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RETIREMENT OF GERMANS IS NOW BELIEVED ENDED

Evident That Enemy Intends to Stand on Old Front Along Hindenburg Line—Next Few Days Expected to Reveal Plans of the Opposing Commanders.

Washington, Sept. 9. — With the German army standing today substantially in the positions it occupied before last March 21, when its greatest offensive was launched, it appears certain to officials here that the next few days will see the plans of the opposing commanders revealed.

The statement in the official German communiqué that "our new lines" had everywhere been occupied, is given only one construction here. Apparently it was intended to mean that the retirement had come to an end and that the Germans expected to stop the allied advance along the old front. In that event, it was said today, the light forces of the French, British and American armies will soon reach the defensive position and subsequent operations quickly will show how Marshal Foch proposes to assail the problem that baffled the French and British general staffs, the breaking of this advanced line of defense set up by the enemy on Belgian and French soil.

It was evident from today's reports that the allied forces were still feeling their way forward carefully through the rear guard screens of machine gunners which still cover many portions of the enemy's present fighting front. Behind this screen the Germans were believed to have re-occupied the old Hindenburg defenses, which probably have been repaired and supplemented.

There is a feeling among some officials that the enemy is very likely to signalize his intention to stand fast by striking back hard at the advancing French and British forces or even by an attack at some other points designated to relieve pressure rather than to achieve any decisive result in the way of capturing towns. It is argued that if the German high command has made available a sufficient reserve force by the great withdrawal to permit such operations, a limited drive, possible on the front held by General Pershing's army beyond Verdun, might well be thought advisable.

On the allied side it remains to be seen whether Marshal Foch plans a flanking operation on a wide front to turn the enemy out of his new lines and keep him moving back or will continue to hit at weak spots all along the front. Opinion here is that the larger enterprise is the most probable, since virtually the entire American army is available as a fresh, hard-hitting force with which to deliver a coup at the breaking of the German front.

There is no doubt that many officers here regard the days immediately ahead as probably the crucial period of the whole battle of 1918.

GERMANY'S INHUMAN WAR ON THE FRENCH CHILDREN.

Sufferings of the Little Children Have Nothing Else Has—Mrs. Smith of the Franco-American Committee for the Care of Children at the Front Gives Pitiable Stories of Little Folks Separated From Their People.

In the Literary Digest Mrs. Joseph Lindin Smith and others discuss the condition of little children found in the towns that have been in the hands of the dastardly German troops. These children are for the most part too young to realize that the French are their deliverers, and that all soldiers are not alike. Mrs. Smith says:

"Go through village after village and you will find them looking as if giant feet had trampled them down, as if huge scissors had ripped open the fields. The faces of the people you meet look empty. It is as if their souls had been trampled down with their homes. The devastation is everywhere; it almost begins to seem like the normal state, it is so general. Come back to America and motor through our peaceful villages, and you find yourself marveling not to see them in ruins.

"France is dotted with a multitude of homes in which the mother, with the head of the family at the front, perhaps dead, is struggling to care for her children and keep the wolf from the door. These mothers toil early and late. Some of them have little patches of ground which they make shift to cultivate. Poverty lurks side by side with them constantly. They try to keep the family together—to keep their children with them. Only under dire necessity will they consent to part with them.

"The first thing we do when we take charge of a refugee child is to give it a tag, a tag which the child must constantly wear, just as a soldier must always wear his identification medal. The tag bears the child's name and the name of the place from which the child last came. Sometimes in the confusion it is difficult to get everything just right, but so thoroughly have the civilian and military authorities co-operated in assisting in identifying these little tags that our committee, which has taken over the care of 2,800 such children since the war began, has been able to identify all but forty of them, and these were from villages in which the enemy deliberately destroyed the civilian records, apparently with the sole purpose of

preventing French families from being reunited."

"I will tell you hundreds of stories of children being separated from their parents. For instance, there is the case of two little boys with their mother were visiting an aunt on the Belgian border when the war broke out. The mother went back home to see what had happened to the remaining 5 children of her family. Neither she nor the 5 children were heard of again. The aunt disappeared during a bombardment, and these boys, left alone in the world, came to our society. They have never received any information from their relatives.

"The children from the devastated districts of Belgium and France come to us in a condition which the word pitiable does not begin to describe. The cruelty to the children has most affected our American soldiers over there. I have talked with American soldiers who could not restrain their tears as they looked at little children in our charge and saw what the Germans had done to them. And they did not try to restrain their tears. Their emotion was too deep.

"Oh," cried one of our boys with whom I talked, a boy from a Western farm, "you'd think they'd take some one of their size!"

"The wrongs done to the children have steeled the hearts of the Americans, with their Allies, for vengeance—or, rather, retribution. There is a day of reckoning ahead.

"Everywhere the American soldiers are stationed they make friends with the children immediately. And the children, the ice once broken, are not backward. They see in these soldiers their friends, their deliverers. Most of the Belgian boys who have come to us lived in the trenches with the British Tommies for months. They had to live in the trenches to be safe from the shells that fell in an almost incessant shower upon the countryside. They have picked up a lot of English and sing what they consider the British national anthem. What they sing is 'Tipperary.'

