



BRITISH ARMIES PIERCED AT ARRAS; FRENCH GAIN 2 MILES

AMERICANS MAY TAKE PART SOON IN BATTLE

Pershing Believed to Have Hundred Thousand Men in Readiness to Unite With Ally Reserve Force When Time Comes

Eight Hundred Thousand Fresh Troops Will Be Hurdled Against Tired Huns When Germans Have Extended Themselves.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—(I. N. S.)—The allied offensive is believed to be under way and most important news is expected from the battlefield in Picardy within the next 24 hours, war department officials declared today.

The counter offensive will be the sharpest blow that the entente has attempted. It is understood that not less than 100,000 American troops will participate in this movement, which will probably take the form of a rolling-up movement.

According to the latest information reaching Washington, the allies have placed 800,000 fresh troops along the Picardy front. It is these men who will be sent against the Germans in a sweeping movement which is expected to turn the tide of battle in favor of American-Anglo-French forces.

The general staff is watching the impending battle with deepest interest. The very fact that, for the first time in the war, officers were willing to admit that the American army was to be represented in a battle movement by a large force was considered very significant. The figures mentioned by the officers who would discuss the outlook 100,000 were a real surprise, as it had not been believed that General Pershing would have so many men.

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OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

British
LONDON, March 28.—(U. P.)—“The enemy has crossed the Somme from the north near Chipilly,” the war office announced this evening. “We fell back toward Hamel.”

“Opposite Arras at least seven army divisions attacked the line which runs through Arleux, Fampoux, Meuville-Vitasse and Boisieux. The fighting was severe, with heavy enemy losses. Opposite Arras our forward zone has been penetrated.”

“North of the Somme the situation is substantially the same as last night.”

“Between Hainvillers and Ponet-leveque the French counter-attacked in force and drove the enemy back on a front of 10 kilometers to the depth of three kilometers. The French pressure here continues.”

French
PARIS, March 28.—(U. P.)—Abandonment of Montdidier was officially admitted by the French war office today.

“In the region of Montdidier important German forces were launched,” the communique said. “After the bitter fighting which raged in order to the west of Montdidier.”

“Yesterday evening the battle continued with increasing violence,” said the communique. “The enemy was checked by our valiant troops, suffering severely near Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise.”

(Note: It is not clear whether this means 60 to 70 per cent of all those engaged in the total casualties.)

“The German advance puts the Hun armies into the same unfavorable strategic position they held prior to their retirement in 1916, as asserted today by Count de Portanier de la Rochette of the aviation section of the French mission to America, who with Lieutenant Alberto Cantoni, Royal Italian flying corps, is in Portland to confer with Colonel Brice P. Disque regarding airplane production. They came at the colonel's request.”

Both officers, high in the allied military service, were cheerful today in discussing the German gains on the west front.

Their optimism was both for conditions on the front and for the production of Oregon and Washington spruce for airplanes.

Count de La Rochette spent 3½ years in the trenches before he was transferred to the aviation section and subsequently appointed a member of the commercial division of the French mission to the United States. He said:

“The offensive the Germans have just perpetuated in western France is a sign of their weakness. It was a desperate last attempt to crush the allied forces.”

“The German retreat from the old battle line in 1916 was a strategic move. They were in a weak position and by retreating made their position stronger. Now with their present offensive they are again in their weaker location and they have lost the best shock troops.”

Both officers accentuated the fact that the magnitude of the allied air program depended upon the amount of spruce available for the production of French and Italian aircraft manufacturers will take all the spruce they can get. Our government's eyes are turned to the Pacific coast,” said Lieutenant Cantoni, who is on his second visit to Portland. He was here a year ago.

“It is remarkable to note the results that have been accomplished in getting out spruce. A year ago all that was being produced was a few tons of spruce wherever an operator was willing to cut it. Under the present system the spruce program is well under way.”

GERMAN NEW POSITION IS NOT TENABLE

Count de Portanier de la Rochette of French Mission, Declares the Offensive on Western Front Shows Weakness.

