

FIRST BIG AMERICAN OFFENSIVE

First Separate Drive Begun by Pershing's Men—Important Gains Made First Day.

The first big American offensive which began at daybreak Thursday between the Meuse and Moselles rivers was conducted under General Pershing's personal supervision and was executed under orders of American officers with American soldiers.

The action was begun on a 20-mile front on the famous St. Mihiel salient in Lorraine, which had stood a sharp wedge in the French line south-east of Verdun since the commencement of the war.

In the preliminary thrust ground was gained on both sides of the triangle and also at its apex at St. Mihiel. The advance of the Americans was swift and sure and gains in excess of 4 miles on the southern side of the battle area were made, but the cavalry far outstripped the tanks and footmen.

Thiaucourt, Bouillouville, Pannes and several other towns in the south were captured in the initial dash, while on the west, at the northern edge of the pocket, the village of Combres was captured and the environs of Demmartin La Montagne were reached.

The fighting front at the commencement of the battle aggregated 20 miles—eight miles on the western side and 12 miles on the southern side. The fighting was preceded by an extremely heavy artillery bombardment and the troops and tanks advanced under barrage which was carried out with mathematical precision.

General Pershing's communique for Thursday follows: "Headquarters, American expeditionary forces, Sept. 12, 1918.

"Section A: This morning, our troops, operating in the St. Mihiel sector, made considerable gains. Assisted by French units they broke the enemy's resistance and advanced at some points to a depth of five miles. We have counted 8,000 prisoners up to the present. The operation is still in progress."

Everything Planned Minutely. The London Daily Mail correspondent at the American front sends the following description of the battle along the St. Mihiel sector:

"The first American army under personal command of General Pershing for the first time went into action today. Never before has there been such a large concentration of American troops for one operation and never have the Americans been in such complete control of their operation. The event has long been anticipated. Some people assigned to it grandiose objectives but in reality the attack is for limited objectives only.

"The concentration of a great part of the most experienced United States troops had taken place during the last two weeks and everything was planned minutely and with exactitude for a great event in American history. Last night the final preparation was completed.

"The country over which the Americans are fighting is very difficult. The high ridges and thick woods offer every concealment for enemy machine guns and in addition the Germans have a fortified line of resistance which has everything in its favor.

"At one o'clock Thursday morning the aerial preparation began with a roar that could be heard many miles away. All tonight it rose and fell with peculiar fluctuations. From all the roads that ran parallel the flashes of

innumerable guns told of the impending assault. Towards 5 o'clock, the hour of the attack, the firing became even more rapid.

"At dawn whole fleets of tanks manned by strong young Americans and French could be seen moving out of their shelters to lead the attack. They lumbered on, but the Germans offered little opposition. The American infantry followed in open order, plowing through the mud, but they were little troubled by the feeble artillery resistance.

"At one point near Seicheprey, where the Americans had previously fought desperately with the Germans, machine gun and automatic fire swept down upon the Yankees' right flank but the ranks and artillery quickly moved in that direction and the Americans went steadily forward.

"At seven o'clock the tanks had disappeared amid a smoke cloud over the ridge in front of Seicheprey.

"The Germans have offered very little resistance to the advancing Americans. Occasionally a stray machine gun or automatic rifle has been discovered but it appears the enemy has withdrawn his main force to a second line where possibly he will defend with greater resistance.

"A few prisoners of the tenth landwehr division have been taken.

"The Americans are pressing forward in fine style and slowly closing in the extreme ends of the St. Mihiel salient.

"At the time of telegraphing, details of what has happened are very meagre but the writer has just visited the battle front and heard of the progress of the Americans.

"From Beaumont I could see lying just below me the trenches from which the Americans started and the valley through which they were fighting. The sun was streaming across the valley, casting shadows from the melancholy wrecks of villages all around. On the left was the black, forbidding height of Montse, with the tiny village of that name nestling on its black side. Spurts of earth sprang from its capacious sides as the American artillerymen battered at it.

"In the valley the tops of what once had been houses in the village of Richecourt were discernible when the smoke disappeared.

"Away to the right, bathed in the sunlight, was the village of St. Bausant resting on the side of the majestic promontory. Khaki clad men were moving along the roads. The smoke occasionally blotted them from view, but they would reappear soon afterward walking with easy stride.

"Meanwhile the air was rent with the torrent of shells. Passing overhead American gunners, manning every possible tip of gun, were working with mechanical rhythm as they loaded and sent the shells to their destination. The light railways continually brought up supplies."

