

AMERICANS AND FRENCH SMASH GERMANS ON 25-MILE FRONT, PENETRATING 6 MILES, TAKING 20 VILLAGES, MANY GUNS, WAR MATERIALS AND THOUSANDS OF HUNS

ALLIES IN STRONG OFFENSIVE THAT MAY HAVE INFLUENCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD WAR

Americans in Biggest Battle They Have Yet Experienced Dash Brilliantly Across Positions Held by the Germans, Taking 4,000 Prisoners and Numerous Big Guns—Additional Large Captures Made by French Comrades-in-Arms.

STROKE MENACES HUN LINES

Center-Attack Begun Yesterday Morning West of Soissons to Northwest of Chateau-Thierry Threatens Communications of Invaders and It Has Progressed so Far that Thousands of Best German Soldiers May Be Cut Off and Captured.

(By the Associated Press.)

From the region west of Soissons to the northwest of Chateau-Thierry American and French armies have begun a strong offensive against the Germans, which possibly may have a marked influence on the future of the world war.

Along the 25 miles the French and American troops have dashed in brilliant fashion across positions held by the Germans, killing, wounding or capturing thousands of the enemy and taking towns, villages and large quantities of guns and other war supplies.

Enemy Unable to Make Stand. As yet, according to last accounts from the front has the enemy been able to stay the progress of their assailants, although counter-attacks were resorted to on some important sectors after the first stages of surprise occasioned by the unexpected attack had worn away.

Americans Take 4,000. To the Americans alone in the region west of Soissons came 4,000 prisoners, 39 guns and much war material. Additional large numbers of captives and further greater stores of guns, ammunition and other necessities were taken by the French.

Blow at Vital German Ground. The blow, probably long in its inception, is being aimed at territory vital to the Germans—territory, the capture of which not alone would mean the forced retirement of the Germans from the entire salient extending southwestward across the occupied region from Soissons to Rheims (Chateau-Thierry as its southern apex, but possibly result in the capture of thousands of Germans operating there, many of them comprising the best soldiers of the German emperor's armies.

Penetrated Six Miles. Six miles apparently was the deepest point of penetration made by the allies on the first day of fighting. This was at Busancy, south of Soissons, which they captured and passed through eastward. At several other points distances of from four to five miles were reached from the original starting line.

British Smash Germans Also. Southwest of Villers-Bretonneux, in the Amiens sector, the Australians again have smashed into the German line, this time on a front extending a mile in length, capturing guns and prisoners. East of Hebuterne the British also improved their positions.

ALLIED SPIRITS HIGH AND THEIR VITALITY WONDERFUL. On the French front in France, July 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—With wonderful vitality and with spirits still high notwithstanding the big battle of the last two days Franco-American troops dashed forward at

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Hope Again Expressed Quentin Roosevelt May Have Landed in Safety

New York, July 18.—Lieut. Quentin Roosevelt, reported missing after aerial engagement over the German lines, probably landed unhurt and is now a prisoner in the hands of the Germans, according to a cable message received tonight by his father, Col. Theodore Roosevelt. Colonel Roosevelt said on his arrival here tonight from Saratoga that he had just received from his son-in-law, Surgeon Major Richard Derby, who is now in Paris, a cablegram which read: "Companion aviator confident Quentin landed unhurt."

SPEEDY AMERICANS CATCH HUN PLANES

Advance at Soissons So Rapid Even Air Machines Were Taken By Them.

50 CANNON—3,800 GERMANS

French Official Statement Conservatively Worded, Admitting Capture of Over 20 Towns and Much Material.

With the American Army in France, July 18.—(By The Associated Press.)—The American troops up to noon, just south of Soissons, had captured 5,800 prisoners. Fifty cannon had been counted and thousands of machine guns.

Northwest of Chateau-Thierry the Americans captured large numbers of prisoners and an equally important quantity of munitions and stores. The captures south of Soissons in the way of stores were immense and included some airplanes which the enemy was unable to remove, so swiftly did the storming troops sweep through. Many prisoners and many guns still remain to be counted.

The wounded troops showed wonderful spirit and advanced singing. A battalion of infantry crossed the river Savieres breast high in water.

FRANCO-AMERICANS DOMINATE SOISSONS-CHAUDUN PLATEAUX

Papa, July 18.—More than 30 villages have been recaptured by the French and American troops in the offensive begun this morning, according to the war office announcement tonight which reports also the occupation of the plateau dominating Soissons on the southwest. The statements say: "After having broken the German offensive on the Champagne and Rheims mountain fronts on the 15th, 16th, and 17th, the French troops in conjunction with American forces, attacked the German positions on the 18th between the Aisne and the Marne on a front of 45 kilometers (approximately 28 miles). The front comprises Ambleny, Longpont, Troesnes and Bouresches.

Between Villers Helon and Noroy-sur-Ouche, violent encounters have been in progress. South of the Ourcq our troops have gone beyond the general line of Marly, Saint Genevieve, Hautevesnes and Belleau.

More than 20 villages have been retaken by the admirable dash of the Franco-American troops as well as several thousand prisoners and important war material.

