

COUNTER OFFENSIVE NEAR GERMAN DRIVE HAS SLOWED DOWN PRACTICALLY TO STOPPING POINT

GERMAN TIDAL WAVE STILL BREAKING AGAINST ROCKS OF THE BRITISH DEFENSE

Progress Checked on All But One Sector of the Western Front, and Germans Are Barely Creeping Forward at That Point, While the French Troops Are Continuing Their Cut Into German Lines.

ALLIES WORLD WAITING FOR COUNTER OFFENSIVE

Allied Forces in the West Placed Under Single Command of General Foch, Who Has Large Reserves Ready—Any Hour May Witness Allied Movement.

After eight days, during which it has swept forward over the rolling hills of Picardy, at times like a tidal wave, the German offensive has slowed down. Instead of a sweeping advance, its progress has been checked at all but one sector of the front, and there it has been merely creeping for the last two days—this fact even admitted by the German war office, which usually concedes nothing.

From Arleux, north of Arras, to Albert, on the Somme, the British lines have been holding stubbornly and have thrust back the Germans at a number of points. From Albert south to Montdidier, there has been a slow movement to the west, but the hills west of Montdidier are still being held by the French. No ground has been made against the French along the southern side of the salient driven into the allied lines, while it is asserted that the French counter-attack from Lassigny to Noyon is still going on. The extreme depth of the German wedge now is about thirty-seven miles.

Meanwhile, the allied world is awaiting for the entente forces to strike back at the Germans.

When this blow, if it comes, will fall, or where, is as yet sealed in the minds of the men directing the progress of military affairs for the allies, but seemingly it must come soon, if it is to be effective. The German advance is now converging on Amiens, the railroad center of Northern France, which is known to be the ganglion from which run the main communications of the British army in Northern France. The railroad from Paris to Amiens was cut by the Germans at Montdidier, but this would not be vital if Amiens itself is held by the allies.

The German thrust in front of Arras, while, according to Berlin, it netted thousands of prisoners, has apparently come to a stop before Orange Hill, Telegraph Hill and the Labyrinth, strongholds held by the British sector. Repeated mass attacks by the Germans on these points have resulted in terrible losses to them, without, however, breaking the line and causing more than a slight lightening of the front before Arras.

A German official statement declares that since the offensive began 70,000 prisoners and 1,100 guns have been taken. It is interesting to note that after seven days' fighting at Verdun, the Germans claimed they had captured 10,000 men. Taking into consideration the comparative magnitude of the two struggles, the German claims for captures may be considered accurate.

The French reports are silent as to the progress made on the line from Lassigny to Noyon, except to say that the attack is still continuing and that fresh French troops are arriving in his region.

Nothing has developed to show that this is more than a purely local engagement fought for the purpose of preventing the Germans from reaching the Oise river and

GENERAL FOCH IS GIVEN SUPREME COMMAND IN WEST

Will Direct Action of all The Allied Forces Against Germans

MEANS UNIFICATION OF ALL THE ARMIES

Brilliant French Strategist Has Already Made Notable Record

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Official information has reached Washington that General Foch, the French chief of staff, has been appointed to supreme command of all the allied and American forces in France.

This means unification of all the armies opposing the Germans, a step which the American and French military men long have urged and which apparently has been brought about by the gigantic thrust of the enemy in France.

President Advised. It was learned tonight that the president had been officially advised of the action when he sent a cablegram to General Foch today congratulating him "on his new authority." There was no explanation at the white house of what the president meant, and it is understood that there will be no official comment here until after an announcement comes from France.

First Hint. The first hint of the historic development came in press cable dispatches telling how General Pershing had placed the American expeditionary force at the disposal of the French commander. This was confirmed tonight in a message from General Pershing to the war department.

General Pershing's message made public by the acting chief of staff, follows: "Have made all our resources available and our divisions will be used if and when needed. French are in fine spirit and both armies seem confident."