While on a visit to a colony of Belgian girls I was told that they had learned a song to sing in honor of my coming. 'The Star-Spangled Banner,' of course, I concluded. Also they could not be expected to understand more than perhaps a few words of what I might say. I made them a little speech, in which I told them how glad I would be to hear the national anthem of America sung so far from home. The song they sang was 'Jack and Jill.'

"One little five-year-old boy who, hidden away in a cellar, had endured months of the nerve-shattering bombardment of Rheims came to us a wreck. One day after six months or so he seemed to be normal again. One day the colony at which he was being cared for happened to be within the area of a German air raid. Bombs fell all around the place. Our little chap did not seem frightened, only indignant, intensely indignant, so indignant that he burst into a passion of tears.

"Little citizen of France," said one of the nurses, "why do you cry?"

"I am afraid I will be changed again, now," he wailed, "and then God will lose track of me."

"Another little lad was indignant from another point of view—indignant and grieved.

"I didn't think the Germans would dare come where the Americans were!" he cried.

"In one of our colonies were fifty Belgian boys so crushed by suffering that they were always silent, like aged and broken men. They never talked, in any boyish play, they never talked, they never made any noise at all. They were so silent that a French woman who lived next door came over one day to see what was wrong—she couldn't believe there were fifty boys in the place, for she never heard any noise! It was incredibly sad, madame. That was not the way of boys. Within three months she made another visit, this time to protest that the boys made such an infernal noise that it was not within human endurance to stand it! So much for what degree of restoration can be effected.

"Often for weeks after children have arrived at a colony it is out of the question to have an open fire. The sight is too heartrending to the newcomers. It recalls to them with all the vividness of recent experience their burning home or their burning church. But soon they forget. Youth is resilient.

"We had one little girl who for six weeks after coming to us did not speak a word. The doctor who examined her said she was normal, but was suffering from fright because of the horrors she had been obliged to witness. He predicted a recovery—and it came. One day she reached out timidly, seized the hand of the nurse, and murmured: 'You cannot be a German! You are kind!'

"We have records of boys of fourteen or over who have sat for weeks twirling their thumbs, inert from horror, speechless, yet in two months they will have so recovered as to be able to start to learn a trade. We have had about sixty arrive in this abnormal condition, yet only two have had to be given over to the care of alienists as permanently abnormal."

The German empress, who has been ill for several days, has taken a turn for the worse, according to a message received in Amsterdam from Dusseldorf and forwarded to the London Exchange telegraph company.

Henry Ford, Detroit automobile manufacturer and choice of President Wilson for the Michigan senatorial nomination was nominated by the Democrats in the state wide primary August 27th.

GEN. PERSHING COMMANDS MOST OF U. S. SOLDIERS

Over Ninety per cent of Americans Overseas are in French Sector—Huns are Being Closely Pursued.

Washington, Sept. 8.—Concentration of American troops in the American sectors in France is proceeding rapidly and General Pershing now has under his direct command, more than 90 per cent of the troops who have reached the other side. This was revealed Saturday by General March, chief of staff, who said that more than 90 per cent of the Americans now are in the American sectors.

General March made no comment as to the purpose of this concentration and added nothing that might indicate his own opinion as to the probability that an all-American drive at the German lines might be impending. He did not say, however, that the custom of brigading new divisions with the French and British forces to hasten their preparation for front line duty had not been abandoned.

"But as our men now go over there pretty well instructed," he added, "the time they stay in the training camps over there is very much less."

General March announced also that the 27th division, previously training behind the British lines, is now on the line in Flanders. This was interpreted to mean that the division soon would be withdrawn to join Pershing's army.

In his review of the battle situation, General March pointed out that the Germans are retreating along a 100-mile front from the Arras-Cambrai sector to Rheims with French, British and American troops in close pursuit.

Officials reports show that the enemy is now 60 miles from Paris at his closest approach to that city. General March added, while the old Hindenburg line, from which the greatest German effort of the war was launched last March, stands at the point of maximum distance only 10 miles beyond the present active front. "The pressure which forced this retreat," General March said, "came at two points; the British front between Arras and Peronne and the Franco-American sector on the plateau of Soissons."

Reviewing the progress in each sector, General March said the British thrust toward Cambrai had paused along the line of the Senese marshes and the Canal du Nord with Cambrai only seven miles away and no natural obstacles impeding the road to that objective. In the meantime, however, the British crossed the canal farther south and swept forward yesterday and today toward the Hindenburg line north of St. Quentin.

Of the thrust by the French and American forces, General March said: "The Franco-American drive across the plateau north of Soissons directed against the flank of the Chemis des Dames, after a week of severe fighting, forced the enemy to fall back without further resistance from the Vesle. Our allied forces crossed the Vesle-Aisne ridge and reached the Aisne river on a 10-mile front last night."

Further evidence of the drain on German manpower during the fighting of the last few months reached Washington today in official dispatches, which quoted captured enemy documents.

Numerous German battalions now are composed of three companies instead of four, it was said, as reserves were not available to keep four company units up to necessary strength. In this process of consolidation, 40 German regiments are said to have been wiped out entirely.