East of the Ourcq, July 17.—On the Struma, patrol encounters took place in the course of which the Greek troops captured prisoners.

In Albania, our advanced guards pushed forward on the Gora Top ridge to Col de Lunga. Allied aviators bombed airdromes at Hudova and Manatlarol. In the course of aerial combats one enemy airplane was brought down and two others were forced to land.

DETAILS OF PROGRESS IN YESTERDAY'S BIG DRIVE. London, July 18.—An American division, co-operating with the French troops in their counter-attack captured the town of Versey about six miles south of Soissons, and have advanced three miles beyond the town, the advance adding.

MOBILIZE DOCTORS FOR ARMY SERVICE OR WHERE NEEDED

Government About to Assume Control of Entire Medical Profession.

IN VOLUNTEER SERVICE Would Enroll All Physicians Under Pledge to Accept Work Anywhere.

Washington, July 18.—The government is about to assume control of the entire medical profession in the United States to obtain sufficient doctors for the fast growing army and at the same time to distribute those remaining to the localities of services where they are most needed for civilian work.

This mobilization is to be accomplished either by enrolling all doctors in a volunteer service corps under pledge to accept whatever service, military or civilian, is assigned them by the governing body of the corps, or, if the volunteer plan is not successful, by legislation providing for drafting them into government service. Medical officers of the government will not be necessary.

Organization plans for the volunteer medical service corps already have been made and enrollment started in a few states under the authority of the council of national defense. Instead of enrolling in this corps only those physicians not eligible for military service, the plan is to include physical infirmity, dependency, or institutional or public need, as planned at present, the government is expected shortly to throw open the membership to all doctors and to bind them with a pledge during the present emergency to accept service, military or civilian wherever, whenever and for whatever duty they may be called by the central governing board.

Under this proposed plan the army and navy would take those physicians and surgeons best fitted for active duty, and who can be spared from civilian requirements. At the same time the government would maintain a reserve of doctors in certain communities in which there are too few practitioners.

The practical operation, officials believe, would cause little of this relocation, however, since physicians who are needed in certain communities, hospitals, schools, or other essential civilian services would not be commissioned in the army.

Conferences of doctors were held today in Washington and a number of other cities to discuss the operation of the voluntary enrollment plan. A committee of army and navy surgeons also completed today recommendations for inclusion in the volunteer medical service corps of all doctors, instead of only those disqualified for military service.

Of the 143,000 doctors in the United States it is estimated between 80,000 and 85,000 are in active practice and 23,000 or about one-fourth are in the army or navy. Nearly 50,000 will be required eventually for the army. The active practitioners remaining, together with those who have retired, but who can be persuaded to resume active work, must carry on the health maintenance in this country.

It became known that Surgeon General Gorgas of the army, Braisted of the navy and Blue of the public health service are considering a plan for combining the services of medical schools and assigning them to their present duties. This would constitute a means of preventing further disruption of medical teaching staffs and at the same time recognizing the public services of these men.

LABOR SPECIALISTS CONFERENCE MATTER OF GETTING FARM HELP

Birmingham, Ala., July 18.—Federal farm help specialists from all the cotton producing states, with representatives of the department of agriculture and state agricultural colleges began a two-day conference here today to consider the problem of securing sufficient farm labor for the harvest of the south's large cotton and food crops.

Prof. G. I. Christie, assistant to the secretary of agriculture stated: "The demand for farm labor is more than ever. It has made in 1918 a great stride toward feeding itself from products of its own soil. Through the unprecedented efforts of southern farmers their acreage of food crops, as well as cotton, show great enlargement."

GREAT VICTORY THRILLS AMERICA'S HEART AS TALE OF SUCCESS IS UNFOLDED

While Full Extent of Blow Cannot Be Estimated As Yet, Foch's Answer to Rheims Offensive is Plain—Effect of Counter Stroke May Be to Nullify Whole German Campaign of Months.

Washington, July 18.—The heart of the American nation was in France tonight. It marched and fought proudly with the boys who went over the top this morning and still were gallantly smashing their way ahead beside their French comrades late in the day.

It was a tale of splendid victory and daring that news reports and even the terse official statements told. Hour by hour the extent of the victory grew. What the full effect of the blow will be cannot be estimated until details of the whole 25 mile front from Chateau

GERMAN COMMENTS ARE CONSERVATIVE

Articles Marked by Singular Restraint as Compared With Previous Battles.

GERMANS NOT CONFIDENT

Will Not Commit Themselves Until Further Progress is Reviewed. Hopes Entertained of Gaining Victory.

Amsterdam July 18.—Comments in the German press on the present German offensive on the Marne is in strong contrast to the observations of German commentators on previous German offensives, the articles now being characterized by singular restraint.

In the Berliner Tageblatt yesterday, for instance, General Baron Von Ardenne, after arguing that the Entente measure the scope of the Franco-American stroke. Officers were too vitally interested in the swift development of the attack as it was unfolded, bulletin by bulletin, to devote much time to cold calculations as to form the basis for military predictions.

It was the instant news that held them, from General March to the junior staff officers, and the war department was a place of smiles and hand grips as the boys overseas wrote new and glorious pages in American history.

