

# TURNING POINT REACHED ANY HOUR MAY SEE START OF THE COUNTER OFFENSIVE BY BRITISH

## GERMAN DRIVE BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF LOSING MOMENTUM AND BECOMING WEDGE

**At Apex, Wedge Has Gone Beyond Albert, But Has Lost the Broad, Straight Forward Movement That Characterized the First Hours of the Drive Toward Paris by the German Hordes.**

### AMERICANS FIGHTING BESIDE THE BRITISH

**All Authorities Agree That German Drive Is About Exhausted and That Counter Offensive Will Repeat Bitter Dose Handed to Von Kluck in 1914.**

After six days of terrific fighting, the German offensive in France is beginning to show signs of losing its momentum. The progress of the enemy has materially slackened and the form of the dent made in the allied line west of Cambrai has begun to resemble the familiar wedge-like salient, instead of the broad straight forward movement of an offensive which carries all before it.

#### Apex of Wedge.

At its apex this wedge has gone beyond Albert, to the south of that place and is to the westward of the old allied line as it stood a year ago when Von Hindenburg began his "strategic retreat." From this point the line runs off the northeast at a gentle angle, with the line to the south running back until it reaches the Oise river.

In spite of the tremendous exertions and terrible losses, the German efforts to widen the tip of this salient were defeated on Tuesday. The British lines have stood firm to the north and have forced the Germans to turn southward toward the point of least resistance.

#### Americans in Line.

Official statements issued at London confirm the report from Berlin that American forces are engaged in the struggle. They are reported as "fighting shoulder to shoulder" with the French and British in the region of Roye, on the southern side of the salient driven into the allied front. There has been no official report sent to Washington as to the identity of these troops who are taking part in this greatest battle in history.

#### Ready to Strike Back.

With the slackening of the German pace there come indications that the allies are ready to strike back somewhere along the front. Just where this blow will be launched will not be known until it is struck, but it may be expected that its impact will be terrific. It is known that the allied war council at Versailles created a great strategic reserve of men to be used in just the contingency which confronts the armies which have borne the brunt of the fighting since last Thursday morning.

This force probably will be launched when and where it is believed it will break the force of the German onslaught and send the enemy reeling back over the desert from which the British have slowly withdrawn.

Each succeeding day reveals the plans of the Germans absolutely to crush the allied lines west of Cambrai, a terrain which could not be defended by Von Hindenburg a year ago. Each official report shows that this sector is valueless from a military standpoint and that the Germans have paid a terrible price for their advance to the lines established by the allies during the first two years of warfare. It is officially reported that seventy divisions, of 840,000 men, have taken part in the fighting and that troops have been moved from every part of the western battle front to reinforce the armies which have been forcing the British to fall back. Observers at the front say that the German losses have been frightful, and that the enemy has lost from ten to twenty per cent of his men, by the most conservative estimates.

The situation as it stands seems to be a repetition of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)

#### Hold 'Em Tige!



## MOMENT FOR THE COUNTER OFFENSIVE IS AT HAND, ALL REPORTS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD IN FRANCE INDICATE

**Frank H. Simonds, Celebrated Writer, Declares That the Germans Are in the Same Shape As When They Started the First Battle of the Marne, and They Lost That Battle— Situation Grave, But Plenty of Room For Hope Exists.**

(BY FRANK H. SIMONDS.)

NEW YORK, March 26.—While there has been no major change in the situation in the past twenty-four hours, three circumstances of real importance are to be noted. First, the battle to the north of the Somme, between Arras and the old Somme battlefield, has more and more tended to stabilize itself.

Second, there has been a marked increase in the intensity of the German effort south of the Somme, between that river and the Oise, particularly in the plain of Santerro, east of Chaumes and Roye, where Castelnau won the great battle of Roye, September, 1914, after the Marne.

Third, the position of the British and the French, who are now practically back upon the lines from which they began their attack in the battle of the Somme, and the hints coming from British headquarters in France both seem to indicate that the moment for the counter offensive is at hand.

#### Not Actually Stopped.

Now, examining these three circumstances in detail, it is essential to recognize at first that the German attack has not been actually stopped at any point. It has merely slowed down, at least temporarily, to the north, and this may not prove to be the prelude to a return to positional warfare, to the old trench deadlock. But from the start the German success north of the line of the Somme has been far less complete than to the south, and British retirement to the south, in this sector, has been conditioned upon the pressure further down.

