelle is able to establish himself in this position his guns will command La Fere.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, From a correspondent of the Associated Press, March 24, via Beaumont-Les-Cambrai. The French advance has been somewhat diminished, but the French advance continues eastward of St. Quentin canal.

All Obstacles Overcome. The fighting between the advance and rear-guard has been sharp, but the Germans have been unable to withstand the pressure. All obstacles placed in the way of the French advance have been overcome with indomitable energy and spirit, with which the men are imbued more than ever since they left the trenches for the open country.

The hardships of bivouacs are borne with the utmost cheerfulness because the French soldiers feel that they are liberating from servitude their fellow citizens who have been under the sternest German rule for more than two years.

The Associated Press correspondent with the troops encountered some of the difficulties that confront the pursuing army. At five different places the French had to cross the canal, but on each occasion they were pulled up suddenly by a yawning opening where a bridge had been blown up, but eventually crossed by a pontoon.

As the French progress continues, the extent to which the countryside has been laid waste increases; not a dwelling remains intact. This is not the result of artillery fire, but especially prepared bombs. Every well has been rendered useless, the houses and people now must rely on supplies of water brought in barrels by the French soldiers.

Destruction Done by Order. The wife of the village doctor at Nesle, who had nursed the German regimental staff, protested to a German lieutenant against the willful destruction of her furniture. He appeared to regret what his men were doing, but said: "I cannot do otherwise; it is my command."

Most of the liberated people are without money, their metal coinage having been taken by the Germans, who gave paper in exchange. Everything possible is being done for the refugees by the French civil and military authorities.

BERLIN, March 24.—By wireless to Savoy, British and French troops are battling daily on both sides of the River Somme and Oise, in Northern France, says the official statement issued today. In these engagements, the announcement adds, the entente forces have suffered heavy losses.

French attacks against the German outposts west of La Fere and along the Ailette lowlands, as well as near Neuville and Margival, it is officially announced, were repulsed yesterday.

### SPRINGFIELD VETERAN DIES

James Henry Harper Succumbs Suddenly at Age of 79.

SPRINGFIELD, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—James Henry Harper, a pioneer of the early '40s and a Civil War veteran, who had resided in Springfield for the past 15 years, was found dead in his barn, where he had been sorting potatoes Monday afternoon. He had eaten a hearty dinner, and was in good spirits and seemed as well as usual. At 3:30, when his wife, Mrs. Ida Harper, was still apparently asleep, she found him dead.

The funeral was held from the W. P. Walker chapel Wednesday afternoon with interment in the Laurel Hill cemetery. Rev. J. W. Perkins officiated.

Mr. Harper was born in Hancock County, Indiana, February 16, 1838, and came to Oregon in 1861.

He is survived by widow and four children: A. E. Harper and Miss Marian Harper, of Springfield; Mrs. Ida McKernan, of Vancouver, B. C.; and Mrs. Josie Whitlock, of Portland.

## OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

BERLIN, March 24.—Following is today's German official statement concerning operations on the western front:

"On both sides of the Somme and the Oise daily engagements are occurring between our protecting troops and enemy vanguards. After these frequent engagements, in which they suffer heavy losses, the enemy forces simply grope ahead in a hesitating manner and frequently throw up trenches, being severely hampered in their freedom of movement by our measures."

"Yesterday the French attacked outposts west of La Fere and along the lowlands of the Ailette; also near Neuville and Margival. They were repulsed."

"In the Champagne our reconnoitering detachments brought prisoners from the French lines."

### French.

PARIS, March 24.—Today's official French War Office statement follows: "East of the St. Quentin canal, we enlarged our positions appreciably during the night. At some points our troops reached the west bank of the Oise north of La Fere. We also made progress in the east bank of the Ailette."

"Enemy attempts against our small posts near Berry-au-Bac, east of Rheims and near Dead Man's Hill, were repulsed by our fire. We took prisoners."

