

U. S. TROOPS IN FLANDERS

Germans Expected to Play Last High Trump In Next Attempt to Break Through Allied Line

GREAT GUNS HAMMERING THE FRENCH FRONT

Americans On Line Barring Way to Coast

America is contributing to the stiffening of the Allied line not only in Picardy but in Flanders. American troops, today's dispatches report, have arrived on the British front and are finishing their training among the troops holding the line which bars the way of the Germans to the English channel, their objective in the north.

It is stated these Americans are the first troops to get into the fighting zone as units brigaded with the British. They are part of the force which has been dispatched from the United States in the new movement of troops forecast soon after the German offensive was 23.

It seems not improbable that there will be a renewal of the German thrust in the Flanders' area shortly, either as a separate operation or in conjunction with a re-opening of the offensive on a great scale all along the battle line.

German Guns Active.
The German guns have been persistently active all around the Lys salient, where the enemy's wedge protrudes toward Hazelbrouck, the railway junction which is the key to the transportation system in this whole area, and an increase in the intensity of the bombardment there is reported by the London war office today.

On the Somme front the chief activity continues to manifest itself in the vicinity of Haillies, where the German salient in Picardy has its tip. The French have been cutting into the German advance line here recently and the guns of the opposing artillery forces are again hammering hard at each other's positions, as if in preparation for some new movement by one side or the other.

Except for raiding operations there have been no infantry actions on either of the battle fronts. The air forces have been extremely busy, however, and incidentally the Americans are showing effective work in this branch of the fighting service.

Thus, following the bringing down of three airplanes in one day, the American aviation force has added another German machine to its list of victims. The latest enemy machine to fall from American attack was brought down this morning in the sector north of Toul.

Americans in France.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—Troops of the new American army have arrived within the zone of the British forces in northern France and are now completing their training in the area occupied by the troops which are blocking the path of the Germans to the channel ports.

Paris Reports American Arrival.
PARIS, May 17.—Announcement was made here today that American troops have arrived in northern France, in the zone occupied by British forces.

The announcement concludes with the statement that the relations between the British and American officers and soldiers are extremely cordial.

Their commander already has commanded American forces in the trenches on the French front.

The British officers and men who are training the new force say the Americans are of the finest material and are certain to give a most excellent account of themselves.

Americans Loudly Cheered.
British troops greeted the Americans not only as comrades in arms, but as warm friends. On arriving within the British zone they were cheered lustily by the sons of Britain, many of whom bore unmistakable signs of battle. They had not seen the Americans before but they knew they were coming.

The latest stages of their training before entering the line were begun almost as soon as they reached their destinations. From that point they could hear the rumble of the not-distant guns.

How long the American troops have been with the British when the news that they are making their presence felt along the line may be expected and where the homes of the men are cannot be disclosed.

LONDON, May 17.—The German artillery fire is increasingly active from Locon to Hinges, along the western side of the Flanders' salient and between the forest of Nieppe and Metern.

SIGNAL FAILURE OF HUNS

Aviation in Great Offensive on West Front Breaks Down.

ENORMOUS WASTAGE
Germans Lack Both Men and Machines in Flying Program.

LONDON, May 6.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—German aviation has proved a signal failure in the great offensive on the western front, according to an officer correspondent of the Morning Post.

"Returning from the front, he says: 'German aviation does not exist at present. There were two principal reasons, the first being the tremendous wastage caused by the incessant attacks of the British and French pilots on German machines, the second being the bombing of airdromes. The enemy today suffers from lack both of men and machines in its flying program.'

Seven Submarines Destroyed by Crews

LONDON, Thursday, May 16.—The seven British submarines destroyed by their crews at Helsingfors to prevent their being captured by the Germans reached the Baltic sea either through the straits between Denmark and Norway and Sweden or by way of Archangel, according to an admiralty statement. The class C boats went by way of Archangel while the class E boats took the other routes.

Violent Artillery Fighting.
PARIS, May 17.—Violent artillery fighting in the region of Haillies, southeast of Amiens, is reported in today's official statement.

The announcement follows: "During the night there was a violent bombardment in the region of Haillies.