If the British have stopped the German attack to the north they will find themselves about in their old lines of June 1918, and a failure to hold these lines would mean the opening of a very wide bulge in their center and an immediate menace to Amiens, not much more than twenty miles behind Albert, which is now just behind the British left flank.

#### Thrust Worn Out?

Conceivably, just conceivably, the German thrust has worn itself out to the north. In that case there would naturally be an intensification of effort to the south, where the German advance is still steady and fairly rapid. Then the decision would come between the Oise and the Somme and in the plain of Batierrre, about Roye and Chaumes, which were both in

German hands throughout the battle of the Somme. It is clear now that the worst break in the British line was at the extreme south, between the western outskirts of St. Quentin and the bend of the Oise, in front of Laferre. Here the British hold lines just taken over from the French and they seem to have held them with insufficient force. In any event, the German advance here promptly smashed the British, and the French, who came in on the third day of the battle, have not yet been able to beat down the German rush which has entered Noyon and reached Roye.

The occupation of Doyon is of little but sentimental importance. It was the only town left intact by the Germans when they retreated a year ago and it was the point in their line nearest Paris. But the real military position is in the hills east and south of the town which the French are still occupying and beyond these hills are other hills which constituted the French position. Before the great retreat, Ribecourt, on the river, was just inside the French line. The real center of the German push, therefore, must be north of these hills and between Noyon and Chaumes with Roye as the objective.

#### Straightening Out Line.

Now it is necessary to face the situation that exists with absolute frankness. So far the British retirement out of their front from the Oise to the outskirts of Arras. Today the line west of the Oise is much shorter and straighter than at the outset of the German attack, and since the French have held the somewhat lengthened line south and east of the Oise without difficulty the consequences have not been serious.

But any further British and French retirement south and west of the Oise will lengthen their line. It will change from a straight front to a front badly bulging in. In a word, the Germans will begin to drive a broad and deep wedge between the British armies west of the Oise and the mass of the French armies from the Oise to Switzerland. As the British line bends it will lengthen and demand more men to defend it and the British have been heavily outnumbered.

If they can hold the present front the British will have lost no ground of permanent military value, because the territory evacuated had been systematically ravaged by the German

defeat, and such beginnings of restoration as have been undertaken since have disappeared under the new invasion. And if the Germans are stopped upon their present positions their supreme offensive will have netted them no territory of importance, only the outlined region between the Somme and the Oise, the Scheidt and the Scarpe.

#### Will Become Serious.

On the other hand, if the Germans still press forward for a few miles the allied situation will become more serious than it has yet been and the danger of a successful interposition of German troops between the French and the British cannot be blinked. In a word, the British and the French are now in another such position as they occupied at the Marne; then their flanks were still safe, resting on Paris and Verdun, but any further retreat meant the loss of contact with these anchorages of their line. Accordingly the intervention of the allied reserve armies, the delivery of a major counter-attack, would seem to be inevitable. The Germans have been on the move for six days; they have outrun their heavy guns and much of the munitions for their light artillery. Their losses have been enormous and their condition must approximate that of the Germans who came upon the decisive field of the Marne, well nigh exhausted.

So far the British have been beaten as the French were beaten in the opening battles of the war. They have suffered the greatest reverses in western warfare since the Marne campaign. They have been driven nearly twenty miles from their prepared positions, which they believed would hold the whole weight of German artillery and infantry attack. They have lost thousands of prisoners and hundreds of guns.

But all this happened to the French in 1914, and in 1914 the French armies, although beaten, were not disorganized nor routed; they kept their alignment, preserved an unbroken front to the Germans and held up the advance until the strategic reserve, two new armies, those of Manoury and Foch, had been concentrated and were able to enter the battle with decisive consequences. Had these armies failed to turn the tide then the war would have been lost and Joffre therefore delayed using them until the supreme hour.

Now the situation would seem to be

(Continued on Page Two.)

## AMERICANS THINK TURNING POINT IN DRIVE IS REACHED

**Air of Expectancy Apparent Among American Officers at Washington**

### AMERICAN TROOPS FIGHTING IN DRIVE

**No Guess Hazarded as to What Part They Are Taking in Battle**

WASHINGTON, March 26.—An air of expectancy was apparent tonight among American and other military officials here who are following most closely the developments of the battle in France. They appeared to feel that a turning point in the terrific struggle was close at hand. Press reports from the British front hinted at the same feeling there.

