

HUNS START VIOLENT COUNTER-ATTACK

Soldiers Have Orders to Stem Tide of Allied Advance at All Costs BUT FOCH'S PINCER IS STEADILY CUTTING THEM OFF

ALLIED PLAN OF ATTEMPTING CAPTURE OF 500,000 GERMANS ON WAY TO POSSIBLE SUCCESS

But Germans Have Thrown in Thousands of Reinforcements To Counter-Attack.

ALLIES REINFORCED ALSO

Have Reduced Pocket's Mouth From 37 to 21 Miles and Guns Command That.

NO GENERAL RETREAT YET

German Commander Determined to Fight It Out.

(By the Associated Press.)

General Foch has taken a leaf out of the book of German military strategy and ordained the use by the allied armies of the pincer style of offensive in the Soissons-Rheims salient.

Both jaws of the pincer are moving smoothly with the pivot along the Marne working in unison and the process of attempting to capture many of the nearly half a million Germans in the big pocket is well on the way to what at present seems like possible success.

Counter-Offensive Starts.

The Germans, however, evidently do not intend to permit themselves to be entrapped without fighting. Having thrown thousands of reinforcements into the already congested salient, they have started a counter-attack of great violence all along the semi-circular front from the Ourcq river to the region immediately southwest of Rheims, and their men are said to have orders to stem the allied tide of advance at all costs.

Allies Reinforced Also.

Nevertheless, all accounts, the Americans, French, British and Italian troops, themselves well reinforced to meet the new turn in affairs, were steadily pressing forward at nearly all points on the battle line to Rheims, while east of the cathedral city, a Polish contingent—the first of the Poles to enter the combat—is declared to have carried out successful an enterprise against the enemy in which more than 200 Germans were made prisoners.

At Pincer's Pivot.

At the pivot of the pincer north of the Marne, midway between Chateau-Thierry and Rheims, the French have extended their line northward in the forest of Dormans; while the eastern jaw of the pincer, under the pressure of the British, has noticeably moved forward in a northwesterly direction for about a mile and a half over a three-mile front to Mary Premechy and Greux, the last named village five miles west of Rheims, and a scant mile and a half from the Rheims-Fismes road. At Mary Premechy the allied line now stands about a half mile south of the Fismes, which is the central station on the railway running between Soissons and Rheims.

Cut 37 Miles to 21.

For a week and a day the allied troops have hammered against the Soissons-Rheims salient until its width across between the cities has been narrowed to about 21 miles from an original width of 37 miles while the triangular salient has been welded into a semi-circular one. Over the entire front the allied artillery continues to rain shells from all sides and airmen keep up their intensive bombing of troop formations and military works.

Germans Are Determined.

As yet, notwithstanding the inroads of the allied troops, there has been no sign of an impending general retreat on the part of the German, and if he elects to stand and fight it out, and the allied gains continue with the same success as heretofore, it seems that with the daily narrowing of the neck (Continued on Page Ten.)

Eastern Edge of Pocket Is Pulled Eight Miles to West

Huns Use 70 Divisions; Have Lost 25,000 Men Captured, and 500 Guns

With the French Army in France, July 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—Up to the present 70 German divisions have been identified in the present fighting zone and the battle therefore may be regarded as the biggest since the beginning of the war.

The prisoners taken number 25,000 and more than 500 cannon and thousands of machine guns have been captured. Of the prisoners fourteen per cent belong to the 1918 class, showing that nearly all these boys already have been incorporated in fighting units. If all of them have been utilized they would form from 17 to 18 per cent of the German strength.

Information received proves that the 1920 class which it was intended to be incorporated in the army of October, has been ordered into the units in September. Most of those of this class are not 18 years old.

FRANCO-AMERICANS ADVANCE TWO MILES

French Official Statement Tells Of Gains at Various Points On Line.

ALLIES GOING STEADILY

Additional Successes Won Yesterday Ourcq, in the Bottom of Salient, and Along East Side at Vigny.

