

## BAPAUME FALLS TO GERMANS

Berlin Declares Stubborn Resistance of Enemy Is Broken in Violent Battle; Teutons Mount Heights West of Somme River

### TOWN OF NESLE IS CAPTURED BY STORM

Hun Forces Drive to Old Positions Held by Armies Before Beginning of Battle of Somme in 1916

LONDON, March 25.—Confirmation of the German report that the British have been forced out of Bapaume is contained in a supplemental official statement issued by the war office late tonight.

BERLIN, via LONDON, March 25. (British Admiralty, per Wireless Press).—"Crown Prince Rupprecht has, with the armies of General von Below and General Von Der Marwitz again defeated the enemy in a tremendous struggle near Bapaume, while the corps of General Von Der Berge, General Lindenculst and General Kuehne, broke through strong positions of the enemy to the northeast of Bapaume," says the text of the official statement.

"In bitter fighting the troops of General Gruenther and General Stabs, coming from the east and southeast drove the enemy back via Ypres and Sully.

Resistance Is Broken. "The stubborn enemy resistance, which had been reinforced with fresh troops, was broken in a violent battle. Freshly brought up divisions and numerous tanks threw themselves against our advancing forces along the roads leading from Bapaume and Peronne. They could not bring about a decision in favor of the enemy. In the evening they streamed back again in a westerly direction.

"During the course of the night battle Bapaume fell into the hands of the Germans. Hot fighting developed for the possession of Comblis and the heights situated to the east. The enemy was defeated, attacks by English cavalry breaking down. We now are standing to the north of the Somme and in the middle of the former Somme battlefield.

Somme Heights Mounted. "The German crown prince with the army of General Von Hutier has forced a passage across the Somme below Ham. His victorious troops have in bitter fighting mounted the heights to the west of the Somme. Violent counter-attacks by the British infantry and cavalry broke down with sanguinary losses. The town of Nesle was taken by storm in the evening.

"Between the Somme and the Oise the troops which penetrated across the Crozat canal late in the evening of March 23 have taken by storm strongly fortified and stubbornly defended positions.

"On the west bank of the canal in hot fighting British, French and American troops were thrown back through the wooded country La Neuville and Villequier-Aumont. The attack continued Saturday and French infantry and cavalry divisions which were brought forward for a counter thrust were thrown back with sanguinary losses. The relentless pursuit by General Von Conta and General Von Gayle pressed after the retreating enemy. Guisard and Chauny were captured.

Old Positions Taken. "BERLIN, via LONDON, March 25. "Between the Somme and the Oise," says the official report from headquarters this evening, "our troops are fighting their way forward. There was hard fighting," the statement continues, "between Bapaume and Peronne. We drove the enemy back here to his old positions which were held between the Ancre and the Somme before the beginning of the Somme battle in 1916."

LONDON, March 25.—"Fighting of the most severe description has been taking place all day on wide fronts south of Peronne and south and north of Bapaume," says Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France tonight.

Fresh Forces Brought Up. "In both sectors the enemy has attacked our positions in great strength with fresh forces, and, in spite of the gallant resistance of our troops, has forced us to give ground.

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## GERMAN DRIVE SLOWING DOWN, AMERICAN VIEW

War Department Sees No Cause for Alarm by People of United States

### HUN WEDGE NARROWING

Apex Cannot Be Retained in Face of Three-Sided Attack, View

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The German drive at the British lines, appeared to be slowing under the policy of elastic defense pursued by Field Marshal Haig, according to the opinion of allied and American army officers here, based on the official statements from London, Paris and Berlin. The greatest hope of the war, thus far, they believe, is entering its second stage with the German forces facing an increasingly stubborn resistance. The outcome of this stage may not be discernible for several days.

The attitude of American military authorities was officially stated by Major General March, acting chief of staff, he said:

"No Cause for Alarm Seen. "There was much speculation here no cause for alarm on the part of the United States. Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. The announcement is to be accepted."

Similar confidence of the ultimate defeat of the German effort was expressed by Major General Leonard Wood before the senate military committee, and Major General MacLachlin, British military attaché, voiced the feeling of British officers here as to the work of their comrades in France in a statement noting that nothing resembling a break in the British lines has yet been achieved by the German rush.

U. S. Participation Unconfined. Repeated reports of the participation of American troops in the battle, presumably with the French on the British right flank, caused General March to say that neither General Pershing nor General Bliss had reported on this point.