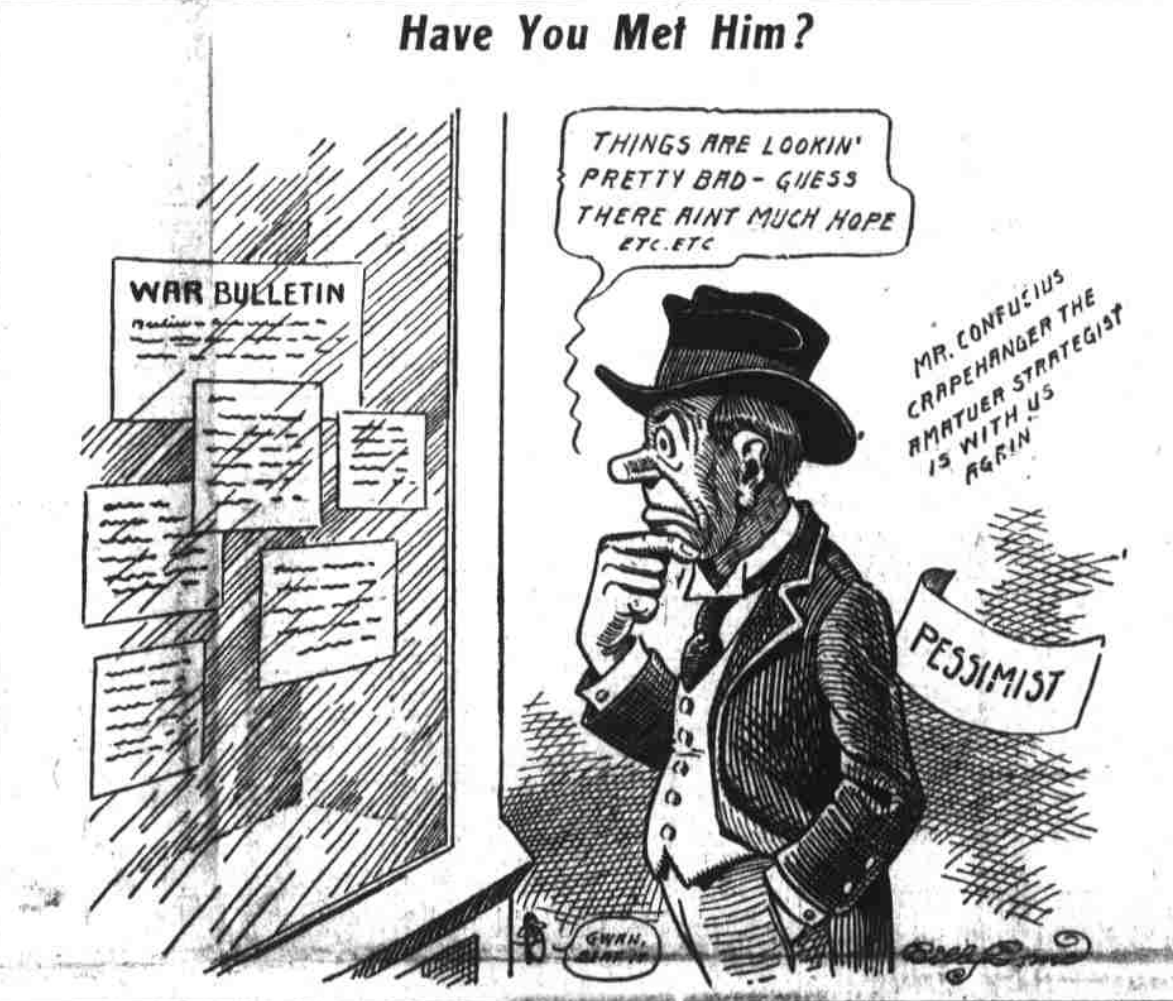
OF BASQUE ORIGIN. General Ferdinand Foch is of Basque origin. He was born at Tarbes in 1851 but was raised at Metz. Rather than become a German after the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine, Foch preferred to return to France and help to prepare France for the struggle with Germany which he believed ultimately would take place.

He entered the polytechnic school with the number seventy-two. He left it at the forty-fifth of his class—a rank that was not considered as justifying hopes of a general's commission. Foch began by mastering the strategy of the war of 1870 in its minutest details. Knowing the mentality of the Germans he counted upon their repeating in future conflicts the maneuvers that had succeeded.

To parry the blow, Foch said repeatedly France must have a staff working in the same direction, practicing the same doctrines under a vigorous and audacious chief.

The stars of a general were given Foch in 1907 and the command of the superior war school, where he left his mark as professor. Preferring a more active command, he resigned in 1912 and commanded successfully the Eighth and Twentieth army corps.