Paris, July 25.—Franco-American troops today made an advance of nearly two miles at certain points on the Aisne-Marne front, notably in the Dormans region, says the war office additional gains are recorded showing that the progress of the allies in this salient is steadily going on.

The text of the statement reads: "On the Ourcq front the fighting today met with the same success as on preceding days.

North of the river we occupy Quich-Le Ville. South of the river Franco-American troops made an advance which reached three kilometers at certain points, despite stern resistance especially in the region of Dormans.

Southeast of Armentieres we occupy Hill 141 and have crossed the Nanteuil stream. Further to the south we captured the village of Coigny and the greater part of Tournelle wood. We are making our progress in the forest of Fere as far as the general Beauverdes Le Charnel.

"Our advance continued under favorable conditions in the Ris forest and north of Dormans. Southwest of Rheims the enemy continued his violent attacks against our positions between Vigny and St. Euphrase and succeeded in gaining a foothold on Hill 240. Our troops soon reconquered this height, taking about 100 prisoners."

"Aviation: On July 24 Franco-British airmen brought down nine German machines and set fire to three. Our bombing machine carried out numerous expeditions behind the battle zone. The station and depots at Amifontaine, the stations and railroads at Bazoches, Courlandon, Fismes and Cugnotcourt were copiously bombed. A total of 10 tons of projectiles was used with good results. Fires and heavy explosions were observed at Courlandon and Fismes."

"Eastern theatres, July 24.—The artillery activity was quite marked on the Dorain front and vicinity of Kapa; it was less intense elsewhere. Allied aviators bombed enemy establishments in the region of Mourgas north of Monastir and at Demir-Hissar."

BATTLEFIELD SCENE OF WASTE

NOT A HOUSE WILL BE LEFT WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, JULY 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—A desolate, shell-torn waste and burning houses and towns mark the zone evacuated by the (Continued on Page Ten.)

British and French Troops Yesterday Advanced to Greux and Premechy.

POCKET 21 MILES WIDE

Whole Distance Between Allied Lines is Under Fire of the Allied Guns.

GAIN OF MUCH IMPORTANCE

Narrows Salient Between Soissons and Rheims.

London, July 25.—British and French troops have advanced to Greux and Mary Premechy, in the battle sector just west of Rheims, according to information received here this afternoon from the battle front.

The new line shows an advance of about two miles toward Fismes. This gain, when seen on the map, is of evident importance, for it greatly narrows the salient created by the Germans in their drive of last May.

No Longer "Soissons-Rheims." It no longer is proper to speak of the pocket as running from Soissons to Rheims, for the newest advance of the Entente allies has pulled the eastern edge of the pocket eight miles to the westward, making Mary Premechy the marker of the eastern rim.

Pocket's Mouth Only 21 Miles. The mouth of the pocket is now only 21 miles wide and the whole distance between the two sides is under range of the allied guns.

The French are continuing their attacks between the River Ourcq and the River Marne. They advanced last night for a distance of a mile, capturing the southern part of Fere forest and they now occupy a farm on the main road from Fere-En-Tardenois to Jaulgonne. The town of Fere-En-Tardenois is now within 8,000 yards of the French lines.

French Went Too Far. The French last night also pushed well forward along the south bank of the River Ourcq, but this morning they found they were in an isolated position and they were compelled to fall back.

East of Rheims a Polish contingent, attached to the French army, made a successful enterprise and captured 213 prisoners.

Gain of 1 1/2 Miles on 3-Mile Front. The advance of the British and French forces along the battle front between Rheims and the Marne to Greux and Mary Premechy represents a gain of about a mile and a half along a front of three miles. The town of Gueux lies to the south of the River Vesle and is about five miles directly west of the cathedral city. Mary Premechy is a short distance north of the Fismes-Pargny railroad and about 10 1/2 miles southeast of Fismes, which is the center of a line running between Soissons and Rheims.

