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AMERICAN TROOPS VITAL FACTOR IN GREAT BATTLE.

Washington, June 1.—American troops have become a vital factor in the great battle in France and may hold the balance between defeat and victory, General Bridges, head of a special British military mission to the United States, said here tonight in discussing the renewal of the German drive.

The objectives now before the Germans, the general said, appear to be three fold: The capture of Paris, the division of the main allied armies by an advance through Amiens and the capture of the channel ports.

While now on a narrow and dangerous salient, said the general, the Germans will be in a favorable position for an advance on Paris should they be successful in pushing out the west leg of the salient and joining it up with the Amiens salient. That, he said, appeared to be their intention as they could be expected to call a halt at the Marne.

The allies must now be prepared either to see the offensive resumed in the north soon, continued General Bridges, or else to see German divisions from the north sent down to exploit the new success. The battle, he said is likely to continue for weeks and will become a long drawn out struggle of man power with the first duty of the allies to husband their resources by giving ground for men where possible.

SIX SUSPECTS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

Memphis, Tenn., May 31.—Six suspects had been taken into custody at noon today in connection with a fire believed by fire department officials to have been of incendiary origin and caused by the setting off of an inflammable explosive which early this morning destroyed the warehouse here of John Ward and son, wholesale stock feeders, containing a stock of grain and sulphur valued at approximately \$150,000.

According to the police, one of the men under arrest, a negro, who was shot and wounded by a watchman as he was fleeing from the building, has said that he was hired by two white men, neither of whom he knew, to keep watch while they entered the warehouse shortly after the fire was discovered. In support of the negro's statement the watchman declared that he encountered several men leaving the building at the time of the fire, one of whom knocked him down. When he regained his feet he opened fire, wounding the negro arrested.

Search is also being made for another negro who the wounded man declared was with the white men when they approached him.

Investigator of the Aircraft Board Charges



William L. Emerson, the assistant attorney general whom Attorney General Gregory has appointed to investigate charges against the management of United States aircraft work. He is a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., and has the reputation of being a careful lawyer.

EXPECT GERMAN ADVANCE WILL BE STOPPED AT MARNE

Washington, June 1.—With the crown prince's army now standing on the north bank of the Marne, army officials here believe the German advance in that direction while increased pressure is exerted against the Chateau Thierry Trossons line in the effort to consolidate completely the Alsne and Picardy battle theatres. Such consolidation is regarded as a necessary preparation for an advance on Paris or for a new assault on the Amiens front.

This view of the situation in France was communicated to members of the senate military committee today by General March, chief of staff, during the weekly conference of the senators with war department officials.

Other officers who are closely studying the reports from the front are known to share General March's views. Many of them believe, however, that General Foch, the allied commander-in-chief, counted just such an effort by the Germans and that the most stubborn fighting of the present offensive will come as the Germans seek to press westward south of Soissons.

Already the French have reacted vigorously against the enemy at various points along the line there and with good success. This is taken as an indication that reserves have been massed for use in this sector while the Marne formed the line of defense in the center.

There was no effort here to disguise the fact that the success of the German blow up to this time has been a surprise. Apparently new elements of strategy have been employed which forced the withdrawal of the French on an unexpected scale. General March explained to the senators that long range fire with gas shells had played a part in the German strategy. The French positions miles in the rear of their front lines were repeatedly drenched with toxic shells of large calibre and rendered untenable even before the enemy infantry had approached them, necessitating wide retreats.

As the German efforts continue the war department is exerting every effort to further expedite the movement of American troops in France. General March in his talk to the senators laid stress on the vital importance of speed in the American program. In this connection an official stated, "from Secretary Baker as to troop movements is to be expected soon. Pending that announcement speculation regarding the present strength of the American army in France has been specifically forbidden.

Mr. Baker explained in some detail today the process by which American divisions are being quickly whipped into shape when they reach the other side. Only infantry and machine gun units are brigaded with the British, Mr. Baker said, while all artillery prepares for front line duty either with the French or with veteran American batteries. Engineers, signal corps and other auxiliary arms also are trained largely with the French and American forces.

The secretary laid stress on the fact that exactly the same progress of brigading new units with veteran divisions for initial training is followed in the American army as is followed with the French or British army.

When a new division arrives in France it is broken up into small units, which are distributed in divisions back from the front for their rest period. The new men continue with the veterans until they have seen front line service. Then they are re-assembled and do a tour of duty at the front under supervision of veteran staff officers in order to gain experience in functioning as a divisional unit under fire. The men then are withdrawn for a rest period and they next come forward to

FRENCH HEAVY BATTERY NEAR THE SOMME AND DRESSING STATION CLOSE TO FLANDERS FRONT



Illustration shows a French heavy artillery battery in action in the Somme sector, and a French dressing station in the rear of the fighting line in Flanders.

AMERICANS TREATED BRUTALLY.

