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SPECIAL WILLAMETTE VAL-
LEY NEWS SERVICE

The Daily Capital Journal

TODAY'S WEATHER
Oregon: Tonight fair, warmer except near coast; light frost east portion. Friday showers and cooler west, fair and warmer east portion.



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MILITARY OFFICIALS DECLARE BATTLE IS DECISIVE FOR GERMANY

Certainty of Checking Germans Unanimously Asserted—At End of Battle Germans Will Be Exhausted and Incapable of Another Offensive—German Lines Being Pounded by Vast Assemblage of Artillery—German Gains Are of No Vital Effect—France Cahn and Confident

By Henry Wood

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
With the French Armies in the Field, April 17.—(Night)—Every inch of the German line from south of the Somme to the Oise—a front of ninety kilometers (55.89 miles), is being pounded by the vastest artillery concentration yet attained by the allies. Even the country for miles to the rear of the enemy positions is under bombardment.

Prisoners say the cannonading, in addition to preventing the digging of a single trench, is inflicting the heaviest losses.

The offensive has reached a stage where allied military officials declare unanimously that the present battle is absolutely and irrevocably decisive for Germany. With the allies' present certainty of checking the German offensive, coupled with the known German losses, the Germans at the battle's end will be exhausted and incapable of seriously attempting another offensive. Instead, they will have to remain on the defensive, constantly threatened by internal upheavals, while American arrivals swell the superiority of the allies.

French military officials declare the French army is capable of waiting another eighteen months if necessary to attain a crushing superiority. But with the Americans maintaining or increasing their rate of arrivals, the final military victory is possible much sooner.

Pay Daily for Gains

London, April 18.—German infantry, attacking in three waves south-east of Kemmel hill, pressed us back slightly at one point, but a counter attack restored the situation. Field Marshal Haig reported today "Shortly after mid-day the attack had been repulsed at all points."

In the Baillieu sector the enemy, attacking three times before mid-day was completely repulsed.

"Our line yesterday was intact on the whole front. There was no change in the British front during the night," Haig said.

"There was hostile artillery on the Lys battle front, from Givenchy to eastward of Robecq, continuing until dawn between Lecon and Robecq.

"Local attacks on the Merris sector yesterday evening were repulsed.

"More detailed reports of the fighting yesterday in Nieppe forest and on the Wytschaete front established the severity of the enemy's losses."

The Germans again are in possession of Ytschaete and Meteren, it is admitted in Field Marshal Haig's night official report.

The British recaptured these villages in counter attacks yesterday morning, but were compelled to evacuate them again in the face of continued enemy assaults. The French are co-operating with the British on this front, Haig said.

(Continued on page two)

Abe Martin



Another thing we can't understand is why it is necessary to solicit a red-blooded American to buy a Liberty bond. Who remembers when we used to borrow a cow to mow the lawn?

SPLILLED THE SOUP.

With the American Armies in Lorraine, April 17.—The American artillery on this front already has reduced the German artillery by two thirds, silencing enemy batteries with only a few minutes bombardment. The French are amazed at the Yankee gunners' accuracy.

A lieutenant commanding one gun spotted a German "rolling kitchen."

"By gosh! I'll bet I can splash one in Helme's soup," he exclaimed.

The first shot was too "long" the second was too "short". The third spilled the soup.

This is just an example of the extremely small targets the American artillerymen are capable of hitting.

The Americans are now the masters of No Man's Land on this sector. Every night five to eight patrols scurry from the outposts and smash the enemy's dugouts, listening posts and machine gun nests.

An officer and 12 men raided five machine gun nests, a field telephone post and some snipers' hiding places without loss. They spent five hours mapping the entire area before that section of the American trenches

PLEADED GUILTY

San Francisco, April 18.—Captain A. R. Paulson, former skipper of the steamer Alliance, pleaded guilty today to a charge of conspiring to ship arms and ammunition into Mexico. He will be sentenced tomorrow.

LIETUENANT McQUARRIE IS DISCIPLE OF OPTIMISM

For Hour and Half Story of Battle Keeps Audience Forgetful of Time

"Don't worry about the situation in France. We've got it in the neck and so will you. It has done us good and it will do you good. We will win all right and your boys will be marching down the streets of Berlin singing Yankee Doodle Do."

With this optimistic view of the critical situation in France, Lieutenant Hector MacQuarrie held spell bound an audience last night that packed the armory to its utmost capacity.

For the lieutenant is not an orator

FOCH KEEPS COOL AND WAITS PATIENTLY THE TIME TO STRIKE

Will Not Use Reserves Until Right Moment To Make Blow Effective

By J. W. T. Mason
(Written for the United Press)

New York, April 18.—Further stiffening of the British front today justifies General Foch's reluctance to use up a great part of his reserves in defensive fighting to protect Ypres and Hazebrouck.

