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Germany Stakes All in Hopes of Success in Spring Offensive

FINAL TRIAL OF STRENGTH ON WESTERN FRONT MAY BE EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT ANY MOMENT NOW

RUMORS THAT BOLSHEVIKI GOVT HAS BEEN OVERTHROWN BY SOCIAL REVOLUTIONISTS

GERMANS RELY ON NEW METHODS TO BREAK THROUGH ALLIED LINES

Tanks, a New "Mysterious Gas" and Surprise Attacks Will be Used—Troops Have Received Special Training—Enemy Officers Hope for Success But Men Are Dubious—Express Desire for Peace By Arrangement

British Army Headquarters in France, Feb. 19.—(By the Associated Press)—The great German offensive on the western front may be expected to begin at any moment now, and as far as the British front is concerned, the main thrust will be made on the sector between Arras and St. Quentin. Tanks and a "new mysterious gas" will be employed by the enemy in the attempt to break through the Allied lines. Other attacks will be delivered farther south. These facts have become known through German prisoners and from information gleaned in other ways.

The plans of the German high command are complete and after many weeks of intensive training of assaulting troops they are ready to make the supreme and final effort which has been averted so widely in the past weeks. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg and Gen. Von Ludendorff appear to have realized that the old methods of attack, in which bombardment alone is employed, are too well known to produce the result desired. Accordingly, the German troops are being told that surprise attacks, such as were used in Galicia last summer, at Riga and again on the Isonzo, are to be tried against the Allies on the western front.

Much stress has been laid on the fact that tanks with a new gas are to be used, leaving the infantry little to do but to walk through the gaps and consolidate the positions captured. German troops have been trained to make long approach marches and then to storm enemy positions after a short gas shell bombardment. Those obstacles which the German artillery fire has not obliterated will be pushed by the troops or ignored.

The German infantry will rely on weight of numbers, masses of machine guns and mobile batteries to finish the work begun by the tanks and the gas. "Wag" has been pointed out by the German high command that few of the "new troops" will receive the effects of the tanks, the gas and the bombardment, and that fresh German infantry will overcome speedily any resistance offered in captured positions.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROUMANIA

Amsterdam, Feb. 19.—Peace negotiations with Roumania, a telegram from Berlin says, it is understood, have not yet begun. They probably will commence Friday when Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the foreign secretary, likely will arrive at Ploesti to take charge of the German negotiations.

Peace terms offered Roumania by Germany, the Neueste Nachrichten of Leipzig says, must include the surrender of the Dobruja to Bulgaria. Germany also must demand an indemnity of an economic kind, especially as to raw materials. The newspaper continues: "We allow Roumania to keep the mouth of the Danube, she must pledge herself to support only a central European economic policy. We could not allow her to have a wholly anti-German king, but Ferdinand's influence after the war will be gone altogether."

MAJOR BOWLERS AT Y. M. C. I.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Score 1, Score 2, Total. Includes Moore, Sullivan, Hazwood, McMan, Scott, Shaanocks, Bridgman, Gallagher, McCarthy, Ryan, Johnson.

The bowling alleys are proving a great success this year. Last week Morris Jarvin won the pipe offered each week or the highest single strike. His score was 138.

BILLION DOLLAR BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 18.—The billion dollar bill, an urgent appropriation bill, carrying half a billion for the military establishment and large sums for the navy and other branches of the government, was passed today by the house without a record vote. In direct appropriations and in authorization for obligations during the remainder of this fiscal year, the total of the measure is \$1,102,200,000. It now goes to the senate, where it will be given prompt consideration.



THE JUDAS KISS WAS BURIED WITH MILITARY HONORS

Impressive Funeral of Cadet Joseph Brosnan of Aviation Corps, Recently Killed in Texas

The realization of the toll that war takes was brought home once more to citizens of St. John this morning as they stood with heads bare and tear-dimmed eyes and watched the body of Joseph Brosnan, the young aviator who was killed in Texas recently, taken to its last resting place on earth.

Shortly before nine o'clock this morning the body was taken to St. Peter's church, where solemn requiem mass was celebrated. Rev. Peter Costello, C. S. R., officiated and was assisted by Rev. P. Coghlan, C. S. R., as deacon, and Rev. J. Coffin, C. S. R., as sub-deacon. The choir was in attendance and sang several hymns. At the conclusion of mass solemn libera was conducted. The ceremony was very impressive and the church was filled to its capacity.