There was much speculation here today as to the purpose of the German leaders in pressing the main attack in the direction of Amiens. The capture of Nesle, admitted in London, indicates this to be the apex of the great wedge that is being forced into the British lines near the point where the British and French forces contact.

Objective Not Indicated. The question raised was whether the German plan contemplated a swing to their right toward the coast designed to hem up all British forces in a restricted field of operations with the channel behind him; or a sweep toward Paris to their left front. As yet the development reported do not indicate the ultimate objective of the assault.

One few expressed was that a blow elsewhere might follow the checking of the present drive or even accompany it. Advice from Italy have indicated enemy concentrations of that front for some time past. Attacks along the French lines do not appear to be more than feints at present, calculated to keep the French from weakening their

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## MEN READY TO REPLACE LOSSES

Reinforcements Prepared to Enter Battle, Says Lloyd George

LONDON, March 25.—In a message to Field Marshal Haig, David Lloyd George, the British premier, says that the men necessary to replace those lost are either now in France or already on their way. All guns will be replaced and still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to enter the battle.

The premier's message follows: "The British cabinet wishes to express to the army the nation's thanks for its splendid defense. The whole empire is filled with pride as it watches the heroic resistance offered by its brave troops to overwhelming odds.

"Knowing their steadfastness and courage whenever the honor of their country depends upon their valor, the empire awaits with confidence the result of this struggle to defeat the enemy's last desperate effort to trample down the free nations of the world.

"At home we are prepared to do all in our power to help in a true spirit of comradeship. The men necessary to replace all casualties and cannon and machine guns required to make good all those lost are either now in France or already on their way and still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to be thrown into the battle."

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## THIRD LOAN TO BE FOR 3 BILLIONS

New Issue Bearing Interest at Rate of 4 1-4 Per Cent Is Announced by McAdoo to Commence April 6

### LATEST ISSUE WILL NOT BE CONVERTIBLE

Nation's Soul Fired by Events in France; Rapid Buying Is Urged

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The third liberty loan, to open April 6, will be for \$3,000,000,000 and all over subscriptions at 4 1/4 per cent interest.

Bonds of the first loan, bearing 3 1/2 per cent interest, and of the second loan at 4 per cent, may be converted into the new bonds, but those of the third loan will not be convertible into any future issue. This announcement was made tonight by Secretary McAdoo with the comment that "the great events now happening in France must fire the soul of every American with a new determination to furnish all the dollars and all the material resources of America that are needed to put an end to the execrable atrocities of German militarism."

Bonds To Be Kept At Par. In connection with the loan, the secretary plans to establish a sinking fund with which to purchase back any bonds of the third loan thrown upon the market, in order to aid in keeping the price up to par. The maturity of the bonds is yet to be determined, but it was officially stated that they would be long-term, probably between 20 and 30 years.

Other features will be settled as soon as congress passes the necessary legislation authorizing the length of the campaign and the terms of payments on the bonds.

### Interest Rate 4 1/4 Per Cent

Most financial observers were surprised at the comparatively small size of the loan and at the interest rate, both of which they had expected to be higher. Reduction of government expenditures and allied loans below the former estimate is responsible for the loan's size, Secretary McAdoo explained. He said the bonds were made non-convertible to put an end to expectations of higher interest rate in the future, indicating his purpose to maintain the 4 1/4 rate for future loans. Legislation will be drafted tomorrow by Chairman Kitchin of the house ways and means committee to provide for an additional bond authorization of \$4,500,000,000 more than the \$3,666,000,000 sum already authorized but unissued, for the increased interest rate for continuance of loans to the allies this summer and for issuance of more than the four billion certificates of indebtedness now authorized. An effort will be made to rush this legislation through both houses this week so that final plans may be made for the third liberty loan and the engraving of the bond faces by the first of next week. No opposition to the legislation is looked for in either house.

In announcing the loan, Secretary McAdoo made the following statement:

Amount Below Estimate. "The secretary of the treasury in a conference with Mr. Kitchin, chairman of the way and means committee, today outlined his plan for the third liberty loan. Actual expenditures of United States government and of the allied governments being much less than had been indicated by the estimates, the amount of the next loan will be only \$3,000,000,000, the right being reserved to allot over-subscriptions.