If Von Hindenburg's bloody effort to reach the channel ports can be permanently checked without disturbing the allies' reserves, the Germans will have met one of the most serious defeats in the war. It will mean that Hindenburg has failed to compel Foch to accept the German conditions for an allied offensive. This unquestionably is the reason why Foch is showing such persistent refusal to employ his reserves along the northern end of the battle front.

It is unreasonable to expect Foch to develop at this time so overwhelming a counter offensive as would force the Germans back to the positions they occupied before the present drive began.

When the Germans started their advance four weeks ago, they were fresh and had spent all winter preparing their plans and accumulating vast stores of munitions. The allies are now weakened because of their defensive fighting and have shot away a large part of their reserve ammunition.

For Foch to use his reserves now for offensive purposes would be to attempt to drive the Germans back while the allies have probably not more than fifty per cent of their maximum offensive efficiency. To take the offensive about Ypres and Hazebrouck would mean for Foch as heavy a price in casualties for menager gains as Hindenburg is now paying. This would suit Hindenburg admirably. He could turn to the German people and declare that the allies' reserves had been enticed into battle at the farthest point away from German territory, and at a time when the allies' efficiency was far from its potential maximum.

Hindenburg recently said a battle is a living thing that takes time to develop. Foch understands quite well that this maxim holds true also, for a counter offensive.

FRENCH HELP MAY TURN THE TIDE IN FLANDERS FIGHT

Situation Such That Further British Retirement Is Probable

Washington, April 18.—America may soon wear a "liberty shoe" and "war suits"—to be manufactured at low cost on a large scale and with very few shapes.

Models and specifications for the shoe and suits are being considered by the war industries board. While board officials said neither is imminent, ultimately the country must prepare for this standardization. If the example of England is followed, the tan shoe will go.

The standard war suits will be made in a few designs of standardized materials and with a retail price fixed.

Rapidly rising prices on necessities, resulting from the tremendous war orders which are usurping the output of clothing and shoe factories make necessary firm action by the government to protect civilian consumers.

Officials indicate that only standardized clothing controlled by a sweeping price fixing policy covering every stage of manufacture from raw material to the finished product will save the country from economic difficulties if the war continues.

The war industries board is silently plugging into its price fixing activities. Wool manufacturers have been notified to appear tomorrow for conference with Chairman Baruch if the board. Leather manufacturers were here earlier in the week. Cotton men were assembled in New York, working on plans for regulation of their own industry to be submitted to Baruch. Representatives of other industries will be called in the future.

The rapid rise in price of necessities lately has alarmed officials. The prices are not the result in all cases of shortage of raw materials. Raw cotton, for instance, dropped sharply on the cotton exchange last week, but in

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TO CLIP MILLION MILES PER MONTH FROM TRAIN RUNS FROM TRAIN RUNS

Director McAdoo to Reduce Passenger Service West of Mississippi

Washington, April 18.—Director General McAdoo is about to clip 1,000,000 miles a month from the total mileage traveled by passenger trains west of the Mississippi river.

Details of the remodeled train schedules are practically complete and an official announcement of the change is expected within ten days, it was learned at the offices of the railroad administration here today.

The revolutionary change, besides releasing scores of locomotives for hauling war necessities, is directly in line with McAdoo's policy of economy in operations of the national railways. It will place passenger service on a strictly war basis. One train practically will be doing the work of two, it was said.

Constant calls for speed in handling materials needed in the prosecution of the war has forced the transportation of passengers to be given secondary consideration. Recent elimination of "superfluous trains" east of the Mississippi river has provided a basis for the rearrangement of train schedules in other sections. The plan, which will be announced shortly, is expected to affect the entire west.

Must Fill Coaches

Although the cut in service promises to be the most drastic since the government took charge of the rail lines, officials stated the re-scheduling has been worked out on purely an efficiency basis. They asserted the public would suffer few inconveniences.

Transcontinental trains no longer will be permitted to carry half filled coaches. And they will make more stops since contemplated changes will eliminate numerous local trains. The number of trains from coast to coast will be fewer. Details as to the exact reduction in that service were refused, but it was understood the same curtailment would be effected as on connecting eastern lines, where fewer trains have proved practical.

The "north" routes to the Pacific coast are regarded by officials as having the highest percentage of "superfluous trains." Therefore fewer trains especially between Chicago and St. Paul, is certain to be the rule.

Barges on Canals

Little change in southern transcontinental service is anticipated. One fast train, however, was said to be due for conversion into a local traffic carrier.

This action is another part of McAdoo's far reaching plans for conserving transportation facilities in anticipation of the great strain expected as America responds to the allies' appeals for reinforcements.

Yesterday it was announced that to improve facilities in the congested east, McAdoo would construct and put into operation a line of barges on the Erie canal. This co-ordination of canal and railroad facilities will be under the direction of G. A. Tomlinson, Duluth, Minn., and all traffic that can be

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