Given Command. The war found Foch at Nancy and he was selected to command a new army.



WORST OF THE GERMAN DRIVE ALMOST OVER AND CHANCE FOR VICTORY FOR THE HUNS HAS APPARENTLY PASSED

Great Offensive, Started With View of Crushing Britain's Military Power, Has Diminished Into a Gigantic Raid, With the Apparent Object of Taking and Sacking Amiens, if Possible, in Revenge For Failure to Crush the Allies.

(By FRANK H. SIMONDS.)

NEW YORK, March 29.—The worst is almost over. Barring accidents the chance of a supreme German victory seems to have passed completely and the offensive, which began as an effort to crush the military power of Britain, is diminishing to the level of a gigantic raid against Amiens with the twofold object of separating the British and French armies and destroying the British communications with Havre and Rouen, their principal bases on the south.

While the main German drive has not been checked, it has been contained between the Ancre and Somme rivers on the north and the Avre on the south. Actually the German wedge is narrowing every moment and if the present allied effort to hold the Germans between these two rivers continues, the German advance may end in a blind alley just east of Amiens.

For the past two days the Germans have been thrusting between the British and French armies and toward Amiens while the British and French, holding the crossings of the Ancre, the Somme and the Avre, have been shepherding the Germans toward the west. They have not been able to check the full force of the German thrust by frontal counter-attack as yet, although they have slowed it down, but they have canalized it, as it were.

It was the realization of this danger that led the Germans to begin on Thursday their desperate attacks upon the British line about Arras. They sought to break the northern or British hinge of the allied front just as their dash at Montdidier was a blow at the southern or French hinge, north and south, they failed to make any but local gains.

In pursuit of the limited local objective, which at Amiens, the Germans began on Thursday to make desperate efforts just south of the Somme, to clear the old Roman road running west from St. Quentin to Amiens. This road is their most direct route to Amiens, now some twelve miles distance from Warfusse-Abancourt, which they reached on Friday.

At the same time they pushed southwest into Montdidier in order to keep open the Noyon-Roye-Amiens highway, which they reached on Friday. At the same time they pushed southwest into Montdidier in order to keep open the Noyon-Roye-Amiens highway, which is their only road to Amiens.

The danger that one or more British armies could be destroyed, and that a great British disaster result, ended on Thursday when the British had pinned themselves together from the Scarpe to the Somme, from Arras to Albert and were standing firm. The arrival of French armies on either bank of the Oise between the bend near Lafer and Noyon and along the Noyon hills westward, had already closed the road to Paris. Thus the whole problem was simplified.

Now the lesser crisis which involves the safety of Amiens will be reached in relatively few hours and the German advance between the Somme and the Avre is the one remaining menace. Somewhere the next ten miles on the rapidly narrowing front between the Avre and the Somme, the German wedge must be checked or the city will be in peril. But, on the other hand, if the Germans cannot widen the wedge, by crossing one of the streams, their own position will be extremely dangerous.

If Amiens is to be saved, the natural method of halting the German advance would be by a flank attack or by the converging flank attack. The push north on the Lassigny-Noyon line by the French on Thursday had many signs of being the long expected counter-offensive, but it died out after achieving only local successes, that is, after it had eased off the pressure upon the French line west of Montdidier, which had just been lost. Nevertheless, if there is going to be a counter-offensive from the south and the French have not used up their mobile reserves in filling the gap created by the collapse of the southern end of the British front, it is to be expected between Noyon and Montdidier and will threaten the flank and communications of the Germans in the narrow wedge, which is pushing toward Amiens.

The colossal offensive which aimed at destroying the military power of Britain will be expressing its disappointment in the sacking of Amiens or its rage in bombarding the noble old cathedral from the outskirts of the town above the confluence of the Somme and the Avre.

The first phase of the battle of Picardy was lost by the British Friday, March 22. After that day there was no question of holding the old British line or even of checking the German advance within moderate limits. For nearly a week the single question was whether the German would be able to turn his initial vic-

tory into a genuine triumph as he had at the Dunacoeca against the Russian, Hindenburg and Ludendorff in the second phase were aiming to dispose of the armies of Haig as those of Dimitrieff had been disposed of, or to sweep forward in the gap they had opened between the British and French armies and repeat the capture of the Venetian victory.