The body was then placed in the hearse and covered with a Union Jack and the funeral cortege swung into line and proceeded to the New Catholic cemetery on Main, Mill and Pond streets to City road. Following a number of coaches, came a baroque laden hearse, surrounded by six pall-bearers from the Knights of Columbus, relatives of the young aviator, officers of the Depot Battalion and others who have returned from the battle fields of France, members of the War Veterans Association, Knights of Columbus, members of St. Peter's Y. M. C. A., members of the St. John Power Boat Club, and citizens in general.

As the procession wended its way along Main street, hundreds of people lined the sidewalks and took one last look at the casket which bore the remains of one who offered the supreme sacrifice in order that democracy might reign and the world be freed from a would-be oppressing nation. As the band played the dead march many an eye sparkled with the tears that would not stay back and many were the prayers sent from the depths of their hearts.

The funeral cortege disbanded at the corner of Pond and Mill streets, and the relatives, a delegation from the Knights of Columbus and some members of St. Peter's Y. M. C. A. in addition to officers and the soldiers forming the firing squad, proceeded to the cemetery. As the body was gently lowered into the grave the last post was sounded and the farewell salute of three rounds was fired.

First reports from outlying parts of London say that the gun defence never was more effective than Monday night when it prevented German aerial raider from reaching London. The Germans were engaged both by the guns which

CANADIANS IN SUCCESSFUL RAID SOUTH OF LENS

Prisoners Taken And Enemy Loses Many by Casualties

AIRPLANES DOWNED

British Aviators Bring Down Ten German Aircraft And Disable Six Others—Activities On American Front

London, Feb. 19.—An extensive raid was carried out by British troops last night on the Flanders front, in the southern section of Houtholst Wood, the war office announced today. There were two other successful raids, one in the region south of Lens, carried out by Canadian troops, and the other on the old Arras front, in the neighborhood of Beechy. The Flanders raid was a particularly important affair, resulting in heavy casualties to the Germans.

Ten German airplanes were brought down and six more were disabled by British airmen Sunday, according to an official statement on aerial activities issued last night. Hundreds of bombs and dropped bombs, but without damage. One hostile machine was driven to earth in a damaged condition by an American aviator.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—There has been considerable increase in aerial activity in the American sector since last night. Enemy planes again flew over the town where a few days ago an American field hospital was located, and dropped bombs, but without damage. One hostile machine was driven to earth in a damaged condition by an American aviator.

The artillery action also was lively and a number of casualties are reported. One shell dropped on a cook tent and wounded six men. Three men in the trenches were wounded by shrapnel, including a second lieutenant. Several others were injured when a town was shelled.

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—Twenty-five thousand Filipinos are under arms and are drilling in the hope of being called into the United States army for service in France, according to C. W. O'Brien, who returned today from Manila.

Ban Removed. Geneva, Feb. 19.—The ban which several countries had placed upon British, French and Italian newspapers at the German frontier has now been removed. American newspapers are also admitted, but are carefully censored.

Spain's Protest. Madrid, Feb. 19.—Former representations to Germany respecting submarine warfare will be made by Spain in a note which is being prepared by Premier Azaña, upon which the cabinet will pass tomorrow.

German Terms. London, Feb. 14.—A despatch to the Times from Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, as declaring in his report upon the ending of the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, that the German terms included the retention of Poland, Lithuania, Riga and Moon Island and an indemnity of 200,000,000, presumably in gold.

Occupy Russian Town. Vienna, Feb. 19, via London.—The German army group under command of General Alexander von Linsingen, according to an official statement issued by the Austrian war office, has occupied the Russian town of Lutsk, in Volhynia, without fighting.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 19.—German forces have entered Dvinsk, it was officially announced today by the German war office.

The Russians unsuccessfully attempted to blow up the bridge across the Dvinsk river.

CONCEDE NEED FOR INCREASED WAGES. Washington, Feb. 19.—The necessity for increased wages for railroad employees was conceded today by representatives of a majority of the railroad of the United States appearing for the first time before the government's railroad commission.

