



FOCH STRIKES BACK AT GERMANS

AT STRATEGIC POINTS HUNS ARE DRIVEN BACK BY ALLIES

Allies Are Striking Furious Blows Between the Aisne and the Marne and Are Making Gains at Strategic Points and Are Retaking Small Towns and Villages Lost in the First Rush of Monday. Maximum Penetration of Allied Line is Six Miles.

On the French front in France, July 18. (By the Associated Press 11 a. m.)—The allied forces are today engaged in an important counter-attack between the Aisne and the Marne, north of Chateau Thierry. The attack is progressing favorably.

Paris, July 18.—The French this morning delivered an attack along the line from the River Aisne as far south as the region of Belleau, a front of about twenty-five miles and made progress at certain points of between a mile and a mile and a half and two miles, the war office announces today.

The situation on the Marne and Champagne fronts is unchanged. Early in the movement prisoners taken in the advances began coming in.

The northern part of the front of attack is the town of Fontenoy, nearly a mile north of the River Aisne.

In the fighting on the front of the German offensive the French last night stopped the Germans in the face of violent attacks which the enemy launched southwest of Nanteuil-La-Posse, between the Marne and Rheims.

On the front beyond Rheims, east of the Vesle river, an attack by German guard units was completely repulsed.

This morning's attack represents what apparently is an important strategic move by General Foch to counter the German blow along a front farther south along the Marne and on the line to Rheims.

The sector in which the attack was launched included a part of the front held by Americans. The American line extended east of Belleau westward northwestward at least as far as Torcy, probably some two or three miles within the area mentioned.

It is quite generally assumed at the time that these attacks were merely for defensive purposes to fortify the line against a possible renewal of the German assault in this direction.

LONDON HEARS OF THE SUCCESS OF FRENCH

London, July 18.—News received in London indicates that the attack started by the French this morning on the front between Chateau-Thierry and Soissons is on a considerable scale. The attack is believed to be making good progress.

Advices this afternoon stated that the Germans had made further attacks east of Rheims and that the French at various points on the front had regained ground.

BRITISH ADVANCE THEIR LINES SLIGHTLY LAST NIGHT

London, July 18.—Southwest of Villers-Bretonneux, south of the Somme, the British line has been advanced on a front of more than one mile, says the statement of the war office today.

The British positions to the east of Hebuterne also were improved somewhat. South of Binouy on the front southeast of Arras a German raiding party was driven off.

The German artillery showed considerable activity during the night in the Flanders front north of Ballois.

EMPEROR WILLIAM WATCHED THE FIGHT

Amsterdam, July 18.—Emperor William watched the opening of the latest German offensive from an advance observation post north-west of Rheims, his favorite correspondent Karl Rosner reports in a dispatch to the Berlin Lokai-Anzeiger.

FRENCH REPORT RECAPTURE OF IMPORTANT POINT

London, July 18.—The French, the reports state, have recaptured Montovain south of the Marne at the point where the Germans had advanced furthest toward Epernay and Cote-la-Reine to the west and took as well the heights of the villages overlooking the Marne. The Germans are reported to have made slight progress north of St. Agnan in the district to the southwest of Dormans below the Marne, but their progress has been slow. The maximum penetration of the French lines since July 15 is six miles, according to the latest reports of fighting north of the Marne. Italians have retaken the village of Charzet, two miles northeast of Bligny, the advices add.

SITUATION ALONG FRONT OF ATTACK IS EXCELLENT

London, July 18.—Reports received in London show the situation up to noon all along the line a fat attack begun by the French this morning to be excellent.

The attack is the biggest offensive move made this year by the allies. The French have gained from two to four miles everywhere on a twenty-five mile front of their offensive today, between the Aisne and the Marne, according to reports reaching London this afternoon. The French have captured several thousand prisoners and about twenty guns.

FRENCH COUNTER ATTACKS SURPRISE TO GERMANS

London, July 18.—The French move this morning appears to have been a surprise to the Germans. The manner in which this surprise was accomplished may best be judged from the map which shows a great area of forests covering the ground behind the French line. Under cover of these forests General Foch has been preparing for some time for the present move.

