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LATEST DISPATCHES SHOW CONTINUED ALLIED ADVANCE

Rumors of a Decisive Victory Run Through Official Circles Like Wild Fire—Nothing Definite Concerning American Losses.

Washington, D. C. 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 even that the crown prince himself had been captured.

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

"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 that the battle is continuing with great vigor."

REMARKS IN LONDON.

Earlier 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 German rail base 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 a mile and a half. Probably it was this which started wild reports of a sweeping victory.

Still later came news of decided gains by 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 also of important advances along the Ourcq front.

TRAP MIGHT BE SPRUNG

Should the Franco-British forces be able to enlarge their advance materially, the great trap might be finally sprung by final overwhelming blows on both sides. In that event, all of the victories pictured in tonight's rumors might be well realized.

To the cool judgment of army officers, however, the situation did not warrant, on the basis of any information available at a late hour tonight, 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 he had finally determined to retreat and 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 he now stands or on lines slightly withdrawn from their present position near the Marne.

Today's advances indicated that further withdrawal was in progress along the southern loop of the line. Franco-American advances north of Dormans shows that points to which the enemy has clung tenaciously all day are being taken. Pressure all day along the line from Jaulgonne to the Ourcq probably has made them most southerly German position untenable it was said.

NOT CLEARLY GAUGED

The situation cannot be clearly gauged until further information is received as to the Franco-British operation west of Rheims. If the attack is pressed successfully, it seems impossible that the enemy can stabilize his line south of the Aisne. The situation on both sides of the Ourcq is equally obscure, but the clear purpose of all reports coming in is that the Germans have been unable to stem the tide of the attack and must now either fall back swiftly along supply lines that are under constant shell-fire, or hurl the whole weight of their available reserves into the fight in a desperate eleventh hour attempt to halt Foch's armies in a pitched battle.

Secretary Baker has so far received no word of the American losses in the present fighting. There is no doubt that he construes General Pershing's silence on this point as a meaning that the cost has not been greater than the numbers engaged or the effort made would justify. German press reports of tens of thousands of Americans dead before their lines are put out as a sop to the German people, it is believed.

Mr. Baker's attention was called to the German dispatch referring to the American troops as further "cannon fodder" put into action by the French.

"The best information we have," he said, "seems to indicate that they,

the Germans themselves, are supplying most of that material at the present time.

"We have no reports on our own casualties as yet; but our people have a much better opportunity to know our losses than the Germans have, because we are taking ground they have been giving up and in that situation we have a superior opportunity for observation."

Kaiser Said to Have Been at Chateau Thierry June Second.

With the American Armies in France, July 24.—It was reported to me today that the Kaiser was in Chateau Thierry on June 2, two days after the German hordes in their great push southward entered that place. He proposed then to watch the start of what was intended by the German high command to be the triumphant march on Paris along the Paris-Metz road.

I am informed that his staff accompanied him and that the event was the cause of a great celebration among the Germans.

The Germans are retreating northward far above Chateau-Thierry, leaving many dead, large numbers of guns and great quantities of ammunitions and paraphernalia along the roads, abandoning it as they retreat.

There is no question but that the great crisis in the war has been reached. The French, Americans and British are continuing their tremendous artillery attacks against the enemy.

The Germans are drawing a score of divisions from the British front in the north, where they intended to make a drive late in July. They hope that they will be able with the aid of these divisions to check the Allied onrush.

It will be a long time before the enemy will be able to start another giant offensive. The German military genius has been eclipsed by General Foch and General Petain.

ATTEMPT TO TRAP HUNS IN BIG POCKET GOES ON

Americans and Allies Steadily Pushing Forward on All Sides of the U-Shaped Battle Line—Mouth of the Pocket Narrows to Twenty-One Miles.

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 system of offensive in the Soissons-Rheims salient.

Both jaws of the pincers 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.

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.

Nevertheless, at last accounts the American, French, British, and Italian troops, themselves well reinforced to meet the new turn in affairs, were steadily pressing forward at nearly all points on a 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 successfully an enterprise against the enemy in which more than 200 Germans were made prisoner.

The western jaw of the pincer continues to move eastward along the Ourcq river on both sides of the stream, and the Franco-American troops now are virtually knocking at the gates of Fere-En-Tardenois, the important railway junction and storehouse of Germany's war supplies. Farther south to the Marne new advances, in keeping with those in the north, have been attained.

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 Fere, in the Riz forest, and north of Dormans, while the eastern jaw of the pincer, under the pressure of the British has noticeably moved forward in a northwestern direction for about a mile and a half over a three-mile front to Mery Pneuency and Guez, the last named village five miles west of Rheims and a scant mile and a half from the Rheims-Fismes road. At Mery Pneuency the Allied line now stand about ten and a half miles southeast of Fismes, which is the central station on the railway running between Soissons and Rheims.

LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

If You Would Have More Friends And Fewer Enemies Be an Optimist.