40 Square Miles Taken. On the west side of the pocket the Anglo-French troops have straightened their line at the expense of the Germans during the past 24 hours, this involving a loss to the enemy of about 40 square miles of territory between Armentieres and Vincelles. The line in the lower western part of the pocket now runs straight southeast from Armentieres and along this line the German have been compelled to give up all the little angles and corners which they had been holding on to as observation posts or strong points.

Fere-En-Tardenois Center. The German military nerve center at Fere-En-Tardenois, which is the junction of several great roads, was the most important storehouse and distributing point of the Germans, is now under the cross fire from the French and American artillery and must be well nigh untenable. In fact, no place in the whole pocket is a very comfortable position with the allied long range artillery sweeping back and forth with balloons and airplanes directing the fire.

German Guns Being Removed. Possible evidence of a further withdrawal by the Germans is seen on the western flank of the pocket in the fact that the German artillery fire has grown much lighter all through this sector and the guns appear to be firing from greater distances behind the lines, as if being removed to places of safety.

The German army definitely on the upswing (Continued on Page Ten.)

GERMAN GENERALS IN TRYING TO GET AWAY DRIVE MEN FIERCELY

Estimated Crown Prince Has Lost 200,000, Americans Accounting for Fourth.

APPALLING NUMBER DEAD

Whole Complex Allied Army Streaming Along the Roads Leading to the Front.

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne Front, July 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—With the sides of the Soissons-Rheims sack coming steadily closer together the German crown prince's generals are driving their men desperately in order to hold them off long enough to extricate the armies threatened at the bottom, north of the Marne.

The American and French troops are never far behind the retreating forces and the vicious rear guard actions are not sufficiently restrained to enable the Germans to proceed in the orderly manner planned.

At Dormans, north of the Marne and east of Chateau-Thierry, the Germans counter-attacked, taking the position, but were promptly driven out. They occupied Treloup, west of Dormans, and have held it.

Minor advances have been made by the allies in the woods in that part of the sector, while to the east, south of Rheims, there were additional allied successes.

The Americans have occupied Courpou on the road to Fere-En-Tardenois and the French positions, and the French positions have been advanced until Quichy Le Chateau is dominated by the guns.

Nearer Soissons the Germans failed to hold all their positions notwithstanding reinforcements and their desperate need.

It is estimated unofficially tonight that the enemy losses are more than 200,000, of which 50,000 were inflicted by the Americans. The prisoners alone number over 30,000 and the losses in dead and wounded are appalling.

The French used more armored cars than usual and cavalry or mounted patrols were effectively employed in clearing the forests and maintaining contact.

Toward Soissons there has been increased artillery work and bitter and steady fighting. The French and American soldiers disregarded caution almost entirely yesterday, advancing their lines in open order and taking what came without bothering to hunt down machine gun nests. This brought them into closer contact with the main body of the retreating forces.

In numerous cases machine companies surrendered, although it was necessary to clean up many others.

Division headquarters are constantly closing a record of the comparative (Continued on Page Ten.)

BRITONS AT HOME FIGHT FOR KAISER

Tens of Thousands Munition Workers Strike.

At a Time When Every Shell Is Needed By Brothers at Front They Cut Off Vital Supplier of War Embargo Cause.

Birmingham, Eng., July 25.—It was estimated that 100,000 munition workers were out on strike in the Birmingham district this morning. Workers in a few factories decided to remain at work pending the outcome of negotiations which are proceeding with the ministry of munitions at London and the result of the conference of engineering and allied trades which opened at Leeds today.

The workmen of the "slack country," one of the chief industrial districts of the midlands, are joining the strike and the situation is considered more serious.

LACK OF SKILLED WORKERS LED TO EMBARGO—MISUNDERSTOOD LONDON, July 25.—(Via Ottawa.)—The strike had its origin in the deficiency of skilled labor. This deficiency necessitated the government making plans for an even distribution of labor, but some firms, by offering attractive wages, managed to secure an unfair proportion of the skilled among the principal cities.