With the American Army in France—A Russian prisoner, who recently returned from Germany, has made a statement at Moscow now which is available here, to the effect that he saw American prisoners of war in Camp at Tichel, West Prussia, and that they asked him to let it be known that they were being treated brutally. The prisoners said they were hungry and penniless.

When the Americans arrived at the camp, according to this account, the Germans removed all their clothes. They were particularly anxious to have the American shoes. They told the prisoners they should not wear expensive clothing and shoes while working and that their property would be taken care of until their return to America. The Russian said, however, that everyone knows what that means. A consul, the Russian was not sure whether he was a Swiss or a Spaniard, visited the camp. Complaint was made to him by the Americans and their clothes were returned but as the consul seldom visited the camp the Germans had opportunity to practice many injustices.

The Russian said eight Americans captured several months ago reached the camp at midday and being very hungry asked for bread. They were told bread was distributed only in the morning. They were placed in a hut with Russians after being required to stand in a square where Germans were given an opportunity to insult. The houses in which the Americans are living, the Russian said, are damp, cold and unfit for habitation. Some of the Americans became ill. Two of them who were in a hospital had an opportunity there to talk with the Russian and it was through them that he obtained the information on which his statement is based.

take their place in the line as a trained division, ready for battle.

The time necessary for this training has been materially reduced as the system has been perfected. By using the brigading method with French and British forces as well as with the American veteran divisions, almost any number of new divisions can be made ready simultaneously. The brigading of the Americans with French and English units serves the double purpose of training the new men and giving the allied armies additional manpower.

BATTLESHIPS OF FIRST CLASS ARE NOW PREPARING.

New York, June 2.—The United States now has a large number of first-class battleships, "preparing side by side with the best ships of the British navy for an engagement on the high seas which is expected to occur at any time with the German fleet," according to a statement made in an address here tonight by Rear Admiral Albert Gleaves.

"I am not going beyond the borderland of secrecy," declared Admiral Gleaves, "when I say that a few days ago there came an alarm to the heads of the British navy that the German battleships were about to come out for the expected engagement on the high seas. I know that the British navy heads gave the first class American battleships a post of honor in preparation for the attack."

"I do not profess to know much of what is going on in the arena of war on the other side of the ocean," Admiral Gleaves continued, "but I am kept busy with my own part of the game which is the management of the cruiser and transport operations."

"Again I am limited to narrow lines in the matter of giving out information and I would not go into details even if I did know such things. But I am within the limitations of orders when I say that the United States has a large number of first class battleships now preparing side by side with the best ships of the British navy for an engagement on the high seas which is expected to occur any time with the German fleet."

"I know that our ships now working with the British navy in making ready for this fight are in the prime of condition and are fully prepared to win the engagement. We have 150 vessels over there now and between 35,000 and 40,000 men aboard them."

Asserting that it was gratifying to note that the appropriation bill awaiting the signature of President Wilson carries with it \$1,300,000,000 to back up "this rapidly growing navy of ours," Admiral Gleaves added that "we now have a navy of 19,000 officers and more than 400,000 men."

Describing the life of soldiers aboard transports, the speaker said that the men had "everything that can be furnished them to remind them of life ashore." From 15,000 to 20,000 meals have to be prepared each day aboard these transports, he said, adding that "each ship is a little world

all to itself."

"In reply to a question as to whether it had been found possible to carry aeroplanes on cruisers, Admiral Gleaves said:

"All navies have been experimenting along such lines, but the airplanes are so fragile that they are often put out of commission by the discharge of the big guns of a cruiser and it is difficult to take them on and off. The Seattle carried six and the North Carolina and Huntington carried some but encountered great difficulty."

Asked if any method had been devised to destroy an oncoming torpedo, Admiral Gleaves replied, "Practically none." Asked how near to our shores German submarines had reached, he referred his question to the secretary of the navy "who knows."

TWO U-BOATS SUNK BY AMERICAN DESTROYERS.

Atlantic Port, June 1.—The crew of an American ship arriving here today from the war zone reports the destruction of two enemy submarines by an American destroyer almost within sight of France. The first U boat was sighted some distance off by the destroyer. The destroyer gave chase and overtaking the under sea craft dropped a depth bomb just as it went down. There were evidences that a hit had been scored.

As the destroyer was returning to the convoy another submarine popped up almost alongside the transport. The ship opened fire and the destroyer, without slackening speed, dashed up, dropped a depth bomb, circled the ship and came back into position waiting for the submarine to re-appear. In a short time there were evidences of another hit.

WOULD MAKE AUTO HACK DRIVERS WORK OR FIGHT.

Columbia, S. C., June 1.—Governor Manning today addressed a letter to Provost Marshal General Crowder asking that he include automobile hack drivers in the "work or fight" plan.

The governor stated that there were 400 drivers of automobile hacks in Spartanburg, and as many in proportion in other cities of the state and that many of them are able bodied men. He suggested that an order including them should reduce the number of automobiles it would not only be in line of promoting economy, but would also conserve gasoline.

