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ALLIED AVIATORS HAVE RETARDED HUNS' PLANS FOR RESUMING ATTACK

Military operations on the western battlefield have been overshadowed in interest recently by developments elsewhere, but nevertheless the situation on the Franco-Belgian line, representing as it does the culminating efforts of the opposing belligerents to decide the great war, is being followed from day to day with close attention.

No signs are observable, according to correspondents at the front, of the enemy's intentions as to the time and place of the delivery of his expected stroke. The artillery activity, indeed, seems less marked than for some days past, while the aviators have been obliged to let down in their intensive labors by the advent of less favorable weather for their operations.

It seems not improbable, however, that the magnificent work of the allied airmen has not a little to do with the slowness of the enemy in putting his offensive machine in working order again. They have established themselves as masters of the situation to such an extent that the Germans have been forced for the most part to keep well back of their own lines.

The allied aviators, on the other hand, have been able to carry out pho-work on a large scale for long distance in the enemy's rear territory.

The bombing operations have been so extensive that ton after ton of explosives have been unloaded on military objectives—many more than 1,000 tons to date. Unquestionably this has seriously interfered with German movements of troops and supplies. Furthermore, the activities of the battling aviators on the entente side has swollen the German losses of machines to considerable in excess of the 1,000 recently reported to have been brought down since the opening of the enemy's spring offensive.

This partial blinding of the enemy has naturally tended to keep him less well informed of dispositions on the allied side and probably served to make him more hesitant in making decisive moves.

In the aerial activity the American airmen are taking an increasing part and it now develops that in the Toul sector held by the American army an exclusively American pursuit squadron is operating with marked success to date. The allied infantry raiders have been active equally with the aviators but here the Germans have more nearly matched their opponents. The enemy raiding parties have been especially active on the front of General von Hutier's army, south of the Somme but their success in taking prisoners from whom to secure information have not been marked.

A total of 53 Americans lost their lives in the sinking of the British steamer *Moldavia* off the English coast Thursday morning. The men were all members of company B, 58th United States infantry, fourth division. The remaining Americans soldiers on board, 427 of the 58th infantry, were safely landed, together with all other persons the steamer carried.

Food Situation Desperate.

Washington, D. C.—Advises received by the State Department from official sources in neutral countries contiguous to Germany and Austria are that the food situation in the Central Empires is most desperate. Reports also show a general lack of food in Russia. The State Department has information that would indicate that even with the reduced ration planned for June 15 and thereafter in Germany and Austria there is not food enough to carry the population over to harvest. The people both of German and Austria have been told that relief would be brought to them in the form of supplies from Ukraine but these are not forthcoming and there is no prospect that they will be sent into Germany soon.

GENERAL FOCH MAN OF MANY INTERESTS.

All Political, Diplomatic and Economic Problems Attract Him Greatly—Confidence in Him Unbounded.

Paris, France.—It is interesting to note at this crisis of the war, when the Allies have replied to the desperate onslaught of the enemy by naming General Foch commander-in-chief of their armies, that one of his aide-camps, who knows him well, said of the general that he is the man for difficult situations, for then he is seen at his best.

This remark has already been confirmed several times in the course of the war when Foch has been called to "set things right" when affairs seemed particularly involved. At the Marne his intrepidity contributed greatly to the victory. It is a recognized fact that "inaccessible to discouragement" Foch who had been given the command of the ninth army with which he was to support the offensive of the fifth army led by Gen. Franchet d'Esperey, resolutely attacked the task assigned to him by asking his troops to show "the greatest activity and energy in order to extend and maintain the results already obtained over a much-tried and adventurous enemy." Foch was confronted by the German guard, and his situation seemed particularly perilous on Sept. 8, 1914, yet his confidence remained unimpaired and he amazed his valiant troops by declaring: "The situation is excellent, I order that the offensive be rigorously resumed."

General Foch is a native of Tarbes, where his father was general secretary of the Prefecture. He began his studies in his native town, pursued them at St. Etienne, and later prepared himself at the Ecole St. Clement in Metz for the Polytechnic School to which he was admitted in 1871. He then followed the Cavalry School of Saumur, was made captain in 1878 and admitted to the Superior School of War in 1884, to which he returned 12 years later as professor of general strategy and tactics, obtaining the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1898.