Washington, July 18.—Word that the French were striking the Germans on a wide front below the Aisne sent a wave of enthusiasm through the War Department today when the first bulletin came in. Every official accepted it as proof that the long days of hourly defensive operations are ended and that General Foch, largely because of the million American soldiers that have been rushed overseas now is able to use aggressive tactics.

At first glance and without any definite information as to the French counter stroke officers are inclined to believe it a diversion in force to relieve pressure on the front of the German drive. It is the first extensive counter blow the allies have been able to attempt since the German onslaught began last March.

CENSOR



COL. M. CHURCHILL

Colonel Marlborough Churchill is the new army censor. Censorship has been placed under the military intelligence section of the general staff, with Col. Churchill, head of the section, as chief censor. General Frank W. McIntyre, who has been acting as censor, will resume his duties as chief of the bureau of insular affairs.

AMERICAN FORCES GO OVER THE TOP WITH FRENCH

With the American Army in France, July 18.—American troops went over the top with a whoop this morning when the French launched their counter-attack in the region below Chateau-Thierry.

LOSSES OF GERMANS IN MARNE POCKET WERE 60,000

Paris, (Havas Agency), July 16.—In the pocket which the Germans have created south of the Marne their losses, according to conservative estimates, reached 60,000 in the first few days of the fighting, the Matin declares today.

NASH COUNTY BOY DIES IN SERVICE

Thomas E. Wilson, Nash Soldier, Dead at Ellis Island Army Hospital

News has been received in the city of the death of Thomas E. Wilson, a Nash county boy, in the U. S. Army Hospital at Ellis Island, New York. The young man had just returned from overseas, and was taken to the hospital on account of pneumonia.

Post information available is to the effect that the young man is a son of Mr. J. H. Harvey, who resides in English community, just across the Nash county line. It is understood that the doctor had been in Nash county, but that he had not been in the county for many years. His father had been in the county for many years. Mr. J. S. Harvey, No. 707 North Carolina Street, is the father of the young man.

The army officials were also unable to secure information regarding the young man as they sent telegrams to his relatives. One telegram was sent to Wilson, and stated that Wilson could be home as the Wilson family could. It is not known here what doctors that will be made of his body.

COTTON MARKET

New York, July 18.—The cotton market today showed a general advance in the opening index. First prices were 8 1/2 to 20 points higher, except November and December, which showed 7 points lower, with July selling at 29 and October at 25.50 on the call. There was considerable trading at this level and prices sagged off about 10 to 12 points from the best before the end of the first hour.

BILLION AND HALF IN FOOD TO ALLIES

Washington, July 18.—Food valued at approximately \$1,500,000,000 was sent to the allied countries during the second year which ended June 30.

FRIESIAN COW SELLS FOR MAONIFICENT SUM OF \$18,375

London, July 18.—Edna Betty, Friesian cow which is now giving two gallons of milk daily, was sold recently for \$18,375 at Haybridge, Essex. Edna holds the British record of 2,410 gallons of a milk in a year. That sum which she was sold for is the highest price ever paid for a Friesian cow. Milk in London is now selling for four pence a quart.

AMERICANS LAUNCH POWERFUL DRIVE NEAR CHATEAU THIERRY

With the American Army in France, July 18.—American storm troops in large numbers launched, in cooperation with the French a powerful offensive on the line to the north of Chateau Thierry this morning. The Americans passed beyond nearly all their objectives, including the Paris-Soissons road.

The enemy was taken completely by surprise all along the line. The Americans advanced behind a terrific barrage to their first objectives in less than half an hour. While they were digging in, more Americans in most cases passed over the first objectives and then the vanced behind the resumed barrage to the second objectives, which were speedily taken, especially at north end of the attack, opposite the Paris-Soissons road.

Numerous tanks participated in the offensive. The American infantry went into the attack without previous artillery preparation. In their advance behind the rolling barrage they captured many guns, machine guns, prisoners, equipment and material. The Germans in most places offered feeble resistance, but here and there they put up a stubborn fight, which the American shock units quickly overcame at the point of the bayonet and with the muzzles of their weapons.

