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# The Daily Capital Journal

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Oregon: Tonight and Thursday fair; Wednesday, Thursday, killing; Thursday morning; light northerly winds.



FORTIETH YEAR—NO. 247 SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1917 PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS—FIVE CENTS

## GERMANS WORK HARD TO BLOCK ADVANCE BY FLOODING PLAINS

**Dam Above Nieuport Is Being Feverishly Rushed to Completion by Day and Night Shifts—Object Is To Interpose Barrier of Water Beyond Passchendaele Ridge—German Defense Is Weaker and Offensive Efforts Lack Old-Time Vigor—British Gas Is Now Working Havoc With the Enemy in "Ypres Sector"**

By William Philip Simms, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

With the British armies in Flanders, Oct. 17.—While Haig's guns and men break the German hold on Passchendaele ridge, the Germans are striving desperately to throw against the ever-encroaching advance the barrier which the Belgians successfully invoked to stop the Teutonic hordes of 1914.

The enemy is working night and day rushing to completion a dam two miles above Nieuport, by which they hope to flood the ground beyond Passchendaele ridge.

The very desperation with which they are carrying out this plan, coupled with extreme "jumpiness," which the Boche shows every hour of the day, is due to the knowledge that the German troops cannot hold Passchendaele ridge much longer if the British continue their push.

Prisoned German officers, examined today, admitted as much. One said, however, that plans had been laid so that if the Germans were forced to relinquish the high ground, they would retreat five miles further to prepared positions.

One evidence of how the enemy is "rattled" comes in the failure of his favorite mode of defense—counter-attacks. They have been few and far between and have been absurdly weak.

One of many proofs that the German artillery is disorganized was furnished on one sector, full report of which was received today. There a German bombardment which lasted 26 hours did not cost the British a single casualty. I saw this bombardment. At least forty thousand shots must have been fired at a cost of \$1,250,000—not including wear and tear on German guns. This latter item, as United Press dispatches have heretofore detailed, is not inconsiderable, with Germany as short of metal as she is now.

By a strange twist of fate the British gas is now working havoc with the enemy throughout all this "Ypres sector"—exactly the same portion of the great western battle front where the Germans first used this devilish contrivance of war.

**"TIDE HAS TURNED"—MEDILL**

By W. S. Fogrest, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Paris, Oct. 17.—"The tide has turned; there will be more atrocities; there will be terrible battles; but despite events in Russia the Austro-Germans everywhere are being driven back and from the Carso to the channel they are no longer able to attack."

This was the estimate of the war today by Representative Medill McCormick of Illinois, presented to guests at a luncheon at the Palais Dorsay. Medill said:



What gets us is how a foot ball player is going to explain why he hasn't in the army. "The hardest thing," said Abe Martin, "is to think of something for supper your husband didn't have for lunch."

## OPPOSITION TO LIBERTY LOAN BY SOME PRO GERMAN

**This Accusation Comes From Banks In Southwest Section**

## GERMAN-BORN FARMERS IN MINNESOTA BUY BONDS

**Fifth of Loan Is Subscribed and Only Hard Work Will Win**

**TODAY'S LIBERTY LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

City	Subscriptions	Total
New York	\$20,627,000	\$347,629,950
Chicago	\$20,000,000	78,000,000
Buffalo	2,100,150	19,494,100
S. Frisco	1,000,000	33,300,000
Seattle	667,800	4,840,000
Tacoma	69,700	819,750
Portland, Or.	373,950	4,677,740

Washington, Oct. 17.—An effort by pro-Germans in the southwest to intimidate banks aiding the second Liberty loan was reported to the treasury department today. This was met with a threat to remove government funds from banks not given their hearty cooperation to the bond sales. At the same time a direct drive for subscriptions from the German element is under way.

Minnesota reported that German-born farmers are buying bonds and one Texas bank stated a recently naturalized Teuton doubled his \$1,000 subscription following a shower of congratulations.

The Liberty loan situation is critical today, the treasury department feels. With only a fifth of the five billion dollar goal subscribed, only "the hardest kind of work," it was officially stated, can bring success in the remaining ten days of the campaign.

The nation must now subscribe at the rate \$400,000,000 a day to reach the goal. So far the average daily sales

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## AMERICAN ESCAPES FROM GERMAN CAMP AND REACHES SWEDEN

(By William G. Shepherd) (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Stockholm, Oct. 17.—The first American to escape from a German prison camp housing prisoners taken by the German raider Moewe, reached here today after six waterless days cancelled in the hold of a ship arriving from Kiel.

He was Willet Charles Smith of Norwalk, Conn.