Lenine and Trotzky Said to Have Escaped

Turmoil Continues Throughout Russia—Belated Reports Tell of Massacres in Kiev—Germany and Austria Arrange for Disposition of Troops on Eastern Frontier

London, Feb. 19.—Rumors are current in Vasa that the Bolshevik government in Petrograd has been overthrown by the Social revolutionists under the leadership of M. Tchernoff, according to the correspondent there of the Politiken of Copenhagen, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Nikolai Lenin and Leon Trotzky are said to have escaped to Riga.

Vasa, or Nikolaistadt, is in Finland on the only railway line between Petrograd and Tornea, on the Swedish frontier. M. Tchernoff is the leader of the Social revolutionists and was chairman of the short-lived constituent assembly.

M. Tchernoff admitted recently to the Associated Press that the Russian army probably could not be expected to fight to any great extent, but he declared that Russia could act as a magnet to draw the German forces and prevent their being thrown to the western front, thus helping the Allies.

Petrograd, Feb. 9.—(Delayed)—After the fall of Kiev," says an official report "Ukrainian detachments combated themselves in different parts of the town. Two days later they assembled under Ukrainian officers and Cossacks and opened fire in all parts of the town. During two days of terror four hundred of the "inhabitants" were killed by the senseless fighting.

"The massacre reached its climax on Feb. 5, when Ukrainians, under a Cossack general, bombarded the working class quarters. The energetic action of the revolutionary workers and soldiers finally crushed the uprising and drove the reactionaries out of town."

Protest Repudiated. Petrograd, Feb. 8.—(Delayed)—All the diplomatic representatives of the four allied countries and six neutrals have protested the repudiation by the Bolshevik government of the national debt and also against the decree respecting the confiscation of property. They have declared that these edicts have no value so far as their nationals are concerned and they reserve the right to claim damages.

Where They Will Fight. Amsterdam, Feb. 18.—An agreement has been reached between Germany and Austria-Hungary, whereby, in the event of military action being necessary, the German troops will be confined to the frontier of Great Russia, and the Austrians to Ukraine only. This announcement is made in a Vienna despatch.

Russians Quit Hungary. Amsterdam, Feb. 18.—A Budapest despatch to the Vossische Zeitung, Berlin, says that the Russians have evacuated the last section of Hungarian territory which they occupied, in the east corner of Transylvania.

Germany learns from Ukraine that Bolshevik guerrillas are setting fire to the wheat stocks in many sections and are also systematically destroying growing crops by ploughing them out.

For Propaganda. Washington, Feb. 18.—The Prussian budget for 1918 calls for 2,200,000 marks to be devoted to German propaganda in Polish territory, according to an official despatch today from Switzerland. It is reported that the Germans are preparing for an extensive campaign of Prussianism in Silesia, Posen and West Prussia.

Another despatch says Austrian troops recently fired on Poles in Lemberg, who were meeting in support of a united Poland. One man was killed and at the occasion while shops and theatres were closed and university classes suspended.

Wagat Understanding With U. S. Washington, Feb. 18.—President Wilson's address to Congress last week is interpreted by the Muencher Neueste (Continued on page 2, second column)

BUD FISHER TO JOIN CANADIANS

Montreal, Feb. 19.—Bud Fisher, the famous American cartoonist, is the latest addition to the staff artists working in connection with the Canadian war effort. Mr. Fisher has been an office in London under Lord Beaverbrook. Mr. Fisher has been an officer in the American national army for seven months, but in his anxiety to get to the front quickly, he resigned his American commission in order to join the Canadian forces. Mr. Fisher is in Montreal today completing arrangements and expects to sail for England within a few days.

FUNERALS. The funeral of Mrs. Henry J. Pratt took place this afternoon from her late residence, 876 Main street. Services were conducted by Rev. N. McLaughlin. Interment was made in Fernhill cemetery. The funeral was largely attended and the floral offerings testified to the esteem in which Mrs. Pratt was held in the city.

The funeral of Mrs. Mary Stanton took place this afternoon from the Mater Misericordiae Home. Services were conducted by Rev. Dr. O'Reilly. Interment was made in the Holy Cross cemetery, Sand Cove.

The funeral of Mrs. Annie G. McLean took place this afternoon from her late residence, 70 Wentworth street, to Trinity church, where burial services were conducted by Rev. Canon Armstrong. Interment was made in Fernhill cemetery.