The town of Soissons is now well within the range of the American guns.

SUMMARY OF WAR THEATRE DURING DAY

General Foch, the allied commander in chief, has taken the aggressive on an important scale, attacking this morning on a 25-mile front between the Aisne and the Marne, the westerly side of the German's Marne salient.

The attack appears to be a significant counter stroke to the German drive along the Marne-Rheims-Champagne front. From various sources come reports that the battle is progressing favorably to the allied forces which presumably include American troops.

The front of attack runs from Fontenoy, 6 miles west of Soissons to the town of Belleau on the Clignon river. Few details of the battle are yet available, the main fact officially stated that at various points along this front progress of a mile and a half to two miles has been made and that prisoners have been taken.

The situation on this front presents interesting possibilities. The battle line when the German offensive paused at the Marne early in June closely resembled the letter V with the acute angle blunted. Since their attack on Monday morning the Germans have made progress which has changed the form of the line to that of the letter U, the right leg of which is shorter than the left.

From Fontenoy at the tip of the left leg to Rheims on the right is about 37 miles. The distance from the Aisne to the present battlefront south of the Marne is about 25 miles.

It is along the left leg of the V that the allied onslaught began this morning. Behind the allied line is the forest of Villers-Cotterets with a network of strategic wagon roads and three railway lines. In front of them there is an important railroad line running southward from Soissons to Chateau Thierry, presumably used as a supply artery for a large portion of the enemy troops along the Marne river. This railway was about four miles from the allied front when the attack was started today.

If the attack of the allies is what it appears to be it is a serious threat to the whole German position south of the Aisne.

Rapid progress by the allies to the eastward would complete abandonment of the German offensive which is now apparently directed toward Epernay to the south of Rheims mountain. It might if successful even bring about a German retirement from the whole Soissons-Marne-Rheims salient with potential disastrous results to the enemy in the loss of men, gun and material.

The part American troops are taking in the allied counter blow is yet unknown.

ONE TAR HEEL ON THE CASUALTY LIST

James B. Chapman, of Taylorsville, Is Reported Severely Wounded in The Army Report.

Washington, July 18.—The army casualties list today shows: Killed in action, fourteen. Died of wounds, ten. Died of disease, six. Died of accident and other causes, two.

Wounded severely, twenty. Wounded slightly, one. Missing, four. Total, fifty-seven. The list today included the name of one North Carolina—Private James B. Chapman, of Taylorsville, who is reported wounded severely.

MARINE LIST

Washington, July 18.—The Marine Corps casualty list today shows: Killed in action, three. Died of wounds, one. Wounded severely, three. Total, seven.

PERSHING CABLES THEO. ROOSEVELT

Says Quentin Roosevelt May Have Landed Safely Behind Enemy Lines

New York, July 18.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, just before leaving the city for Saratoga, N. Y., to attend the Republican state convention today, received a cablegram from Gen. Pershing in which the American commander expressed the hope that Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, the Colonel's son, reported killed in an aerial battle in France, may have landed safely.

Defend the "bread line" with eternal vigilance—our men are risking their lives to build it.

INTERVENTION IN SIBERIA DECIDED

Japanese Government Has Reached Decision as Outcome of U. S. Proposal

DISPATCH FROM TOKIO

Message States That Plan Has Been Evolved for Intervention by Japanese and Americans

London, July 18.—The Japanese government has reached a decision which is the outcome of proposals from the United States, says a dispatch from Tokio to the Times, under date of July 17, for joint American-Japanese intervention in Siberia. The American proposals, the dispatch adds, were different from those made by Great Britain and France.

MERCHANT MARINE NEEDS YOUNG MEN

The Standard Drug Company, of this city, has been appointed recruiting agent for the United States Shipping Board, to enroll young men from this city and vicinity for service in the merchant marine. The store will be used as a recruiting station, and will enlist all young, husky Americans between the ages of 21 and 29 for training on a squadron of school ships maintained by the shipping board. The training is preliminary to service in merchant vessels for the duration of the war, and the men enrolled for this service are exempted from the draft. All young men in the city and vicinity who wish to join the merchant marine should apply to the Standard Drug Company, at the corner of Main street and Susquehanna street.