The second phase was by no means as successful for the Germans as the first, as at Verdun the beaten forces held out against the coming of reserves. As they retreated they gradually regained cohesion, and the third phase became, not a bid for the military decision, which should end the war, but the struggle for a strategic possession of that important town, and for the glory and profit that taking might confer.

Britain Bearing Burden. In sum, then, measured by all the evidence now available on this, the third day of the battle, the third German bid for a decision in the west has failed as completely as did the first at the Marne and the second at Verdun. At the Marne France saved the world, at Verdun France stood firm and checked the German until Britain was ready, now it is Britain, still bravely supported by France, which is bearing the burden, that we of America may get ready.

As for Pershing's offer to put the American army into the Picardy furnace, Haig made the same proposal to Joffre when the Verdun battle was at its first crisis, but Joffre declined, and one may suspect Foch will decline, for as Britain's time had not arrived in February, 1916, ours has not yet come in March 1918.

One word as to Foch, now named as commander of the whole allied forces on the west. No general in this war has been so fortunate or faced such terrible crises. With the twentieth army corps, he saved Nancy after the French defeat at Morhange in August, 1914. In the first days of September 1915 was his army which delivered the decisive thrust at the Marne in the ever memorable engagement about LaFere Champagne. Six weeks later he was in supreme command of the allied armies between the sea and the Scarpe and directing the British, French and Belgian operations in the glorious stand which saved Calais and ended the German offensive in the west. If there is to be an allied counter-offensive now the man who won the Marne by his counter-thrust at the moment when defeat seemed assured, is the man for commander-in-chief.

"My right is retreating, my centre is broken, my left is routed—I shall attack." These were Foch's words at the decisive moment of the Marne. As it stands today the allied prospects on the Somme are far less desperate than their outlook at the Marne or the Yser, and Foch snatched victory at defeat on both these occasions.

LEADING HOTELS WILL WIPE WHEAT OFF THEIR MENUS

U. S. Conservation System Will Start With Reduction of Rich Men's Food

SACRIFICE NEEDED TO SUPPLY ALLIES

Hotel Proprietors Agree to Stand by Herbert Hoover's Program

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Wheat and wheat products were wiped off the menus of several hundred of the country's leading hotels today in response to a request of the food administration that "every independent, every well-to-do person in the United States" should "pledge complete abstinence from wheat until the next harvest."

Hotel managers who had come from every state in the union to hear new conservation regulations explained, were told by Food Administrator Hoover that a census of supplies revealed that the harvest had been less than estimated, that shipping difficulties made it imperative to feed the allies from here instead of from the Argentine and that it is impossible to ship corn, owing to loss from germination.

Must Begin At Top. Mr. Hoover said the annunciation of luxurious foods must begin at the top of the social scale, not only to set an example, but because the industrial population is dependent to a large extent on bakers bread, which must have a considerable proportion of wheat to be durable. Therefore he asked the hotels which have as patrons people of wealth to refuse to serve any wheat whatever until the new crop comes in, using other cereals and potatoes instead. "We stand at the most critical period of our national history since the battle of Gettysburg," Mr. Hoover declared. "We may have to cut our wheat consumption more than one-half, but the sacrifice must come from those who have the most, not from those who have the least." "Our wheat acreage this year will be greater than ever before and if the Lord is good to us in the matter of wheat, our difficulties will be at end (Continued on Page Two.)

SENATE PASSES MEASURE FOR DRAFTING MORE MEN INTO THE ARMY SERVICE

Bill Now Goes to House for Action—Amendment Defeated

NEW REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The resolution extending the selective draft to men reaching the age of twenty-one years since June 5, 1917—the first registration day—was passed tonight by the senate after a futile attempt had been made to add to it a provision for training youths from nineteen to twenty-one years old. It is estimated that about 700,000 men will be added to the registration this year by resolution, which is one of the pieces of legislation on which the war department is waiting before announcing complete plans for the next draft. It now goes to the house.

The proposal to require training of boys over nineteen and under registration age was in the form of an amendment by Senator New of Indiana, which the senate rejected, 34 to 26, after a debate of several days. A number of senators who favored universal military training as a peace-time policy voted against the amendment. As adopted the resolution provides that all male citizens of the United States residing in this country, attaining their majority since June 5 last, shall be subject to registration, under regulations prescribed by the president; shall present themselves for registration on a day proclaimed by the president and thereafter shall be liable to military service.