"None of the American prisoners at Lubeck have died," Smith declared, "but their lives were only saved by packages sent from kind-hearted Britishers via Gerna."

"Our guards at Lubeck weren't for the war. They would say 'to hell with the Kaiser. This is a rich man's war in Germany. We want it ended.'"

Smith was the happiest man in the world when he reached Stockholm and freedom.

"You can tell the folks back home," he told the United Press, "that Barney Boyle of Des Moines, Bill Fitzgerald of New York, Oscar Bird, of Charleston, W. Va., and Walter and Harry Mason, both of Baltimore, are still in there."

"Our outboard trip was fine business. But coming home our ship was captured by the German cruiser Moewe. We were all herded aboard her and taken to Kiel. There we were put ashore with 500 others."

"Later we were transferred to a prison camp."

Smith stopped to chuckle reminiscences.

"I spent fourteen days in a dark cell for one previous unsuccessful attempt to escape," he remarked.

And he laughed again, louder than ever.

"You know, our gang of fellows who joined up that winter day in Baltimore often washed in camp that Baltimore had gone dry last November."

"I was loading a German ship with fertilizer when my chance came to escape," said Smith. "I hid myself in the smelly hold—and here I am. I didn't have any water for six days—but I'm here."

## Edgar M. Rowland Writes to Folks in Salem

Edgar M. Rowland, a Salem boy who is now stationed at Camp Greene, near Charlotte, N. C., writes home as follows:

"The camp here is so large that one can easily get lost in it. Today is Sunday and I am doing bank fatigue. Haven't had any straw for my tick until today I got desperate and went to the stables and got it."

"The nights are pretty cool here and we have our stoves up and in the evenings you will always find a fire in the tin."

"The people here were at first rather afraid of the western boys and expected them to be wild and woolly and to do things in a cowboy like style. But now they like us and think we are pretty fine."

"I am going to church Sunday. The people are very kind and always invite the soldiers for dinner on Sundays. There is no place to drill only in the company streets. Our work of training will begin soon."

"On our trip down we saw mostly desert until we came near New Orleans into the sugar cane country and miles and miles of cotton. Saw lots of Mexicans through Texas, and then came the negroes. At El Paso the ladies at the Red Cross gave us our breakfast."

"We arrived at camp at noon of October 3. An auto truck company moved us and they had to do it in a hurry as there was nine other trains to be unloaded. We have 12 bands here and lots of music and eight Y. M. C. A. and all convalesced full on Sunday. Our week days they are full of boys writing letters home."

## BAKER REPORTS PROGRESS OF WAR DURING WEEK PAST

**Says Allies Are Driving Wedge In German Lines In Flanders**

## SOONER OR LATER SPLIT WILL PERMIT FLANKING

**Operations In West Have Recently Been Retarded by Bad Weather**

(By Carl D. Groat) (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Oct. 17.—With a veritable typhoon of fire, the allies are driving a wedge into the German line in Flanders. Sooner or later, this wedge may split the Teuton line and permit of a flanking move, instead of the unceasing frontal attacks, which up to recent date have meant only throwing men into the maelstrom of slaughter without real tactical advantage.

This significant fact developed today in Secretary of War Baker's weekly war summary. The "typhoon fire" raged on the Germans is causing him real concern; in fact, such deep worry that he has been forced to "amend his tactical dispositions in an effort to meet the shock of shell rained upon his lines." The front has been so extended with the French aiding that the Flanders fighting is practically revolutionary.

"It is no longer to be considered a salient," says the summary, "but an ever extending wedge progressively driven into the German lines."

From a military standpoint this is one of the most significant developments of the war, inasmuch as it marks a departure from the out-and-out frontal attack which tacticians have said is little more than continuous murder. With this wedge driven through, the whole west fighting would take on a changed character, with a chance for shells and men, as the predominant and determinant factor. The French are highly praised for their part along with the British.

**Secretary's Statement.**

The secretary's statement says: "The allied offensives in Flanders continues methodically."

"Assigned objectives attained with increasing regularity indicate efficient co-ordination of artillery preparation and infantry attacks."

"The precision of the allied barrage is proved by the low casualties of the assaulting columns."

"The deadly effect of allied artillery fire is confirmed to us by reports reaching us regarding the capture of the German high command at the new allied 'typhoon fire' which is compelling the enemy to amend his tactical dispositions in an effort to meet the shock of shell rained upon his lines."

"French participation in the operations in Flanders is the outstanding feature of events during the past week."

"The successes attained by the French forces operating particularly in the neighborhood of the Houthulst wood, have given the allied advance in Flanders the needed elbow room."