Secretary Baker had difficulty in holding himself to cool, unheated expression, as he dictated to the newspaper late in the day a statement summarizing General Pershing's brief reports. Supplemented by the news dispatches, the official account revealed, however, the full thrilling story of the dash against the enemy delivered with such gallantry and as such a complete surprise that it swept over the first German lines apparently without wavering and rushed on to objectives deep in the territory the Germans have held for months.

Reports Read Eagerly. During the day, Secretary Baker, General March and war department officials generally, spent much time over the war maps. They read every detail of the accounts brought in over press wires and time after time all other business halted while the swiftly changing battle front was traced out. Until late in the night, officials were eagerly receiving every report that came in.

Mr. Baker's statement paid instant homage to the dash and gallantry of the American forces and his elation as well as that of the officers who surround him was clearly written between the lines.

BERLIN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON GREAT ALLIED ATTACK

Berlin, July 18.—German headquarters this evening chronicles the great counter-offensive carried out today by French and American troops north of the Marne as follows: "Between the Aisne and the Marne the French attacked with strong forces and tanks and captured some ground. Our reserves, held in readiness, took part in the battle."

WEDNESDAY'S FIGHTING FROM THE GERMAN HEADQUARTERS

Berlin, via London, July 18.—The official communication from general headquarters today dealing with the operations of yesterday says: "Yesterday the army of General Von Boehm was fighting heavily throughout the day. Reinforced by newly brought up divisions, the enemy after several hours' artillery preparation, again launched a great unit-

ROOSEVELT PLEADS FOR LOFTY IDEALS IN NATION'S HOMES

Delivers Stirring Patriotic Address at New York Republican Convention.

STAMPEDE KEPT DOWN

Nothing Comes of Plans For Demonstration to Nominate Him For Governor.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 18.—The movement to bring about the nomination of Colonel Roosevelt for governor of New York by the republicans, took definite form late tonight after the session of the state convention when Attorney-General Merton E. Lewis, chief rival of Governor Whitman, issued a statement announcing he would withdraw if the colonel would become a candidate. Coincidentally a round robin was circulated by the anti-Whitman faction of the party headed by William Barnes, urging the colonel to enter the primaries. In a short time it had received several hundred signatures.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 18.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt delivered a stirring patriotic address before the republican state convention here today. He did not, however, either publicly or privately discuss state politics. Although he was given a most enthusiastic reception, no attempt was made to stampede the convention into nominating him for governor.

The fact that the colonel had declined to talk on state issues became known generally about the hall before he delivered his address and plans for a prolonged demonstration, with stampeding potentialities were quickly changed.

The colonel was received warmly as he strode down one of the main aisles with bands playing "The Star Spangled Banner" and the crowd on its feet cheering, shouting and waving hats and handkerchiefs. There also were some shouts of "We want Teddy" but there was nothing in the demonstration that could be remotely construed as a serious attempt at a stampede.

During his address the colonel was frequently interrupted by applause and cheering. Those reached their height when he declared that "the sinking of the Lusitania was the firing on Sumner of this war" and that if the United States had declared war at that time "the world would have been a million men across seas months ago, Russia would never have broken and the war would have been over now."

Immediately after his speech, Col. Roosevelt left the hall amid another cheering ovation. He went out as he had come in, on the arms of the campaign managers of the rival candidates for governor. He went immediately to his hotel and shortly afterward started for Albany by motor. During his entire stay in the city, except for his appearance on the platform, he was in touch only with members of his family. This fact and the additional circumstances of his having refused to discuss state issues with a committee headed by William L. Ward, considerably lessened the Roosevelt-for-governor talk among the delegates, although it was by no means entirely discontinued.

The colonel was invited closely to his prepared speech, except on one or two occasions, notably when he appealed to his hearers to perfect their ideal of citizenship. At no time did he refer to the death in France of his son, Quentin, but his audience felt he had this keenly in mind when he said: "In this great world crisis, perhaps the greatest in the history of the world during the Christian era, where the events of the next few years will profoundly influence for good or for all our children and our children's children for generations, surely in this great crisis, where we are making sacrifices and making ready for the possibility of a total annihilation, surely when we are rendering such loyalty to the idealism of the past, surely we have a right to ask and to expect a loyal idealism in life from the men and the women who stay at home."

"Our young men have gone to the other side—very many of them to give up in their joyous prime all the glory and all the beauty of life for the price of death in battle for a lofty ideal. Now while they are defending you, can't we men and women at home make up our minds to try to insist in public and private on a loftier ideal than here at home? I am asking for an idealism which shall find expression beside the hearthstone and in the family and in the councils of state and nation."

Representative Godwin and the Fayetteville delegation here are reveling in luncheon to-night at the Raleigh hotel. Among the participants from Cumberland town are Fred Hill, president of the Chamber of Commerce, H. V. D. King, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, W. E. Kindley, and Mr. Christian. Representative Godwin was informed by Assistant Secretary of War Crowell to-day that there was no foundation for the rumor that a small armory would be established at Southern-Pines.

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