"Near Mesnil-St. Georges we repulsed a German raid and took prisoners. South of Canny-Sur-Matz (southeast of Montdidier) French detachments penetrated the German lines at two points bringing back forty prisoners including an officer.

"On the southern bank of the Oise German attacks on small French posts in the sector of Varennes were broken up by our fire.

"Elsewhere the night passed in quiet."

Morning Review of War Situation.
Germany still hesitates to renew heavy fighting on the main battlefields of the western front but the increase in aerial artillery activity indicates that infantry action on a larger scale than in the past two weeks soon may be in progress.

Allied and German gunners are harassing the opposing lines with shell fire and this fighting continues most marked on the front north of the Lys, in Flanders and south of the Somme, in Picardy. It has been the German policy to precede a strong infantry operation with a few hours of the most intense artillery fire, but the enemy bombardments have not yet reached the highest pitch, though it is believed the German preparation for another offensive move are about completed.

Airmen Are Busy.
Recently British and French airmen have been meeting with little opposition in dropping mobs on railway stations, troop encampments and other military targets behind the German

AVIATOR KILLED IN TEST

Captain of Royal Italian Flying Corps Falls to Death.

ENORMOUS WASTAGE
Officer Crushed Under One of Three Heavy Engines.

NEW YORK, May 17.—Captain Antonio Silvio Rosnati of the Royal Italian Flying corps, who piloted the ten passenger Caproni biplane from Washington to New York and back again recently, was killed at noon today at the Hempstead flying field.

Rosnati, one of the most famous Italian military aviators, met his death while testing an American built Caproni plane of the bombing type recently authorized for purchase by the United States government.

Flying alone and carrying a cargo of sixty bombs, Captain Rosnati left the flying field on what was to have been the first test of the new type of biplane. The machine rose only 100 feet when one of the planes crumpled and it fell backward. Captain Rosnati, strapped to his seat, was unable to release himself in time and one of the three heavy engines crushed him to death.

GERMAN BIRTH RATE DECLINING

Compulsory Marriage for People Under Twenty Recommended by Commission.

LONDON, May 17.—The German commission appointed to examine the decline in the birth rate in Germany has reported a recommendation for the compulsory marriage of Germans before their twentieth year is passed, according to a dispatch to the Daily Express from Amsterdam.

Financial assistance would be granted by the state, according to this plan, which provides penalties for those failing to comply. Provision also is made for the punishment of married couples who remain childless.

A report compiled by the local government board based on information from German sources shows a fall in the birth rate in Germany for the three years 1915 to 1917, inclusive, equivalent to the loss of two million infants. Forty per cent fewer births occurred in 1916 than in 1913. These figures are compared with a decrease of 10 per cent in the birth rate in England and Wales.

The infantile death rate in Germany has been kept well down, but nevertheless, the report shows, is 50 per cent higher than in England and Wales.

MRS. PALMER LEAVES ONLY TWO MILLION

CHICAGO, May 17.—The personal property left by Mrs. Potter Palmer, the society leader who died last week in Florida, is estimated at \$2,600,000. This is exclusive of the trust and estate left by Mrs. Palmer's husband which twelve years ago was estimated at \$8,000,000. Mrs. Palmer's will was filed today.

U. S. LABOR LEADER VISITS THE FRONT



This snapshot of Martin F. Ryan, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and member of the executive council railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, was made on the occasion of the visit of the American labor committee to an industrial plant in England recently. The committee of which Mr. Ryan is a member made a tour of all war industries plants in the British Isles and it is now inspecting the conditions on the allied front in France.

LIEUT. MAXON AGAIN REPORTED AMONG MISSING

BALTIMORE, Md., May 16.—Lieutenant Charles Maxon of Baltimore, reported missing in action in today's casualty list, was twice before captured by the Germans, escaping the first time and being rescued by British troops the second time. In each instance, Maxon, who was attached to the medical corps of the British army was on the battlefield attending to the wounded.

Lieutenant Maxon's wife received a letter from him yesterday which said that he was back with the British troops and had been decorated twice for bravery. He gave no details of deeds for which he received the decorations.

FIFTH WINTER OF WAR NOW IS INEVITABLE

BERNE, Switzerland, May 17.—Via British Admiralty per Wireless Press.—In a speech before the Wuerstemberg diet, Herr Hausmann, one of the leaders of the Progressive party, said that a fifth winter of war was now inevitable.