"The zone of operation in the Ypres salient, formerly too narrow for the proper disposition of large masses of British troops, has now by the French cooperation and their recent successful advance, so extended the line that fighting in what was the Ypres salient has changed in character. It is no longer to be considered a salient, but an ever extending wedge, progressively driven into the German lines."

"The operations of the French during the past week are in fact complementary to the engagements which resulted in the capture of Messines by the British last June."

"During the engagements of the week the French everywhere maintained their positions won in the face of repeated onslaughts."

"Strong German detachments were ordered to dislodge the French, who now hold the advance positions between the Victoire and Pategoat farms, east of Draebank. These were repulsed."

**Bad Weather Hampers.**

"As was to be expected at this season, bad weather has somewhat retarded the allied advance."

"Operations were hampered, owing to the fact that the well drained ground of the Passchendaele ridge once passed over, the advancing columns are confronted with the water-logged, soggy Flanders plain, which stretches on to Roulers and beyond."

"The infantry was further impeded by the fact that allied artillery preparation has so plowed up the ground that the terrain has been turned into a sea of mud."

"Torrential rains and low-lying clouds rendered aircraft observation difficult and under ordinary circumstances would have caused a suspension of offensive operations, but the inclement weather has not prevented extension

## SOCIALISTS WILL OPPOSE PROPOSED GERMAN WAR LOAN

**Government Will Ask Credit of Ten Billion Marks In December**

## CHANCELLOR MICHAELIS IS TO BE FORCED TO RESIGN

**On This Condition Only Will Socialist Party Uphold Government**

Amsterdam, Oct. 1.—German socialists will vote solidly against the war credit of ten billion marks at the next session of the reichstag, in December, unless Chancellor Michaelis resigns, according to quotations from a German socialist daily reaching here today.

The decision of the socialists to hold their war credits vote as a club against Michaelis was reached at the congress of the majority socialists now taking place at Wurzburg, Bavaria.

A resolution urging the reunion of the two socialist factions in Germany for the purpose of conducting a more concerted peace propaganda was adopted by the congress.

Dr. David, in pleading for the reunion of the Scheidemann and Haase factions, justified the support of the war credits hitherto by the majority faction on the ground that failure to have done so would have played into the hands of Germany's enemies. Dr. David delivered a scathing indictment of the Pan-Germanists in general. He charged that the Pan-Germanists were about the only obstacle to peace and that they were more interested in war. In conclusion, he demanded that Germany follow the example of Austria in formulating her peace aims, especially as regards Belgium.

For some time there have been signs that the two socialist factions in Germany, the majority led by Philip Scheidemann and the minority led by Hugo Haase, one of the reichstag members to be tried for alleged complicity in the recent naval revolt at Wilhelmshaven, would reunite their forces for a common assault against the government.

The apparent plan of the government to wreck the organization of the independent socialists and the charges against Haase, Voghter and Dittmann, whom the Kaiser has ordered to be tried, seem to have played a decisive part in the probable reunion of the two socialist factions.



"WE'LL KEEP THE FAITH WITH THE DEAD"

## AMERICAN CAPTAIN TRAPPED THE RAIDER

**Master of Sunken Schooner R. C. Slade Dave De-sired "Information"**

San Francisco, Oct. 17.—Captain Harold Smith, master of the American schooner R. C. Slade, armed with a knowledge of the vagaries of the South Pacific's currents, ended the career of the German commerce raider Seadler. This was revealed today following the arrival of Captain Smith, whose vessel was the first victim of the raider in Pacific waters.

After the Seadler had sunk the Slade and the schooners Manila and A. B. Johnson, Count Luckner, the raider's commander, told Captain Smith the Seadler's crew had been at sea for 2 1/2 months and he wanted to land them for "a little shore leave" on some Pacific atoll. Captain Smith told Count Luckner how to make a landing on Moehpa island.

"Run close into shore," he said, "and the count did. Instead of 48 hours the changing currents of the south sea had the Seadler on the coral reef, a total loss."

But Count Luckner kept his promise of a "picnic" for his men. The hold of the Seadler disgorged countless bottles of champagne and kegs of beer, and there followed a drunker party like the one which Smith has never seen.

After several days on the atoll, Luckner, with a picked crew, set to sea in a motor boat and later the remaining members of the raider's crew captured the French schooner Lutec.

Smith left the island in a small sloop with some of his men and ten days after reached Pago-Pago.

Three-cent postage stamps November 2, the first since September 30, 1913. Will Uncle Sam change back to the old color, too? That was green, if you remember.

(Continued on Page Two.)