The text of the night report reads: "North of the Somme we have forced back the enemy to the south of Savoy, where he had established himself in a line of trenches prepared in advance from the Somme to the Oise."

"Our troops, continuing their success, gave battle to the enemy, who defended himself foot by foot, and pushed him about one kilometer north of Gramont. Seracourt and Gibercourt, occupying the west bank of the Oise from the outskirts of La Fere as far north as Venduville, a distance of about four miles. The French success is chronicled in the official report tonight, which adds that several villages on the east bank of the Ailette, near Neuville and Margival, have been taken. The German rear-guard has been driven back."

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portance has occurred. On March 23 a violent bombardment on both sides took place. The enemy directed numerous incendiary shells against Montestr. British airplanes bombed Pradettes, Kenall and Orfano."

Russian, Mesopotamian Front.

PETROGRAD, March 24.—Today's official War Office announcement concerning operations in Persia follows: "In the direction of the Caucasus, our troops on March 17 occupied the town of Kerlid, which had been set on fire and destroyed by the Turks. The enemy withdrew to positions in the vicinity of the village of Khair. The pursuit continues."

German, Eastern Front.

BERLIN, March 24.—Following is the official statement today concerning operations on the Eastern front: "Russian reconnoitering detachments advancing after artillery preparations near Smorgon and Baranovichi and on the Stokhod were driven away. "Southwest of Polinsk hostile airplanes were shot down by our airmen, as was a captive balloon at Lake Dravitsky."

"An efficient fire by our artillery and mine throwers preceded attacks in which our troops south of the Troitsa Valley took by storm and in hand-to-hand fighting Russian positions on the frontier ridge between the Solymotar and Coganos valleys and brought in 900 prisoners. Russian forces north of Magyars that followed soon after failed."

British.

LONDON, March 24.—The text of today's British official statement reads: "Our troops have occupied Roisel, seven miles east of Peronne. "This morning strong hostile detachments again attacked our positions in Beaumont-Les-Cambrai and obtained a temporary foothold in the village. They were immediately counter-attacked and driven out, leaving a few prisoners."

"We have made progress on a front of one and a half miles southwest and west of Ecourt-St. Mein, (southeast of Arras). Enemy attacks here and north of Boiry-Becquerelle were repulsed."

"We carried out another successful raid east of Arras. The enemy's second line was reached and casualties inflicted. We also entered the enemy's trenches east of Neuville. A number of Germans were killed and occupied dugouts were bombed."

"The enemy attempted to reach our lines near Richebourg-L'Avoué (south of Neuve Chapelle), but were dispersed by our fire. Another hostile raiding party reached our trenches west of Messing. The artillery was active near Ypres."

Italian.

ROME, via London, March 24.—"On the Trentino there were the usual artillery duels," says today's War Office statement.

"Our batteries destroyed some abutments near Sacco, west of Rovereto, where movements of troops and materials were observed. "In the Sugana Valley, after violent artillery preparation, the enemy yesterday again attacked our positions at the head of the small valley of the Croisade. Enemy attacks here and north of Boiry-Becquerelle were repulsed."

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### FRANCE LIMITS IMPORTS

ALL PROHIBITED UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNMENT.

Permits Required by Merchants and Manufacturers—Only Indispensable Articles Allowed.

PARIS, March 24.—By authority of the Cabinet, the Ministry of Commerce today issued prohibitive decrees limiting imports whatsoever except such as may be authorized specifically by the government.

The decree provides that all applications for the importation of foreign goods must be referred to a committee in which the ministers interested, Parliament and the Chamber of Commerce of Paris are represented.

All products imported and special permits on the recommendation of this committee will be distributed among manufacturers and merchants pro rata to their indispensable requirements.

TACOMA Wins Oregon City Girl.

TACOMA, Wash., March 24.—(Special.)—J. J. Beismarck, Tacoma, and Leona Palmer, Oregon City, Or., obtained a marriage license here today.