**Battle Closer Home.**  
For the people of the United States, the announcement by the British authorities that American troops are fighting side by side with French and British defenders brings the battle closer home. War department officials had no word from General Pershing on the subject, but were expecting at any moment reports showing the extent of American participation.

Attention centers here now on the French front rather than on the progress made by the Germans against the British lines. As the battle proceeds, officers here are be-

(Continued on Page Four.)

## EXPLOSIVES AND MYSTERIOUS FIRE DO GREAT DAMAGE AT JERSEY CITY

**Jarvis Warehouse Company Building Wiped Out by Flames**

### ERIE REPAIR SHOPS ARE BADLY DAMAGED

**Damage Will Reach Million and Half—Origin Still Unexplained**

NEW YORK, March 26.—Fire following a series of unexplained explosions destroyed the six-story building of the Jarvis Warehouse company, Inc., near the Erie railroad terminal in Jersey City last night and badly damaged the Erie repair shops. No loss of life had been reported tonight. The material damage was estimated by Jersey City policemen and fire officials at close to \$1,500,000. The goods stored in the warehouse, said to have included a quantity of chemicals, were a total loss.

**Cause Not Determined.**  
The cause of the explosions has not yet been determined though a rigid investigation was begun at once by federal, state and city authorities. The first of the terrific detonations, which occurred shortly after 3 o'clock

(Continued on Page Four.)

## GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL FINANCIAL PLANS FOR EIGHT MONTHS OUTLINED

**After Third Liberty Loan No More Loans Until Next Fall.**

### M'ADOO'S PLANS

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The government's general financial plans for the next eight months, disclosed tonight by Secretary McAdoo, provide for a long period of rest from bond issues after the third loan of \$3,000,000,000 next month, and for floating of the fourth Liberty loan next October or November.

The amount of the fourth loan probably will be greater than any of those that have gone before, and to prepare for it the treasury next summer probably will start the issuance of certificates of indebtedness in considerable amounts.

Loans to allies will be continued and although more than \$2,000,000,000 authorization for this purpose still remains, congress is expected to approve extension of further credits to the sum of \$1,500,000,000.

Mr. McAdoo estimates that this will be sufficient to fill allied needs until October. Actual credits and payments are made at the secretary's discretion, subject only to congress.

In the same way, the amount of certificates of indebtedness actually to be issued depends on Secretary McAdoo's decision. These are issued usually for ninety-day periods, and are redeemable at times when receipts from Liberty loans or taxes are heavy.

Secretary McAdoo will appear tomorrow before the ways and means committee to explain further the details of the bill.

## VICE-PRESIDENT OPENS CAMPAIGN FOR DAVIES IN THE WISCONSIN RACE

**Marshall Urges Republicans to Lay Aside Party Politics**

### SCOTCH LA FOLLETTE

MADISON, Wis., March 26.—Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall, opened his speaking campaign on behalf of Joseph E. Davies, democratic candidate for United States senator in Wisconsin here tonight by appealing to "the republicans."

"It comes to Wisconsin to learn whether 100,000 republicans will not count the loss of partisanship cheap if thereby Wisconsin may be saved to the union," the vice-president said. "No republicans can come to the senate from the state of Wisconsin without a feeling on the part of the imperial German government that that senator, having changed his mind once may, by the shifting of a few hundred votes in Wisconsin, be induced to change it again."

"Your state is under suspicion. You republicans have made the issue here in Wisconsin. If the vote at the primary is based upon the charges and counter-charges which you have made each against the other you have made a mockery of the vote for the kaiser and all against Wilson."

"It makes no difference how pure and patriotic the purposes of the republican candidate may be, to be elected he is now bidding for the vote of the German sympathizer, for the vote of the traitor, for the vote of the seditionist, for the vote of the pacifist, for the vote of the man so hide-bound in politics that he rejoices at every mistake made by the president or his advisers, for the vote of the man who is willing to make an inglorious peace, for the vote of the disappointed profiteer and the vote of the man who wanted our citizens and our ships to stay on the high seas and who wanted an embargo placed upon the sale of munitions of war in the markets of the world. By these votes and these votes alone can the republican candidate hope to be elected, for Mr. Davies would, I believe, scorn to receive them. It is up to you, Mr. Loyal Republican to answer whether you are for the party or whether you are for the state. Wisconsin is not only on trial before America; the republicans of Wisconsin are on trial before the world."