An optimistic view is one of the greatest blessings one can possess. If you don't already possess it cultivate it. It is really a habit of mind—that way some people have of seeing the advantageous side of everything—and is a natural exhilarator. With optimism behind you, more friends are made and fewer enemies. More battles are won and fewer are lost. More helping hands are held out to the optimistic than to the pessimistic, because a sunny ray always penetrates further than gloom. One sunny smiling face can light up a whole railroad station full of gloomy ones waiting for the first train on a drizzly morning.

Don't, however, make that common mistake of believing that optimistic sunny natured people are so because they have nothing to worry them—as it is commonly put "they have nothing on their minds." They may have, or they may have not, but if they are naturally sunny natured they have learned the value of keeping their sorrows, their troubles and their ills to themselves.

A sunny, even-tempered outlook on all things is an eliminator of discord. Such individuals are worth their weight in gold, and disagreements cease before they reach them. Start out in the morning with your chin up and smile on, and the smile will stay there, but it is awfully hard to coax a smile where there has been a frown. Always let sunny smiling faces beam on our men as they pass on to fight, for humanity, freedom and liberty.

One rainy, cloudy day recently the writer was privileged to serve on canteen service, with one of the very brightest, sunniest and, yes, may say it without conceit, one and all were not behind the door when good looks were handed out. Our captain, a ray of sunshine, and all others seemed to me as they flitted about among the troops (raining hard mind) treating men and officers alike, no distinction in service; truly typical of the Blue Bird hue of uniform which all wore. "Emblems of Happiness" and were too, to both colored and white troops. Let us wait until after the regarding reforms as to entertaining and cheering soldiers. As to our young ladies who kindly take various visitors to ride around our city, (only chance of seeing it), the many letters of thanks and admiration of our city, for said kindness has and will do more to boost Monroe than anything I can think of.

Some day when you are feeling real good anyhow and your smile is naturally sunny try counting the faces that catch that smile from you. It's fun that's worth while, and will bring more opportunities your way and make more enjoyment for you than frowning.

Three cheers then for all Canteen workers "Mesdames" and "Mesdemoiselles" who are bringing sunshine to the hearts of "Uncle Sam's men" as they pass on their way "Over There." —Mrs. Nan Carille.

OVER THE TOP W. S. S. DRIVE FOR UNION BEGINS AUGUST 5.

Chairman R. A. Morrow Says Work Must Not Be Stopped Until Word Goes Across to the Boys That Union County is Backing Them to the Limit.

The "Over the Top" War Savings Drive begins Monday week, August 5, and closes August 16. The purpose of this drive is to raise the \$36,000 yet remaining to cover the entire allotment of War Savings Stamps for this county. The township chairmen who had charge of the drive in the big campaign will also have charge of it this time. Union county must not stop this near the top.

Only \$36,000 remains to be pledged to cover the entire allotment assigned to this county. Chairman R. A. Morrow and his committee have apportioned this amount to the various townships. "It can be raised and it will be raised," he says. "The work must not stop until the word goes to the boys overseas that Union county is backing them to the limit." All the township chairmen are optimistic over the outcome.

The amount to be raised by each township to total the \$36,000 is as follows:

Monroe township	\$11,000.00
Buford township	4,000.00
Goose Creek township	6,000.00
Vance township	3,000.00
Sandy Ridge township	2,250.00
New Salem township	1,000.00
Jackson township	2,250.00
Marshville township	2,250.00
Lanes Creek township	2,250.00

Mr. Griffin Sends Letters to Merchants Regarding Flour and Sugar.

Mr. Lee Griffin, the alert Food Administrator for Union county, has mailed to every merchant in Union county the following instructions:

To all merchants of Union county.—The food regulations require you not to sell flour in excess of six pounds to one person per month. You will demand of each consumer if they have bought an amount in excess of this quantity. You will keep a detailed record of all flour sales to enable the Food Inspectors to check your sales and enable you to keep record of the amount sold. You are allowed to sell 24 pounds to consumers in towns and 48 pounds to consumers in the country. Every sale of flour must be made with an equal amount of cereal substitutes, or certificate signed that they have produced and are consuming an equal amount of cereal substitutes.

The sugar situation is becoming very acute and the allotment for the future is very uncertain. Your allotment of certificates for August will in all probability be cut 50 per cent. Urge the strictest economy in the use of sugar by all consumers; urge the canning of fruits without sugar. The sale of sugar for any purpose, including canning, is forbidden, except in two and five pound lots, only upon certificates approved by the County Food Administrator. —Lee Griffin, County Food Administrator.

Presbyterian Church Notes.

A cordial invitation to the following services:

11:00 a. m., Worship and sermon, Theme, God's Sovereignty.

6:30 p. m., Forty minutes service of praise and meditation.

The Sunday school will meet at ten o'clock as usual. Let none omit this teaching service of the church.

REPORTER.