In 1900, when General Bonnal succeeded General Langlois as commandant of the Superior School of War, Lieutenant-Colonel Foch was one among several professors who were dismissed. But his teaching remained for he had ineffaceably influenced the method of general tactics. In 1907 he was made brigadier-general, and a little later was appointed commandant of the School of War. In 1911 General Foch was given the command of the thirteenth division at Chaumont and a year or so later he was appointed to the post of honor as head of the twentieth corps at Nancy, where he was when the war broke out.

General Foch has taken a particularly brilliant part in all the principal operations since the outbreak of hostilities. As has been stated, he contributed in a large degree to the Marne victory. In Flanders he revealed his characteristic tenacity during the crucial days of October, 1914, and the success of the Somme offensive, in 1916, was in great part due to him. At the end of 1916, General Foch had been instructed with several missions both in France and in Italy. When the Austro-German troops made the desperate rush upon the Italian lines which resulted in the Isonzo retreat, General Foch directed the Anglo-French troops sent to the aid of the Italians. Since then he has been at the head of those troops of maneuver which were to be engaged at the right moment either offensively or defensively on the French front.

Such, briefly summarized, is the career of the man in whom the allied troops have placed all their trust, and very rightly so, if one can judge from what can be gleaned of his character in the two remarkable books he wrote whilst director of the Superior School of War: "The Principles of War," and "The Conduct of War: Maneuvers in

Battle." Rarely have any works been so expressive of their author. Rarely has the personality of any writer dominated and penetrated to such a degree the ideas set out and defended. The saying of Napoleon I, with which he prefaces the first of his works, admirably sums up his conduct of life and work: "It is not genius that suddenly reveals to me what I must say or do in a circumstance which to others would be unexpected: it is reflection and meditation."

"Think!" repeated Foch unceasingly to his pupils, "and yet again think! You will be asked later to be the mind of an army: I tell you today, learn to think." And the latter, obeying the injunctions of their great master, have for the most part become officers of extraordinary military capacities.

His belief in personal initiative and thought is shown in these words: "The art of commanding does not consist in thinking and deciding for one's subordinates," and he further declares that "To command has never meant to be mysterious," but on the contrary it signifies to "communicate that very thought which animates the direction."

Foch also shows much dexterity in the use of irony, and one can well imagine him asking his pupils in his soft, yet energetic, voice: "Do you think that to wear slung on one's hip a well-sharpened wall-cared-for sword signifies that one knows how to fight?" His conception of the only method of warfare is summarized in the following declaration also gleaned from his "Conduct of War."

"High as the command may be placed, its first task should always be to give orders, but its second task, which is quite as important as the first, should be to insure the execution of these orders. A battle must be conducted on the battle field."

It would, however, be quite erroneous to suppose that General Foch is merely preoccupied by purely military questions, or that his interest are limited. All political, diplomatic or economical problems attract him greatly, for he is always desirous of extending his knowledge. He listens attentively to his interlocutors, often bewildering them by the precision of his questions, and daring interviewers have more than once discovered, after five minutes of conversation, that General Foch has turned the tables on them with a vengeance! For he excels in directing a conversation as if he were executing a maneuver, and he possesses, moreover, a real knack of obtaining the maximum of information from each person with whom he is brought in contact.

Confidence in General Foch is unbounded, in spite of the most furious assaults of the enemy, for it is remembered that 'tis Foch who declared: "A battle won is a battle in which one will not own oneself beaten."

American Man Power in France Now Formidable.

Paris, Friday 24.—The American forces in France will double the number Secretary of War Baker recently announced as having sent here and by the end of 1918 they will be three times larger, said Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner, in a statement issued to the French people on his arrival from the United States today.

(Secretary Baker announced on May 8, that more than 500,000 American soldiers already had been sent to France.)

Pool Rooms to close.

Raleigh, N. C.—The pool rooms in Raleigh, N. C., will close June 1, as the resolutions originally adopted by the city commissioners provide, advocates of an extension of time having lost their fight in the interest of the pool room owners when the commissioners recently adopted the resolutions by a 2 to 1 vote.