"The secretary will ask authority from congress to issue bonds bearing interest at the rate of 4 1/4 per cent annum, acceptable at par and accrued interest in payment of United States inheritance taxes and having the benefit of a sinking fund of five per cent annum during the period of the war and for one year thereafter.

Interest Held Sufficient. "It is the belief of the secretary that the rate now proposed is sufficient and that, by restricting unnecessary capital issues, and by inducing the people who subscribe for liberty bonds to save and keep them for investment, and by purchases with the sinking fund from those who find themselves compelled to sell, future increases in the interest rate may be avoided. In order to put an end to the expectation of higher rates, it is proposed the conversion privilege shall be eliminated from the new bonds, but the holders of liberty bonds of all existing issues will be given an opportunity to convert their bonds into the new 4 1/4 per cent bonds.

Big Issues To Be Asked. "In addition to the foregoing principal items of the proposed program, congress will be asked for authority to issue bonds to the amount

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## ENGINEERS ONLY MEN FROM U. S. IN BIG ATTACK

Two Regiments Aid British Where Germans Are Directing Offensive

### PERSHING SENDS REPORT

Message Disposes of Rumors American Reserves Are in Battle

WASHINGTON, March 25.—General Pershing cabled the war department tonight that two regiments of American railroad engineers are attached to the British forces on the front attacked by the Germans. Three companies of the engineers, he said, were working in the areas in which the German official statement mentioned the presence of American troops, and no report has been received concerning them.

Engineers in Battle. The dispatch follows: "Summary of activities from noon March 24 to noon March 25: Nothing to report, but usual patrol and trench activities, with some gas shelling by the enemy north of Toul, in reference to German communiques of March 24 and 25 regarding American troops, two regiments of railroad engineers are with the British armies involved in this battle. Three companies of engineers were working in the areas mentioned in the communique in the vicinity of the Crozat canal. No report other than the German communiques yet received concerning these troops."

This message, announced tonight by Major General March, acting chief of staff, definitely disposed of reports that American reserves had been sent in the battle. General Pershing said there was nothing unusual to report from the American sectors.

Americans Aid British. The German communique yesterday said that the British third and fourth armies and "parts of French-American reserves that had been brought up had been repulsed with heavy losses on the line from Bapaume to Bouchevesnes, behind the Somme and at Chauny."

War department officials had assumed that if any American troops actually were involved they were engineers attached to the British forces, as there had been no advices to indicate that any American contingents were to be employed as reserves.

If the engineers were caught in the German advance there is no doubt here that they made themselves felt in the fighting. When American engineers with the British near Cambrai last November found themselves in the midst of a German turning movement, they valiantly joined in the battle and won high praise from the English commander.

### Details Are Awaited.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 25.—The fact that the enemy has officially mentioned the presence of Americans in the battlefield of the Somme and has repeatedly reported that some were captured indicates the good accounts American engineers gave of themselves when the Germans attacked. They probably threw down their picks and shovels, took up guns and fought as they did at Cambrai last year.

Official details announcing the part American engineers have taken in the great battle are eagerly awaited here. Only certain units of the American railway engineers are with the British army in France and only a few companies are known to be in the area near the present fighting, it is believed therefore, that whatever Americans were captured there, according to the German official statement, are American engineers who, however, may have carried rifles and bayonets as well as tools since the Cambrai battle in November, 1917, when they helped repulse German attacks.

## "May God Be With Us," Wires German Kaiser

AMSTERDAM, March 25.—The fall of Bapaume was announced tonight in a telegram from the German emperor to the press. It is announced officially. The emperor's telegram reads:

"Bapaume fell last night, after a hard struggle. My victorious troops are pressing forward from Bapaume and further south are advancing on Albert. The Somme has been crossed at many points above Peronne. The spirits of the troops are as fresh as on the first day of the battle.

"Over 45,000 prisoners, more than 500 guns, thousands of machine guns and enormous quantities of ammunition and provisions have been taken just, as after the Isonzo battle in Italy.

"May God be with us." (Signed) —"Wilhelm."

## WOOD URGES U. S. ARMY OF 5,000,000

Germans on West Front Held Numerically Superior on Ground and in Air; Fighting in Open Is Forecast

### SHIPS AND ARTILLERY ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

While Initial Success Surprises, Failure of Offensive Is Seen

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Back from a visit to the western battle front, Major General Leonard Wood, in a confidential statement today before the senate military committee, declared that allied military opinion is unanimous that the German offensive will fail and urged a great increase—to 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 men—in America's army.

