

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VIII, No. 123.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1918.

WHOLE NUMBER 2918.

JERSEY CITY IS BADLY SHAKEN BY EXPLOSION

EXPLODING AMMUNITION DEMOLISHES FOUR STORY BUILDING AND FIRE RAGES

CAUSE AS YET UNDETERMINED

United States Government Army Piers Across River in New York Fired by Sparks

New York, Mar. 26.—Terrific explosions in a four story brick building in Jersey City, which contained ammunition, commencing about 3 o'clock this afternoon, shook Jersey City and New York, all but causing a panic for a time. A structure occupied by the Jarvis stores and covering nearly two blocks, was virtually destroyed. Fire followed the explosions.

The United States army piers, where ships for Europe load, some blocks north of the ferry house, on the Erie railroad in New York City, directly across the river caught fire, probably from sparks.

The cause of the explosions is undetermined.

EMPEROR ANNOUNCES CAPTURE OF BAPAUME

Amsterdam, Mar. 26.—The fall of Bapaume was announced tonight in a telegram from the German emperor to the empress, 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 600 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."

SLAUGHTER OF HUNS HAS BEEN ENORMOUS

With the British Army in France, Mar. 26.—This has been another day of the 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 Sunday morning. The Germans have continued to hurl great forces of infantry into the conflict, depending largely on weight of numbers to overcome the increasing opposition offered by the heroically resisting British.

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 strong 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.

NOYON EVACUATED BY FRENCH ARMY

Losses so Heavy Germans Compelled to Bring Reinforcements to This Section

Paris, Mar. 26.—The French have evacuated Noyon during the night. They are holding the left bank of the Oise. German losses are so heavy that they have been forced to bring reinforcements from all parts of the western front.

Paris, Mar. 26.—The French forces which are fighting to the south of St. Quentin, are under Noyon, retreating slowly, carrying out strong counter attacks inflicting heavy losses on the Germans, said the war office statement last night.

The text reads: "In the region of Noyon the battle continues with stubbornness, the Germans bringing in without cessation new forces. Our troops in conformity with orders are giving ground foot by foot, but are carrying out vigorous counter attacks and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy."

"Desperate fighting has taken place around Nesle, which has been lost and regained several times. There is artillery fighting at various points along the front. Shells to the number of 1,375 were fired into Rheims last night and during the day."

PREMIER SENDS HAIG CONGRATULATIONS

London, Mar. 26.—Premier Lloyd George wrote to General Haig today as 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 on 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 the 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."

London, Mar. 26.—Field Marshal Haig has sent the following reply to the king's message:

"Your majesty's gracious message has given universal encouragement to the whole army in France. I beg your majesty to accept our respectful and grateful thanks and the assurance that we will steadfastly continue to do our utmost to deserve the inspiring confidence your majesty and the people throughout the empire have placed in us in this hour of national stress."

GERMAN REPORTS FROM THE SOMME

Berlin, Mar. 26.—"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 continued, "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."

TREMENDOUS FORCE OF DRIVE IS DIMINISHING

Germans Are Slowing Up at North and Center, While Around Bapaume, on the Somme and Noyon, Huns Have Gained at Fearful Cost

London, Mar. 26.—British resistance is apparently stiffening. Germans are slowing up at the north and in the center, while around Bapaume, on the Somme and north of Noyon the Germans have gained only at fearful cost.

London, Mar. 26.—The Germans have taken Roys, but are checked west of there and Noyon. In the Roys area British, French and American troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder and French reinforcements are coming.

British Headquarters, Mar. 26.—There is reason to believe important events will be recorded within the next few hours, which may lead to a betterment of positions of the armies stemming the German onslaught. The enemy is fighting desperately against time. In the first day his reserves were reduced to 52 divisions. At the end of the second day some 40 divisions from the reserves were put in action.

Berlin, Mar. 26.—An official statement claims the capture of 953 guns and over 100 tanks, besides the towns of Biaches, Barleux and Etalou.

French Front, Mar. 26.—Entire confidence reigns, that the Germans last trump in the world battle will be over trumped when the proper moment comes. The allies were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check it.