GERMAN GENERALS DRIVING THEIR MEN MERCILESSLY

Effort Made to Hold Open Jaws of Pocket. Greatest Battle of War—Enemy Losses Estimated at 200,000—Seventy German Divisions Engaged.

By the Associated Press.—The German crown prince's generals are driving their men mercilessly in an effort 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 resistant 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 held it.

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

The American have occupied Courpoull on the road to Fere-En-Tardenois, and the French position have been advanced until Oulehy-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 20,000 and the losses in dead and wounded are appalling.

With the French Army in France, July 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—Up to the present, seventy 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 over 25,000 and more than 500 cannons and thousands of machine guns have been captured.

Enrollment of United States Student Nurse Reserve.

The Government is calling for 25,000 women between the ages of 19 and 35 to join the United States Student Nurse Reserve, and North Carolina's share is 460. Enrollment will begin July 29th. Every woman who enrolls in the Student Nurse Reserve is releasing a nurse for service at the front. They must be intelligent, responsible, of good education and sound health.

The enrollment cards will indicate two classes of registrants, preferred and deferred. The preferred will be those who will accept assignments to whatever hospital the government directs them although they may state what training school they prefer. The deferred class is composed of those who limit their service to certain hospitals.

For all further information enquire of your county chairman, Council of National Defense, Men's Committee or Woman's Committee, or of Mrs. I. F. Hill, Durham, N. C.

SUGAR RATIONS REDUCED ONE THIRD AFTER AUG. 1ST

Two Pounds per Month per Capita—This in Order to Meet Shortage and Demands of Allies and American Army.

Washington, July 25.—The American public was asked by the food administration today to go on a sugar ration of two pound 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 American public at present is on a three pounds per capita ration monthly, under 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 regulations effective August 1st, permitting the use of two pound of sugar for every 90 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 smaller than anticipated; 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 greatly exceeds earlier estimates we must send a large amount to France and Italy to take the place of the great volume lost through the German and Austrian invasions, during which much beet land was overrun and many factories destroyed; we have to supply certain quantities to neutral nations under agreements; and finally over 50,000,000 pounds were lost recently through submarine sinkings off our Atlantic coast."

In asking the public voluntarily to reduce their consumption to a level more nearly equal to the compulsory restrictions in effect in France, England and Italy, the statement says that while sugar is often used as a luxury in America, it has become an essential element for the success of the war among the nations of Europe."

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING

All Over the Country They Are Working to Help Win the War.

Committee on Public Information.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson has accepted the chairmanship of the advisory committee for the present, "Democracy Triumphant," to be given in Washington, D. C., July 4.

A country club for girl employees of the Government has been opened in Washington, D. C., by the Young Women's Christian Association. A clubhouse on a seven-acre lot belonging to the Friends' School has been procured.

Two women psychologists, Dr. Mabel Fernald and Dr. Margaret Cobb, have been appointed to the Army Medical Department at Washington, D. C. According to Major R. M. Yerkes, of the psychological division, trained women can be used for the highly specialized work of handling the army reports, and may eventually be called upon to assist with work in special hospitals dealing with cases of re-construction.

The Girl Scouts of America received their first official recognition from the War Department last month when eleven of them were appointed messengers by the Surgeon-General's office. "We want trained girls for this work," said Lieutenant Ralph H. Jones. "That is why we employ Girl Scouts. They have had the advantage of discipline, they have been trained in courtesy and the care of the body. Their uniforms, too, gives them a military appearance."

Thirty women began training as industrial secretaries at Bryn Mawr College June 10. The Young Women's Christian Association has appropriated \$15,000 for the purpose and the work has the approval and encouragement of the Department of Labor.

According to the announcement of the Emergency Council of Education, the universities of France has accepted the offer of one hundred scholarships for French women in American colleges and universities, and application are already being received. The council made the offer on behalf of the Association of American Colleges.

Four of the passenger vehicles of the Depot Quartermaster's Department at Washington, D. C., are now being driven by women. Two of the motored are inter-office busses running on a schedule. The remainder are kept on call. According to the regulations governing other drivers, the women are not responsible for the upkeep of their cars. They report at nine o'clock in the morning and are dismissed at 4:30 in the afternoon. They are paid at the same rate as the men drivers, which averages \$70 per month.

Are you grateful that 2,000,000 of our boys, enlisted in our army and navy, are giving us security at home? If you are, turn your gratitude into War Savings Stamps.

Who Is the Slacker?

Who is the slacker? Not every man who stands back in giving his service to his country by joining the army or navy, but the man who loves his money better than he does his country; the man who is able and refuses to buy War Savings Stamps because he says he can make a better investment in something else; the one who criticizes the government and discourages others from taking a part in financing its programs; the man who hides behind his business and says that he has no time for war work; the man who boasts loud and long of his patriotism, but whose deeds are not in keeping with his words.

Lick stamps and lick the Kaiser

Lick stamps and lick the Kaiser