It was General Wood's opinion, according to his auditors, that the Germans on the western front are now numerically superior, both on the ground and in the air, but that the allies are in a better position. While confident that the German offensive will be halted before the objectives, General Wood suggested that the offensive may change the warfare into a more open contest. For that reason he recommended the training of American forces for open warfare, as well as for trench fighting.

### U. S. Army of 4,000,000 Urged.

The general was before the committee for three hours and frankly discussed the situation in Europe and at home. Stating that the French are disappointed in the size of the American army thus far sent to Europe, according to committee members, he recommended immediate steps to increase both the American expeditionary forces and the army in training in this country. Chairman Chamberlain said General Wood recommended that an army of 2,500,000 men be maintained in France at the earliest possible moment and 2,500,000 more in training at home. Another committee member placed General Wood's recommendations at 4,000,000, one half in France as soon as they can be sent there. In this connection, General Wood also recommended compulsory universal military training.

Aviators Without Planes. In urging that the American war program of men, ships and munitions be speeded up and increased, General Wood said no American artillery or airplanes are yet available to General Pershing's men and that, although one thousand American aviators are ready, they are without planes. Use of Liberty motors in bombing instead of fighting machines also was recommended.

Commenting on the German offensive, General Wood, according to members of the committee, said that although the initial success of the Germans probably had been greater than expected either by the allies or the enemy, judged by the number of British guns reported captured and allied officers believed the drive will be short-lived. There is no possibility, he said, of the Germans attaining their apparent objective, the channel ports or threatening Paris.

Men, Ships, Artillery Needed. Explaining the viewpoint of allied officers with whom he recently talked and who were expecting the present attack, he said the German soon will reach more difficult ground to traverse, while the British and the French retire to superior prepared positions, at which the German offensive will be stopped.

Bombardment of Paris by long range German artillery, General Wood is reported to have told the senators, is not a serious military line, but is diverted toward the Oise, where the German advance has been most rapid.

French troops have taken over sectors of the front and have released British units for work farther north. Berlin states that Americans have also joined in the fight, but

Shipping Plan Criticized. In urging the necessity for more ships, General Wood criticized present shipping arrangements and said he had suggested to the war department that fast and slow ships be segregated in the convoys, so that fast ships will not be held back by the slower vessels.

The break down of Russia has greatly improved the morale of the German army and the German people, General Wood said. He added that America should pay more attention to the Italian situation and suggested that Americans of Italian origin be sent to Italy to combat the German propaganda, which has been active in that country.

American Front Unprotected. Associated Press dispatches from the American front telling of the

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## DISINTEGRATION NOT INDICATED BY BRITISH LINE

Frightful Toll of Lives Exact-ed for Every Foot of Ground Abandoned

### OWN LOSSES NOT UNDUE

Drive No Longer Is Straight at Line But Is Diverted Toward Oise

(By The Associated Press)

Battling for every point of vantage, giving ground only when overwhelmed by number and exacting a frightful toll of lives for every foot of ground abandoned, the British line in Picardy is still intact. While the German onslaught gained ground at a number of points on Monday, there was no sign of disintegration in the British forces, which at many points, especially on the northern end of the long line of battle, are standing firm.

The German official report tells of the defeat of the British and their retreat via Ypres and Sully.

This would seem to indicate heavy fighting far to the north of the Somme battlefield, of which no British report has spoken. There is, however, a town called Sully south of Bapaume and eastward of this place is a town known as Ytres. It is probable that these were the points referred to in the statement from Berlin.

The largest gains made by the Germans have been west of St. Quentin, where they have captured Nesle.

### "Pincer" System Used.

These points, which are at the tip of the Teutonic attack, are more than ten miles from the front as it stood March 21.

Military observers discern in the scheme of the German attack a repetition of the German "pincer" system of attack, which was used by Von Mackensen in Russia, Rumania and Serbia. This attack consists of two attacks some distance apart, which, after progressing to some depth, turn toward each other, compelling the forces caught between them to fall back or be in danger of capture.

The British have faced this danger and have met it by first checking then forcing the northern jaw of the pincer southward, while they have dropped back on the center and have not fallen into the German trap. The pressure of the defenders of the Somme front, seems to be bending the whole German attack so the south where it is hoped its force will be dissipated.