## KAISER WOULD RULE, SAYS GER ENEMIES AT HOME ARE FEARED MORE BY WILHELM THAN ARE THOSE ABROAD.

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### CROWN PRINCE IS MENACE

Abdication Is Forecast and Statement Made That Emperor Did All in His Power to Avert Break With America.

PARIS, March 24.—The abdication of the German Emperor is forecast by the former German magistrate who wrote the celebrated book, "J'accuse," in an interview published in Oeuvre. He says: "The Kaiser is obsessed by the thought that he is responsible for the war, a thought which poisons his whole existence. He feels that he is menaced by three enemies at home, without counting his abroad."

"First is the Crown Prince, the real author of the war; second is the Junker pan-Germanist—you cannot imagine the smouldering hatred of the Emperor for those whom he believes to be the maniacs who are driving him into an abyss; third is the Socialists, who are starving and who, he feels, are growing in number and rising little by little against those who organized the war."

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## MANY THERE BE

who limp needlessly through life. A weak instep or ankle—a wrongly fitted shoe—misplaced body weight—these and other causes often make life a burden; walking or standing a misery.

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### "MOTHER" JOHNS IS 80

CELEBRATION HELD IN HONOR OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY RESIDENT.

Neighbors Do Honor to Old-Time Resident Who Has Occupied Same Home for 88 Years.

GRANTS PASS, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—Mrs. Mary Johns, or "Mother" Johns, as she is known to every old-timer of Grants Pass, celebrated her 80th birthday anniversary last Saturday, and the occasion was made memorable by the gathering of the neighbors from miles around at the old homestead near Williams, where she has spent 58 of her 80 years.

Mrs. Johns was born in Ohio in 1837, and became the wife of David Johns in her native state. They crossed the plains in 1859, being among the first settlers of Josephine County. They located a donation land claim near the present village of Williams, and were active in the life of Southern Oregon until the death of Mr. Johns, about 10 years ago. They maintained the stage station at Williams during the days of the first gold excitement in this district.

The Johns family had an important part in the development of Josephine County, and in all parts of Oregon there are many who will remember "Mother" Johns, and who have accepted the hospitality of the Johns family when they were in the making.

### SOPHIA KRAUSE IS DEAD

Funeral for West Linn Resident Will Be Held Today.

OREGON CITY, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—Mrs. Sophia Krause, well-known resident of West Linn, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Karl Buse, of that place, Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. The funeral will be held in the German Lutheran Church in this city Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Krause's maiden name was Sophia Witz. She was born in Germany in 1844 and came to America 30 years ago, settling at Saginaw, Mich. She came to Oregon City about five years ago.

Mrs. Krause is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Karl Buse, of West Linn; two sons, Richard Krause and Robert Krause, of West Linn; and a brother, William Witz, and Edward Witz, of Wisconsin. Her husband died seven years ago.

### 7 SURVIVE MRS. GILBERT

McMinnville Woman Is Laid to Rest in Family Plot.

McMINNVILLE, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. P. J. Joplin, of this city, on Monday, at the age of 73 years, was a daughter of the late Judge Haley, who moved with his family from Tennessee to Oregon in 1850. She was the widow of George Gilbert, the son of a pioneer family of 1847, to whom she was married at Belfountain, Or.

Seven children survive: George and Ralph Gilbert, of Mount Vernon, Or.; Courtney Gilbert, of Harriburg, Or.; Genevieve Gilbert, of Portland; Mrs. R. P. Joplin, of McMinnville; Mrs. Nellie Brunette, of Portland, and Mrs. Elsie Rowland, of Sunnyside, Wash. Interment was in the family plot at Belfountain, being the body of her husband.

### Strawberry Festival Fund Raised.

ROSEBURG, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—More than \$1200 has been raised among the members of the Roseburg Strawberry Festival to be held here in May, according to a report filed by the soliciting committee. In addition to the sum approximately \$