WASHINGTON ELECTRIC IN EXPECTANCY OF PENDING GREAT EVENTS IN FRANCE

"How Many Sons Has Your Majesty Lost?" All-Highest Is Asked

Geneva, July 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—"How many sons has Your Majesty lost? How many have been wounded or mutilated?" These questions, incorporated in a telegram, were sent to the German emperor yesterday by Pastor Dryander, founder of the new Liberal German-American newspaper "Friedensruf (Peace Call) of Zurich." "In the event there have been no casualties in the imperial family," the telegram continues, "we demand an immediate explanation." Emperor William has not replied.

PROPOSED REVENUE BILL IS INSUFFICIENT

Present Tax Plans Will Not Raise the Six Billions As Desired.

WRESTLING WITH WAR TAX

Ways and Means Committee Will Have To Revise Proposed Tax on Income and Excess Profits. Three Plans.

Washington, July 24.—The house ways and means committee in tentative agreement today upon a graduated tax on war excess profits estimated by the treasury to yield only \$1,590,000,000 revenue, found that either all its plans so far tentatively agreed upon would have to be readjusted in order to procure the \$6,000,000,000 sought from excess profits and incomes or to resort to some new tax proposition.

The committee, after an all-day session, tentatively agreed to a specific exemption of \$3,000 from net income on invested capital, instead of \$3,000 plus 7 to 9 per cent, exempted from excess profits tax under the present law. Various taxing plans also were discussed with committees favoring 30 per cent on all net income in excess of the exemption of 10 per cent, and not in excess of 20 per cent, excess profits; 50 per cent on net income in excess of 20 per cent, and not in excess of 25 per cent, and 80 per cent on net income in excess of 25 per cent. Under the present law the war excess profits tax runs from 20 per cent, on net income in excess of the deduction and not in excess of 15 per cent, of invested capital for the taxable year to 60 per cent, in excess of 30 per cent, of such invested capital, together with 8 per cent on net income in excess of deduction for trade or business having no invested capital.

Discovery that the total revenues likely to be derived from income and excess profits taxes will amount to only \$4,340,000,000 instead of the \$6,000,000,000 contemplated by the treasury as capable of being raised from these sources is considered as probable basis for a revision of the schedules so far tentatively agreed upon.

Should it be necessary to revise the tentatively agreed upon tax upon excess profits, the committee leaned to "the three following plans:

Tax of 80 per cent on all net incomes in excess of the 10 per cent, exemption, estimated by the treasury to yield \$2,400,000,000.

Tax of 60 per cent on all net incomes in excess of exemption of 10 per cent, and not in excess of 20 per cent, and 80 per cent on all net income in excess of 20 per cent, estimated by the treasury as possible of yielding \$1,750,000,000.

Tax of 50 per cent on all net incomes between the average per cent of profits for the best four of the six years from 1911 to 1916, inclusive, the years to be selected by the corporation, with a deduction of ten per cent for capital paid in since 1916. No estimate of the revenue to be raised under this plan was made by the treasury, but it was said this tax would affect concerns which made large profits before the war as well as since the beginning of the war.

Food Highest in Richmond. Richmond, July 25.—The bureau of statistics of the United States department of labor today announced that a census taken on June 15 revealed Richmond as having the highest food prices of any city in the state outside of Norfolk, notwithstanding it is the seat of the state food administration.

The report sets forth that outside of Norfolk, Philadelphia and Washington, prices in Richmond are the highest among the principal cities.

Capital Stirred by Untraceable Reports Crown Prince Had Surrendered.

ARMY OFFICERS DOUBTFUL

Do Not Believe Foch's Pincer Yet Ready to Be Crushed Down on Huns.

WEST OF RHEIMS VITAL

If Allies Succeed There, the Game Is Up.

Washington, July 25.—With American, French and British forces pressing the enemy hard on all sides of the Aisne-Marne battle front the air of Washington was electric tonight with a feeling of expectancy, as of great events impending. Rumors of decisive victory ran through official circles like wildfire. Untraceable reports were current that the army of the German crown prince had been trapped and that even the crown prince himself had been captured.