DAMNING EVIDENCE.

From time to time there have been in connection with the war, amazing revelations of German machinations. None, however, has been more significant than that of August Thyssen, one of Germany's greatest steel manufacturers, reprinted recently in the Manufacturers' Record. That paper says, regarding his exposures, that in a recent publication Thyssen tells of a number of meetings from 1912 to 1914 in which Emperor William promised great financial profits to the leading business men of Germany if they would uphold him in a war upon which he desired to enter for controlling world trade. Thyssen admits that in consideration of his cooperation he was explicitly promised, as a gift 30,000 acres of land in Australia and the loan of money with which to develop it. This promise, made by the chancellor, was confirmed by the kaiser himself, and Thyssen was somewhat skeptical at first he made the bargain, as did other business leaders of Germany. And now realizing that the bargain cannot be filled, he is telling these facts with a view to letting the German people understand that the war was started by the Hohenzollerns for the maintenance of their autocratic military power.

Thyssen and other business leaders of Germany deliberately entered into this bargain, and in discussing it he says:

"Every trade and interest was appealed to. Huge indemnities were, of course, to be levied on the conquered nations, and the fortunate German manufacturers were, by this means, practically to be relieved of taxation for years after the war. . . . The Emperor's speech was one of the most flowery orations I have ever listened to, and so profuse were the promises he made that were even half of what he promised to be fulfilled, most of the commercial men in Germany would become rich beyond the dreams of avarice."

Following are some extracts from Herr Thyssen's statement as to "The Hohenzollern plot:"

"I am writing this pamphlet because I want to open the eyes of Germans, especially of the business community, to facts. When the Hohenzollerns wanted to get the support of the commercial class for their war plans, they put their ideas before us as a business proposition. A large number of business and commercial men were asked to support the Hohenzollern war policy on the ground that it would pay them to do so. Let me frankly confess that I am one of those who were led to agree to support the Hohenzollern war plan when this appeal was made to the leading business men of Germany in 1912-13. I was led to do so, however, against my better judgment.

"In 1912 the Hohenzollerns saw that the war had become a necessity to the preservation of the military system, upon which their power depends. In that year the Hohenzollerns might have directed, if they had desired, the foreign affairs of our country so that peace would have been assured in Europe for at least fifty years. But prolonged peace would have resulted certainly in the breakup of our military system, and with the breakup of our military system the power of the Hohenzollerns would come to an end. The Emperor and his family, as I said, clearly understood this, and they therefore, in 1912 decided to embark on a great war of conquest.

"But to do this they had to get the commercial community to support them in their aims. They did this by holding out to them hopes of great personal gain as a result of the war. In the light of events that have taken place since August, 1914, these promises now appear supremely ridiculous, but most of us at the time were led to believe that they would probably be realized.

"I was personally promised a free

grant of 30,000 acres of Australia and a loan from the Deutsche Bank of 150,000 pounds at 3 per cent, to enable me to develop my business in Australia. Several other firms were promised special trading facilities in India, which was to be conquered by Germany, be it noted, by the end of 1915. A syndicate was formed for the exploitation of Canada. This syndicate consisted of the heads of twelve great firms; the working capital was fixed at 20,000,000 pounds; half of which was to be found by the German government.

"There were, I have heard, promises made of a more personal character. For example, the 'conquest of England' was to be made the occasion of bestowing upon certain favored and wealthy men some of the most desirable residences in England, but of this I have no actual proof.

"Every trade and interest was appealed to. Huge indemnities were, of course, to be levied on the conquered nations, and the fortunate German manufacturers were by this means, practically to be relieved of taxation for years after the war."

The above, from a German source, throws considerable light on the question, if there is anybody still that regards it a question, as to who started the European war. It is one of the most daring pieces of evidence yet brought to light against kaiserism and all that it implies. It shows the purpose of German military leaders at the inception of the conflict.

There were some excessively timid people in this country a few months ago who were saying they did not think America should have entered the war. If there are still any who are inclined to hold such an opinion they should read Herr von Thyssen's revelation. A country ruled by leaders guilty of such turpitude as he has exposed is a constant menace to world peace. If there were no other reason for America's entrance into the war that would be sufficient in itself.