Retreat From Old Battle Line in 1916 Was Strategic Move, Because of Weak Position, and Now Occupy Like Relation.

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AIR PROGRAM DELAY IS LAID TO HUN SPIES

Charge Is Made by Senator Overman in Reply to Attacks on Delays in Supplying Pershing's Forces With Planes.

Exhibits Steel Sawed Through, Plugged With Lead and Painted Over; Spy Responsible, Yet Not Caught.

By L. C. Martin
WASHINGTON, March 28.—(U. P.)—German spies, working in American airplane factories, have delayed this country's aircraft program, Senator Overman charged in the senate today.

Replying to continued recent attacks on the delay in supplying General Pershing's forces with flying machines, Overman declared there are “400,000 German spies in this country,” some of whom were at work in airplane plants.

Overman exhibited a piece of steel which he said had been sawed through and plugged with lead by a spy, who had then painted it so the presence of lead would not be detected.

The presence of this spy in the Curtis plant delayed the construction of battleplanes two months, Overman said. The man has not been caught yet.

“If I were president of the United States I would commandeer the Curtis plant and turn it over to the government, putting loyal Americans in their places. I make no charges against the men there, but some of them have names that sound queer to me.”

GERMANS START HEAVY ATTACK ON NORTHERN PART OF WEST LINE

Terrific Battle Lasts During Night, but Repeated Assaults Are Repulsed by British, Who Make Capture of Prisoners and Guns; Weather Threatening.

Thrust Is Made by Huns at French Line and Montdidier Is Captured; French Are Reported to Have Retired With Forces Intact; Germans Capture Fewer.

LONDON, March 28.—(U. P.)—The British front has been pierced at a new point, the war office announced this evening.

Opposite Arras, the British “forward zone” has been penetrated, it was announced. This is on the extreme right flank of the German advance.

Between Hainvillers and Ponet-leveque, one mile east of Noyon, the French concentrated in force on a front of more than six miles and drove the Germans back nearly two miles.

By William Philip Simms
WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, March 28.—(U. P.)—A heavy bombardment occurred this morning between Acheville and the Souchez river. There were no infantry actions there.

West of Beaumont-Hamel the enemy is attacking in great strength. Heavy fighting is ensuing.



USE OF INFERIOR STEEL CHARGED

Two Are Indicted in San Francisco on Charge of Substitution in Ship Work.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—(U. P.)—Prosper J. Forrest, secretary and manager of the Edwin Forrest company, and C. D. Mues, government steel inspector, were under indictment by the federal grand jury today, charged with conspiring to substitute inferior steel in shipwork and violating the espionage act.

The indictments followed Forrest's arrest near Portland, and when he was accused of substituting inferior steel on government sub-contracts which he held, while Mues, it was claimed, passed the inferior steel.

The grand jury's indictment is based on the case of a ship building for the Emergency Fleet corporation at St. Johns, near Portland, and not on the substitution alleged, but it is charged that it was done with wilful intent to injure and endanger the safety of the vessel in violation of the espionage act.

Both have received large quantities of material from the Edwin Forrest company and have other orders to be filled, officials of the Alhina Engine & Machine works and Supple & Ballin Shipbuilding corporation said this afternoon that they did not believe that their plants were referred to in the above dispatch.

OREGON'S SECOND DRAFT QUOTA 367

Camp Lewis Will Get 3973 Men From Eight Western States for Training for War.

Camp Lewis, March 28.—(I. N. S.)—Oregon's quota in the second draft, which will be under way on March 29, is to be 367 men. It was announced here today.

The total number in the second draft contingent to be brought to Camp Lewis will be 3973 men, with increments daily from March 29 until April 5, when the movement will be completed.

On the first day the schedule calls for the arrival of 501 men, with 396 on March 30, 215 on March 31, 1165 on April 1, 605 on April 2, 402 on April 3, 658 on April 4, and a final small increment of 21 men from California on April 5.

The appointment by states follows: Washington, 638; Idaho, 246; Montana, 517; Wyoming, 134; Oregon, 367; California, 1752; Utah, 247; Nevada, 70.