Official reports gave no foundation on which any feeling of suppressed excitement could be based.

Continued Allied Advances. "The latest dispatches," said Secretary Baker, "show continued advances in several places by French, British and American troops. They are not extensive, but are important and show the battle is continuing with great vigor."

Early in the day a press dispatch told of rumors in London that the British west of Rheims had scored a decided success and advanced toward Fismes. The British rail bridge midway between Soissons and Rheims. Later reports confirmed this to the extent of a stride forward by British and French forces on a three-mile front just west of Rheims throwing the enemy back and was overrunning and probably it was this which started wild reports of a sweeping victory.

Franco-American Gains. Still later came news of decided gains in the Franco-American troops around Fere-En-Tardenois and north of Dormans on the Marne. It was evident that the southern and southwestern angle of the German position were yielding to the pressure against them. News came of important advances along the Ourcq front.

The outstanding fact tonight appeared to be that the enemy front was being forced back all along the sixty-mile line. Of the gains recorded by the Franco-British front, probably the greatest possibilities, for it means that the eastern jaw of Gen. Foch's gigantic trap is closing in. Other reports show that the German high command had massed reserves and concentrated the strength of the movement at this point or at its counterpart, near Soissons, where the western jaw has already been driven ahead in a week's fighting and now faced the Franco-British front, assembled from the whole battle line.

When Trap May Be Sprung. Should the Franco-British forces be able to enlarge their advance materially the great trap might be finally sprung. The question of any information available at a late hour tonight is the assumption that the time had come when the jaws of Foch's great vise might be crushed together. Knowing what they know of the strength of the Germans massed to hold back the menacing flank attacks they believed it entirely possible for the enemy to escape northward. The question in their minds was whether the line from Fismes to the Ourcq probably had finally determined to surrender all the ground gained in his efforts since he struck the French lines on the Chemin des Dames last May or had resolved to fight it out to a finish where the new strands or lines slightly withdrawn from their present position near the Marne.

Huns Weaker in South. Today's advice indicated that further withdrawal was in progress along the southern loop of the line. Franco-American advances north of Dormans show that points to which the enemy has clung tenaciously for days are being taken. Progress all along the line from Fismes to the Ourcq probably has made these most southerly German positions untenable, it was said.

The situation cannot be clearly gauged until further information is received as to the Franco-British operations (Continued on Page Ten.)

AMERICA IS ASKED TO GO ON RATION OF TWO LBS. SUGAR

World Shortage and Demands of War Make It Necessary to Reduce Consumption.

SUPPLIES AT LOW EBB

Crops Shot, Ships Scarce and Submarines Have Sunk Over Fifty Million Pounds.

Washington, July 25.—The American public is asked by the food administration to go on a sugar ration of two pounds per capita monthly beginning August 1, to meet a world shortage in this commodity and to care for immediate demands of the allies and American military forces.

The public at present is on a three pounds per capita monthly ration, on a request issued by the food administration a month ago. Household rationing will be voluntary at present, but public eating places will be required to observe new restrictions effective August 1, permitting the use of two pounds of sugar for every 80 meals served instead of three pounds under existing regulations.

The sugar situation confronting the United States is described by the food administration as follows:

"The sugar supplies throughout the country, in homes, stores, factories and bakeries are at low ebb; the production from the American beet and Louisiana cane crops have been disappointing; the yield in Porto Rico has likewise been small and unanticipated and the inability of the United States and the allies to secure sugar from Java and other distant sources on account of the imperative call for ships for the movement of troops and their supplies, has materially reduced the supply from such quarters. Added to this already difficult situation, the quantity needed by the army and navy has likewise been small and unanticipated and the inability of the United States and the allies to secure sugar from Java and other distant sources on account of the imperative call for ships for the movement of troops and their supplies, has materially reduced the supply from such quarters. 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