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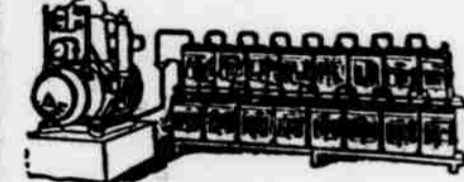
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COMMUNITY FAIRS

Howellsville, Centenary and Oakdale Communities Will Hold Fairs Early in October—Premium Lists.

As has been stated in The Robesonian, community fairs will be held next month in Robeson as follows:

HOWELLSVILLE COMMUNITY FAIR

To be held at Regan School TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1st.

Officers:

J. B. REGAN, President

T. W. MAXWELL, Sec-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS:

Field Crops

N. A. TOWNSEND, Chairman

N. A. KINLAW, Assistant

J. A. SESSOMS, Assistant

ED. SMITH, Assistant

Horticultural Products

D. L. EDGE, Chairman

H. M. KING, Assistant

J. I. TOWNSEND, Assistant

OSCAR BLACKWELL, Assistant

Home Economics

MRS. T. W. MAXWELL, Chairman

MRS. JOE NEAL REGAN, Assistant

MRS. JESSE BRITT, Assistant

MISS MARY RUTH GRAHAM, Assistant

MRS. H. L. ANDREWS, Assistant

MRS. GEORGE PREVATT, Assistant

Live Stock

JOE NEAL REGAN, Chairman

ROWLAND GRAHAM, Assistant

H. A. M'WHITE, Assistant

J. ELMER KINLAW, Assistant

CENTENARY COMMUNITY FAIR

To be held at Centenary School THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3rd.

Officers:

R. H. MILLER, President

J. O. McARTHUR, Sec-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS:

Field Crops

D. B. AYRES, Chairman

JAY HAMMOND, Assistant

R. F. STUART, Assistant

Horticultural Products

JOHN W. WARD, Chairman

L. D. EDENS, Assistant

JOHN A. MCGIRT, Assistant

Home Economics

MRS. JOHN W. WARD, Chairman

MRS. R. H. MILLER, Assistant

MRS. J. O. McARTHUR, Assistant

Live Stock

G. L. ROBERTSON, Chairman

E. H. MCKINNON, Assistant

C. W. McARTHUR, Assistant

OAKDALE COMMUNITY FAIR

To be held at Oakdale School FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th.

Officers:

A. W. HARRINGTON, President

G. E. MORGAN, Sec-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS:

Field Crops

E. M. HARRINGTON, Chairman

N. S. WATSON, Assistant

B. N. EVANS, Assistant

D. BASS, Assistant

Horticultural Products

C. T. FORD, Chairman

J. R. HARRINGTON, Assistant

SANDY EVANS, Assistant

Home Economics

MISS LUMMIE MORGAN, Chairman

MISS ANNIE BELLE HARRINGTON, Assistant

MISS LETTIE ARNETTE, Assistant

MISS PAULINE HERRING, Assistant

Live Stock

C. K. MORGAN, Chairman

P. W. EVANS, Assistant

G. W. FORD, Assistant

H. M. IVEY, Assistant

The premium list is the same for each fair, as follows:

FIELD CROPS

Table with 3 columns: Item number, Description, and Price. Includes items like 'Best ten ears of corn exhibited by corn club member', 'Best ten ears of corn of any one variety', etc.

Table with 3 columns: Item number, Description, and Price. Includes items like 'Best peck of velvet beans, any variety', 'Best bale of any mixed grass hay', etc.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Table with 3 columns: Item number, Description, and Price. Includes items like 'Best plate of Stayman Apples, consisting of 5 specimens', 'Best plate of Delicious Apples, consisting of 5 specimens', etc.

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Table with 3 columns: Item number, Description, and Price. Includes items like 'Best quart jar of Canned peaches', 'Best quart jar of Canned Pears', etc.

Table with 3 columns: Item number, Description, and Price. Includes items like 'Best quart jar of Plum Jam', 'Best quart jar of Blackberry Jam', 'Best quart jar of Cucumber Pickles', etc.

LIVE STOCK AND LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS

Table with 3 columns: Item number, Description, and Price. Includes items like 'Best home cured country ham', 'Best home cured country bacon', 'Best Berkshire boar over 6 months', etc.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1.—All exhibits must be entered by 10 o'clock the day of the Fair.
2.—Articles worthy of display and not on the premium list will be gladly accepted.
3.—Articles of historical interest are solicited.
4.—Articles on exhibit must not be removed without permission of those in authority.
5.—Judging will begin promptly at 11 o'clock.