HOW FRENCH LOCATED LONG RANGE GERMAN GUN

New York, June 1.—Careful measurement of two holes made by a single shell in passing through two awnings in a Paris factory enabled French artillery officers to locate the great German long range guns by a feat of mathematics. Chester M. Wright, a member of the American labor mission which has just returned from Paris, explained how the distances of the guns were figured.

The two awnings were several feet apart and the relation of one to the other gave perfect data on the course which the shell had taken as it approached the earth. After the apertures had been measured to the one-thousandth part of an inch and the direction of the shell's fall exactly established the early career of the shell became a problem on paper.

By applying the laws governing the flight of projectiles and allowing for the wind, the state of the atmosphere and other considerations, French artillery officers were able to follow back the course of the shell to the mouth of the cannon in the forest of St. Gobain, after which it was speedily demolished by French artillery.

CABLEGRAMS EXCHANGED BY FUCH AND MARCH

Washington, June 2.—Cablegrams exchanged by General Foch, the commander-in-chief of the allied armies, and General March upon the occasion of the latter's appointment as chief of staff with the rank of general, were made public tonight by the war department.

General Foch's message reads: "I hear with deep satisfaction your promotion to the rank of general."

"I associate myself to the just pride which you must feel in evoking the name of your glorious predecessors, Grant and Sheridan. I convey to you my sincere congratulations and I am happy to see you assume permanently that huge task of chief of staff of the United States army which you were already performing in so brilliant a way."

General March replied: "Your message of congratulation upon my promotion to the grade of general chief of staff, United States army, was personally conveyed to me by General Vignal, French military attache. I appreciate deeply your most kindly greetings, and, in expressing my sincere thanks, avail myself of the opportunity to assure you of every assistance and constant support which may lie in my power, to aid you in the furtherance and successful accomplishment of your great task."

"Scratch Army" Carey Made a Major General



Brig. Gen. Sandeman Carey of the British army has been made a major general for his good work in practically saving the British fifth army under General Gough by gathering from the rear a scratch force and pushing it between the fifth and third armies and keeping it there for six days until relieved. This force was made up of "noncombatants," including some American engineers.

FRENCH TROOPS SMASH REPEATED ATTACKS OF GREATEST VIOLENCE

Paris, June 2.—French troops last night smashed repeated German attacks of the greatest violence in the sector north of the river Alsne, between the Oise river and Soissons, the French war office announced today.

Mont de Choisy, after being attacked four times by forces of the German crown prince, was finally stormed only to be lost again to the invaders at the point of the bayonet.

On the front between Soissons and Chateau Thierry the Germans occupied Longpoint, Corcy, Faverolles and Troesness, but later were driven out of these places by energetic French counter attacks.

On the Rheims-Dormans front bitter fighting is taking place and the Germans have crossed the high road east of Ville-en-Tardenois.

The text of the statement reads:

"German pressure continues with intensity on the front between the Oise and Marne. Extremely violent attacks in the region north of the Bois Carlepoint and Maulins-Sous-Touvent were repulsed.

"French troops have ejected the enemy from positions north of these points.

"Mont de Choisy, attacked four times by the Germans and taken by them, was recaptured at the point of the bayonet by French soldiers who remain in control.

"Between vierzy and Ourcq the Germans took possession of Longpoint, Corcy, Faverolles and Troesness, but by an energetic return to the offensive, French troops again occupied these localities.

"On the river Marne the Germans have reached the heights west of Chateau Thierry. The French hold that portion of the city situated on the left bank of the river.

"Violent fighting is in progress along the Do-mans-Rheims road which the Germans have crossed with light forces in the region of Oizy-Violaine and Ville-en-Tardenois.

"On the Rheims front there was no change.

NOTICE TO THE THRESHERS OF SUNKY COUNTY.

You are hereby notified that under the food regulation that no wheat or rye can be threshed this season before the 15th day of July. You are further notified that every threshing machine operated this year will be expected to produce 100 per cent of grain from the wheat and rye threshed. This is to say, that no waste will be permitted. If your machine is out of repair and for this reason cannot produce 100 per cent, you will please notify me at once and I will make an effort to get you the necessary information to place your machine in proper condition. This regulation will be rigidly enforced.

This May 27th, 1918.
W. F. CARTER,
County Food Administrator.

DROP BOMBS UPON FRENCH CAPITAL

Paris, June 1.—French air-men attempted two air raids on Paris last night. The first was a failure but on the second occasion bombs were dropped on the capital.

In an official statement, which was issued early today, it was said enemy planes crossed the lines in Paris, and added:

"The alarm was given last night at 10:30 o'clock and four guns opened fire. No bombs fell on Paris. 'All clear' was given at 11 o'clock.

"Fresh sounds of motors having been reported by lookout posts the alarm was sounded at 11:56 and 'all clear' at 12:38 a. m. A certain number of bombs are reported to have been dropped in the Paris region."