COLUMBIA BUILDS VESSELS FASTEST

This District Has Established World's Record; It Is Far Ahead of Atlantic and Gulf.

The Pacific coast, and especially the Columbia river district, has established a world's record for turning out ships. It is far ahead of the Atlantic and Gulf coast sections. More vessels have been turned out in the Portland district for the emergency fleet corporation than in any other district in the country.

The government fully realizes the wonderful achievement. The Pacific coast, particularly the Pacific Northwest, is the forefront of the East's appreciation, having fully proven in this great crisis that it is “all wool and a yard wide.”

The authority given Mr. Westworth will permit the origination of future wooden ship contracts at the local headquarters, with the definite decision that the policy will be to award the business to all shipyards in the Oregon district now doing satisfactory work for the government. In regard to yards now without business, it is believed that a decision will be reached soon as to whether they are to be given government contracts or be permitted to accept contracts for private trade.

This decision has been called the “Piez of the fleet corporation from Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, with whom it rests in the final decision.

Alien's Cash Goes Into Liberty Bonds

“How would you like to buy some Liberty bonds?” asked Deputy United States Marshal Tichenor of George Zeiger, alien German arrested at I. W. W. headquarters Wednesday night on a charge of violating the president's proclamation.

“Before Zeiger had a chance to answer either in the negative or affirmative Deputy Tichenor began a “four minute” talk that resulted in Zeiger's turning over \$500 of \$800 that had been found in his pockets when he was arrested.

The bonds were purchased and a receipt turned over to the marshal in trust for Zeiger. His case is being investigated by Assistant United States Attorney Veach and meanwhile he is being held in the Multnomah county jail.

Secretary Baker Feels Confident

LONDON, March 28.—Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, who came to London from Paris, is following the course of fighting on the Western front with the keenest interest.

Mr. Baker, along with everyone else, is confident that the Germans will be defeated.

(Concluded on Page Nineteen, Column Seven)

ROLL OF HONOR

Washington, March 28.—(I. N. S.)—The names of nine men in active head the casualty list announced by the war department Wednesday afternoon. One man was killed in an accident and four died of disease. Two were severely wounded and 14 slightly wounded.

Killed in Action
CADET THOMAS C. NACHAM.
PRIVATE JOHN E. ALLEN.
PRIVATE HARRY E. BOHRSLEER.
PRIVATE WILLIAM J. BOHRSLEER.
PRIVATE HARRY CRIST.
PRIVATE ARCHIE HENDERSON.
PRIVATE CLARENCE M. JONES.
PRIVATE JESSE L. KOOPMAN.
PRIVATE WILLIAM VAN DER BEEK.

Died of Disease
SERGEANT HUNTER MASSIE.
COOK PAUL BOUCHET, poisoning.
PRIVATE ROBERT S. CROSS, scarlet fever.
PRIVATE JOHN W. LEMKE, diphtheria.
PRIVATE GEORGE W. OLDFIELD, mastoiditis.

Shipping Losses Increase Sharply

LONDON, March 28.—(U. P.)—Twenty-nine British vessels were sunk during the week ending March 27, according to the admiralty's report. Of these 19 were over 1600 tons. Among those under that displacement, one was a fishing vessel.

This is the greatest number of British merchantmen sunk in one week since the week of September 16, 1917, when the same number was destroyed. At that time only eight of the vessels were over 1600 tons.

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English Capture Turkish Frontier

LONDON, March 28.—(U. P.)—Operating in the Euphrates valley, northwest of Hit, British forces in a “highly successful operation” captured or destroyed virtually the entire Turkish “frontier” forces in that area.

“Three thousand prisoners were taken, including a divisional commander. Delay in the securing of material together with 10 guns, 2000 rifles and other booty.”

(Concluded on Page Nineteen, Column Seven)

WORKERS!!
READ THE HELP WANTED ADS TONIGHT
Opportunity for Advancement

Grape Plants for Sale Used Car Wanted

Manager Denies Charge

BATTLE IS NOT OVER YET

Huns Hurdled Back for Loss