Germans must make up their minds to face disappointment, he said, instead of obtaining the victory hoped for during the summer.

MEATLESS DAYS ABOLISHED.
LONDON, May 17.—Meatless days in London restaurants are abolished beginning today. Restrictions on eating meat in restaurants have been made unnecessary by the meat ration system now in force.

FLIERS BAG 5 PLANES

British Bomb Factories and Railway Station at Saarbrucken.

ENGAGE IN FIGHT
Destroy Five Hun Machines and Lose One in Battle.

With THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—American aviators in the section northwest of Toul brought down another German airplane this morning.

Full details of the action have not been received. It appears, however, that Lieutenant Edward Rickenbacher of Columbus, O., answering an alarm shortly after daylight, encountered three enemy planes. He attacked them and shot one down three kilometers inside the enemy lines.

Lieutenant Rickenbacher, formerly an automobile racer, was decorated with the French war cross on Wednesday. He assisted in bringing down a German airplane in enemy territory two weeks ago.

RUSSIANS FLEE FROM AUSTRIAN MARTIAL PATROL

LONDON, Thursday, May 16.—Martial law has been proclaimed at Odessa by the Austrian commandant at the request of the Germans, according to advices from Amsterdam. Street fighting in Odessa is reported. At Kiev Austrian patrols are in the streets day and night and thousands of persons are fleeing from the city.

Berlin expects to receive 150,000 sheep and 50,000 pigs shortly from Rumania and 100,000 tons of cereals in July or August.

TEN PASSENGERS ON FRENCH SHIP KILLED

PARIS, May 17.—Ten passengers, one European and nine Arabs were killed when the French steamer Atlantique was torpedoed in the Mediterranean early this month. The steamship managed to reach a port by her own steam, it is announced. She measures 6447 tons.

ALLIES AWAIT SMASH

Germans Expected to Show Their Hand Soon.

ENGAGE IN FIGHT
Next Push to Be of Great Magnitude and Fierceness.

WITH THE BRITISH TROOPS IN FRANCE, May 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—The ideal flying yesterday on the British front in Flanders constituted a bad period for the enemy aerial service. One British brigade alone up to 3 o'clock in the afternoon had destroyed fifteen German planes and have driven six others down out of control, according to unofficial but reliable figures which the correspondent learned and at least five other hostile machines were sent crashing down.

Today is another perfect day and it is certain to see many bitter clashes in the air.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Thursday, May 18.—The allies are still waiting for Field Marshal von Hindenburg to show his hand. No more magnificent weather could be imagined than has favored the western front in the last 48 hours. But even this has brought no change in the military situation. The Germans continue to remain comparatively inactive in their sunbaked defenses and were it not for the grumbling of the guns, the clouds of the dust along the lines of transport and the flight of airplanes winging their way across the battle zone it would be hard to realize that a war was going on.

Notwithstanding this, there has been no relaxation of the tension which has existed along the front for many days. It is realized that the enemy may strike at any time. Certainly no one doubts that an ambitious offensive is in preparation and the time necessary to complete the plans must have about run its course.

The delay is in itself an added indication that the next German push is to be one of great magnitude and fierceness. This next battle may easily be the crucial one, for the Germans undoubtedly will attempt once more to smash entirely through the allied lines.

If the Germans again fail to achieve their aim—and all along this front there is confidence that they will—the defending forces will feel easy once more for they feel that if the enemy cannot break through this time he will have played his last high trump. Then it will be the beginning of the end for the Central powers, military experts say.

In this connection the assistance of America, fast coming to the rescue, is emphasized. It is felt that with steadily increasing manpower the allies will be able to resume the offensive and reclaim the land overrun by the invaders. Dependency is being placed out here on the help of the United States in delivering the finishing blow. She holds the balance of power and the prospects are being discussed eagerly throughout the length of the line. Everywhere there is the greatest confidence in America on the part of allied officers and men.

MORE TO THE PURPOSE.

Daughter—I tell you, mother, you are prejudiced against Reginald, but he is a coming man.

Mother—Perhaps so, but I wish he had more "go" in him.