### French Join in Fighting.

The French positions, joined the British to the south of St. Quentin, but there have been no reports showing that the French have fallen back from their advanced positions. On the other hand, reports would indicate that the original French lines now virtually outflank the advancing Germans along the Oise river.

In the meantime the British strategy seems to be devoted to the task of meeting the attack so that it is directed no longer straight at the line, but is diverted toward the Oise, where the German advance has been most rapid.

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## BRITISH BOMB GERMAN CITIES

Fires Started in Stations; 45 Enemy Machines Shot Down in Fight

LONDON, March 25.—British aviators have bombed the railway stations at Cologne, as well as various other important cities in Germany, the official statement on aerial operations announces tonight.

The text of the statement reads: "During the night one of the enemy's large bombing machines landed behind our lines. Following a successful daylight raid on Mannheim, other objects in Germany were attacked during the night.

"Half a ton of bombs were dropped on the railway stations at Cologne, where a fire was started. Over a ton of bombs were distributed between the Luxembourg railway station, where a fire broke out, and the Courcelles railway station, east of Metz. Two tons of bombs were dropped on the Metz railway station.

"The fight was the most severe so far experienced. Our airplanes shot down 45 enemy machines and drove down 22 out of control. Two other hostile machines were shot down by our anti-aircraft guns. Ten of our machines are missing.

"Over 17 bombs were dropped during the day on different targets."

## DECISION STILL IN ABEYANCE

Great Struggle Continues With Unabated Fury—British Right Wing Is Holding Firmly—Germans Rush on Despite Losses

### BRITISH INFANTRYMEN REAP RICH HARVEST

Battle Fought on Historic Ground Near Longueval Declared Most Spectacular of All Along Entire Front

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 25.—This has been another day of most desperate and sanguinary fighting along the whole front of the new battle zone. In fact in the northern sector there has been no cessation in the awful work since yesterday morning. The Germans have continued to hurl great forces of infantry into the contest, depending largely on weight of numbers to overcome the increasing opposition offered by the heroically resisting British.

British Reap Harvest. "On the northern wing of the offensive the enemy this morning brought up additional troops after an all-night struggle of the fiercest nature and renewed his efforts to break the British front in the region of Erville. To the south, near the center of the line, an equally bold attempt is being made by the invaders to extend the long narrow salient which they had pushed in south of Bapaume, near Longueval—famous in the annals of the battle of the Somme. These places were again the scene of shambles in which the British machine gunners and riflemen exacted a terrible toll of death from the closely pressing enemy. Still farther south the Germans were pounding the front hard in an endeavor to push on and get a firm grip on Nesle and swing the British right flank back while the determined defenders were battling doggedly to force the enemy back and reclaim the positions previously held by them along the river.

Decision Yet in Abeyance. The decision at all of these centers is yet in abeyance, so far as is known at this time, and the struggle goes on with unabated fury. The resistance of the British right wing has been particularly strong.

On Saturday the Germans essayed the crossing of the Somme on rafts in the Nesle sector, but these expeditionary forces were caught by a hail of artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, and virtually wiped out. Yesterday, however, the Germans succeeded in getting troops across in this manner and followed these advance guards up with strong forces which pushed on in the neighborhood of Morehain. The British were contesting the enemy advance fiercely and, at latest reports, were holding the hard hitting enemy strongly.

Battle Most Spectacular. The battle today on the historic ground about Longueval was perhaps the most spectacular of any along the front. It was a day for machine gunners and infantry. The Germans were pursuing their tactics of working forward in massed formations, and the British rapid-fire squads and riflemen were reaping a harvest from their positions on the high ground. Notwithstanding their terrible losses, the Germans kept coming on, filling in the places of those who had fallen and pressing their attacks. The British artillery in the meantime poured in a perfect rain of shells on the enemy, carrying havoc into the ranks of the enemy. In this section the Germans were operating without the full support of their guns because of their rapid advance.

British Abandon Mory. In the north, in the region of Erville, the British last night were forced once more to abandon Mory, which had changed hands several times in the last few days. They fell back for a short distance, and the battle this morning was staked largely along the Bapaume-Arras road. The Germans employed large number of divisions in this assault, which in the early hours was held off by the British gunners. For the last four days, French refugees have been streaming back from the evacuated towns in large numbers. Everywhere along the roads leading to the front were to be met old men, women and children all dragging stonily behind their horse-drawn carts of household furniture, or even packing

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