Auto Accident at Elkin.

Elkin, May 25.—An automobile accident which came near costing the lives of Miss Marjorie Chatham and Marion Allen, two popular young people, of this place, occurred yesterday evening about 7 o'clock in the eastern part of town. Mr. Allen and Miss Chatham were autoing and upon their return, noticing the approach of the evening train from Winston-Salem decided to try a race to town, the road for some distance running parallel with the railroad track. In rounding the curves near the plant of the Elkin Furniture company, Mr. Allen lost control of the car plunging with tremendous force into a steep embankment which completely wrecked the machine. Capt. W. H. Crews, conductor of the Southern, quickly stopped his train and assisted by others of the crew rescued the young people from beneath the car. Miss Chatham was unconscious for a time, but otherwise uninjured. Mr. Allen suffered several cuts upon the head and a badly lacerated hand, which may result in loss of use of some of the fingers.

Bavarians Mowed Down

by The American Troops

With the American Army in France, Friday, May 24.—The Bavarian troops which have just arrived opposite the American sector northwest of Toul suffered casualties of 50 per cent. of their effectives while engaged in the recent offensive in Northern France, according to reliable information received today. Virtually all these losses were in killed and wounded, as the Bavarians, it is declared, lost only one man taken prisoner.

The Germans apparently are celebrating their arrival in a comparatively quiet sector, as for the last two nights loud singing and other sounds of jubilation have been heard in the enemy lines.

STRENGTHENING MORALE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

New Organization Proposes to Provide for welfare of Fighters' Families.

New York, April 30.—To strengthen the morale of American soldiers in France by protecting and providing for the welfare of their dependents at home is the purpose of a new organization denominated Soldiers' Families of America, the first regiment of which has just been organized here. Mrs. Walston Hill, the national head of the new organization, hopes the unit formed here will serve as a model for similar units to be organized throughout the country.

Judge William H. Wadhams, one of the leaders in the movement, has been in France and England for the past three weeks outlining the plan to the men in the trenches and camps and reports from him are said to be full of enthusiasm. He went abroad to study the needs of the soldiers and bring back practical suggestions from officers and men for the speedy promotion of the work.

Briefly, the project contemplates:

Establishment of a regimental family unit for each regiment in the service of the United States, dividing the families into companies corresponding in personnel to the companies of the regiment, each company of the regimental family unit to have as its chairman the wife, mother or sister of the captain of the corresponding company in actual war service. The executive committee of the regimental family unit is made up of the chairman of the various companies and the wives of near relatives of the majors.

The company chairmen are to appoint the heads of two committees: the soldiers' needs committee and the home welfare or family needs committee. The duties of the first are to do everything possible to send cheer and comfort to the soldiers at the front. The second committee requires that each member look out for the welfare of at least 10 families of soldiers, make personal friendly visits and operate with all the beneficence of fraternity and not cold charity.

If a member of the home welfare committee ascertains that the family of a soldier has not received from the government its allotment of the soldier's pay, funds are to be advanced by the committee. Employment will be found, where necessary, for breadwinners, children cared for, women protected and helped, war gardens operated, instruction given in war cookery, woolen garments knitted, and clothing furnished needy families, as well as food and fuel.

The unit which has been organized in New York corresponds with the troops of a regiment at Camp Upton, L. I., and has the indorsement of the colonel commanding that regiment, according to the organizers.

Mrs. Brown, the president in organizing other units throughout the country, says that "the cheer and comfort which the social meetings will bring to the families of soldiers is bound to be reflected in the messages which go to the men at the front and in just the degree that the men are heartened and made to feel at ease about their families, will the morale of our army be raised on the pathway to victory."

It is expected that many small organizations, already formed by relatives of soldiers, will join the larger body to secure unity of action and increased efficiency.

Protest Against Useless

Automobile Driving

Burlington, May 25.—The Burlington Ministerial association in meeting last week passed resolutions protesting against the needless automobile riding that the people are engaging in. The protest is to read from all the pulpits Sunday. They especially beg that the rides be given up during the hours of service.