STOCK MARKET

New York, July 18.—Leading stocks made substantial gains in the first half hour of today's trading on the further favorable war news. War shares were most conspicuous in the advance, with equipments and rails showing signs of wanting from their long period of dullness. Reading advanced 1.54 and Union Pacific 1 point.

Totals on lead specialties, Sumatra rallying 3 points. Marine preferred, Mexican Petroleum, International Paper also were active and strong. Liberty bonds were firmer.

ONLY 2 1/2 PER CENT OF BELGIUM FREE FROM HUNS

Paris, July 18.—Less than 2 1/2 per cent of Belgium territory is still free from the invader. All the unoccupied communes are within range of the German heavy artillery which has fired upon Dunkirk, but all are inhabited.

On the other hand Belgian troops have occupied seven times as much German territory in German East Africa as the total area of Belgium.

MR. F. F. FAGAN GO TO RICHMOND

Resigns as Cashier of National Bank of Rocky Mt. Effective Sept. 1

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Fagan Will Become Active Vice President of First National Bank at the Virginia Capital

Mr. Frank F. Fagan, for the past four years cashier of the National Bank of Rocky Mount, has resigned, effective Sept. 1, to take a position as active vice-president of the First National Bank of Richmond, Va., one of the largest banking institutions in the South. Mr. Fagan presented his resignation yesterday at a meeting of the directors of the bank.

The directors elected Mr. J. L. Suter, who recently accepted a position with the local institution, as cashier to succeed Mr. Fagan. Mr. Suter came to the city from Emporia, where he was active vice-president of the First National Bank.

Messrs. William G. Robbins and Norman S. Bennett were also elected assistant cashiers of the local bank, their appointments being effective Sept. 1. Both young men have been connected with the bank for some time, and are well qualified to fill their new positions.

The resignation of Mr. Fagan will be known with regret, especially among the business interests of the city and section. However, the numerous staunch friends he made while in the city will wish him much success in his new duties with the Richmond bank.

Mr. Fagan began his banking career in 1901, when he took a position with the Bank of Plymouth, as clerk. Since that time he has worked himself steadily up the ladder, and has a notable record for achievement and success to his credit.

He came to Rocky Mount in 1914 as cashier of the Bank of Rocky Mount from the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Williamston. By his splendid ability, knowledge of finance, and affable disposition he not only made a host of friends, but the local institution has enjoyed a successful and gratifying growth during the time he held the reins as cashier. Mr. Fagan's services to the bank have been most valuable, and it was with great regret that the directors yesterday accepted his resignation.

Besides rendering the bank willing and valuable service, Mr. Fagan showed himself to be a live citizen, and a man with the interests of the community at heart. During his residence in the city he was identified with every movement that would tend to make Rocky Mount a bigger and better place, and one of the best business cities in eastern North Carolina. He was president for one term of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce, and had been one of its directors for several years.

Mr. Fagan not only served the bank and city, but the government in helping successfully prosecute the war. As chairman of the Liberty Loan committee for Rocky Mount and Nash county he was instrumental in putting the city over the top in the three drives waged since the U. S. entered the war. He entered into the work of selling Liberty Loan bonds with the firm intention of making the campaign a success, and in an instance did not let his co-workers fail to achieve the goal. During the second campaign especially was a notable record made, when the city and county went 100 per cent over the allotment. He also proved himself a business man of unusual ability, and his advice on business matters was sought by many.

Mr. Fagan is one of the directors of the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Co., and of the Homestead & Loan Co., and also served as president of the Sagamore club.

In the going of Mr. Fagan the city is losing a valuable citizen, and a man who did many things for its business and commercial advancement. He is a man whom any municipality would be proud to boast.

The appointment of Mr. Fagan is a splendid compliment to his financial and business ability. This institution has total resources of over \$50,000,000, and does business in all parts of the South.

No other changes in the personnel of the local institution were made by the directors yesterday, and the other matters discussed were of a routine nature.

When the Hun can't penetrate the city's defenses, he's been occupying French prisons and hospitals.