GENERAL WOOD WANTS AN ARMY OF TWO MILLION MEN IN FRANCE

Washington, Mar. 26.—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 the allied military opinion is unanimous that the German offensive will fail, but urged an increase to 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 men in America's army. It was his opinion according to his auditors that the Germans on the west front now are numerically superior, both on the ground and in the air, but that the allies are in a better condition.

While confident the offensive will be halted, before the Germans gain any material advantage, General Wood declared that the warfare would be changed into a more open contest. For that reason he recommended the training of American forces for open warfare as well as for trench fighting.

General Wood 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 steps to increase both the American expeditionary forces and the army in training in this country. Chairman Chamberlain said that General Wood recommended that an army of 2,500,000 men be maintained in France at the earliest possible moment and 2,500,000 be kept in training at home. Another committee member placed General Wood's recommendation at 4,000,000—one-half to be sent to France as soon as possible.

they are employing and the extent of the allied resistance.

The allied losses, it was declared would be far less than those of the Germans because they are fighting on the defense.

SENATOR NEW ATTACKS THE WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, Mar. 26.—Senator New told the senate today that instead of 12,000 combat airplanes being delivered in France by July, as planned, the number will amount to 37.

Plymouth, Mass., Mar. 26.—A government patrol boat struck a rock off Gurnet this morning and sank. It is believed all on board were saved by life savers.

AMERICANS ARE IN THICK OF IT

Three Companies of Yankee Railroad Engineers Attached to the British Forces Are Missing

Washington, Mar. 26.—Three companies of American engineers are among two regiments attached to the British armies in the path of the German onslaught, and have not been heard of. They were employed near Crozat canal. Fears are felt for their safety.

Washington, Mar. 26.—General Pershing cabled the war department last night 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.

This message, announced tonight by Major-General March, acting chief of staff, definitely disposed of reports that American reserves had been sent into the battle.

General Pershing said there was nothing unusual to report from the American sectors.

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. "Reference to the German communiques of March 24 and 25 regarding American troops, two regiments of railway 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 regarding those troops."

BRITISH AVIATORS FIGHTING BRAVELY

London, Mar. 26.—British aviators have bombed the railway station at Cologne, as well as various other important cities in Germany, the official statement on aerial operations announces tonight.

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

"Half a ton of bombs were dropped on the railway stations at Co-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 fighting 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 1,700 bombs were dropped during the day on different targets including the Bruges docks, the Aulnoye railway station and a large camp southeast of Cambrai."

YANKEE POSITIONS GET MUSTARD BALLS

With the American Army in France, Mar. 26.—American positions in the Toul sector have been bombarded by mustard gas shells, but ineffectively. American artillery has demolished segments of the German front lines.

THREE BILLIONS LIBERTY LOAN APRIL SIXTH

ALL OVER SUBSCRIPTIONS AT FOUR AND ONE QUARTER PER CENT INTEREST

PREVIOUS BONDS CONVERTIBLE

Government Will Depreciate Preference of Permitting Previous Bonds Being Converted for Others

Washington, Mar. 26.—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 1/4 per cent 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 today 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.

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 is officially stated they will be long-term, between 20 and 30 years.

COMMANDEERING BILL PASSES THE SENATE

Washington, Mar. 26.—Senator Chamberlain's timber commandeering bill was passed unanimously by the senate today, after being amended to authorize the taking of timber in the forest reserves, thus placing all timber under the commandeering power. This was proposed by Senator Jones of Washington. Another amendment by Senator Frellinghuysen of New Jersey, which was adopted, requires that operations be conducted under rules of the forestry service, which will promote fire protection and conservation. The only other amendment, outside of committee amendments, provides that sawmills shall not be required to increase their equipment.

FIGHTING GOES ON BY NIGHT AND DAY

With the British Armies in the Field, Mar. 26.—With increasing intensity the fighting thunders on from the Scarpe to the Oise.

Captured prisoners declare that the heaviest blows are yet to come. The Germans at heavy cost, have progressed across the old battlefield of the Somme, but the British line everywhere is intact.

Haig's troops have withdrawn in the most perfect order.

All night long the fighting has been most severe, especially along the Sapignies-Bapaume road. The Germans, in dense masses, were hurled forward in the moonlight while the British machine guns raked them in an unending rattle.

Observers close up at the front signaled back to the artillery and the half-stripped gunners fired until their pieces were almost red hot. The enemy is progressing on all fronts.

(Continued on page 3.)