It also is stated that the men of the German class of 1919 are rapidly disappearing and those of the 1920 class must be drawn on to fill gaps.

The dispatches note the military efficiency of the class of 1920 is very low as the boys are exhausted by underfeeding before they joined their regiments. The dispatches also say that the actual monthly arrival of American troops in France is equal to fully one-half of the German annual recruitment.

UNION COUNTY WILL RAISE WAR SAVINGS HONOR FLAG

Ex-Congressman Robert N. Page to Make the Principal Address—Large Attendance is Desired.

Col. F. H. Fries, State Director of the N. C. War Savings Committee, has designated Saturday, September 21, as N. C. War Savings Honor Flag Day. On that day an honor flag will be presented to Union county by the State War Savings Committee for its 100 per cent efficiency in the recent pledge drive. The government urges every man, woman and child in the county who has either purchased War Savings Stamps, or pledged to buy them later, to attend this county-wide patriotic rally at Monroe. Ex-Congressman Robert N. Page will be present on that occasion and deliver the principal address. It is useless to remind you of the fact that Mr. Page is an eloquent and forceful speaker. Let everybody who possibly can attend this celebration and make it a red letter day in the history of Union county.

R. A. MORROW, Chm. Union Co. W. S. Committee, T. L. Riddle, Publicity Manager.

Mr. J. C. Foard has returned home after spending some time with his daughter, Mrs. J. H. Cunningham of Knoxville, Tenn.

AN AMERICAN FLYER DROVE FIVE AIRPLANES

Lieut. Chamberlain of Marine Corps Scatters German Squadron of 12 Machines While on Furlough—Recommended for V. C. and Congressional Medal.

First Lieut. Edmund G. Chamberlain of San Antonio, Tex., a graduate of Princeton and the university of Texas, and an aviator attached to the United States marine corps, has received simultaneous recommendations for the Victoria cross and the congressional medal of honor for an exploit in which he figured on July 28. On that day over the British front Lieut. Chamberlain took part in an aerial battle with 12 German machines. He destroyed five of them, damaged two others, and sweeping earthward with a damaged plane, scattered a detachment of German soldiers. After landing he bluffed three others into believing his compass was a bomb and captured one of them. He then carried a wounded French officer back to safety and finally refused to give his name to the British officer in command of aerial forces in that section of the front, because of his fear of being reprimanded.

The story, which is one of the most thrilling chapters in the drama of the war, also has been cabled to America by the London office of the committee on public information.

Lieut. Chamberlain appeared at a British aviation camp on July 27 and informed the major in command that he had personal, but not official, permission to visit the camp. This is borne out by the young man's superior, who says that Lieut. Chamberlain had asked to be permitted to go up near the front during a furlough, because he desired to get some more experience before resuming his work.

The British commander was in need of aviators and as there was a bombing squadron about to leave Lieut. Chamberlain he could go along. On this flight the young American brought down one German airplane in flames and sent another whirling down out of control.

The next day came Lieut. Chamberlain's wonderful exploit. He was one of a detachment of 30 aviators who went out over the battle field through which the Germans were being driven by the allies. As the 30 machines crested about over the fleeing Teutons they were attacked by an equal number of German machines. It was a hurricane battle from the first and almost at the inception of the combat the British lost three planes.

In the tempest of machine gun bullets that roared about his machine, Lieut. Chamberlain's engine was damaged. One of his machine guns became jammed, and he seemed to be out of the action.

But instead of starting for home, he remained to offer assistance to two other airplanes, which had been attacked by 12 German machines.

His machine had to stop owing to engine trouble, but when he was attacked by a German, he opened such a hot fire that the enemy went into a dive toward the earth.

His two companions were now engaged in a life and death struggle and Lieut. Chamberlain went to their assistance. His action probably saved the lives of the two Englishmen.

His engine was now working better. He climbed up toward the enemy and, with a burst of fire, sent one of them crashing to the earth. A second was shattered with another volley from his machine gun. Then Lieut. Chamberlain lopped off a cordon of enemy machines which had gathered to finish him and, as he sailed away, he shot the wing off another German machine.

The leader of the German squadron came straight at him, but was met with such a torrent of bullets that his airplane joined the others sent to earth by the American.

The lieutenant then turned for the British line. His engine had "gone dead" and he was forced to "plane," carefully picking his way through the smoke clouds of shells fired at him by the enemy's anti-aircraft cannon.

As he made a wide sweep toward his destination, he saw beneath him a cordon of German troops and into it he poured a gust of machine gun bullets from the gun which had been jammed, but which he had succeeded in getting into action again. The Germans scattered and Lieut. Chamberlain flew on for an eighth of a mile and came to earth.

He found that he could not carry off the equipment of his machine, so he took his compass and started running across the fields. As he did so he encountered a patrol of three Germans. He shouted to them to surrender, waving a compass above his head, like a bomb. Two of the enemy ran and the third surrendered.

The American started again for the British lines, but came upon a wounded French officer, whom he picked up and carried, driving his prisoner before him. He waded a brook under heavy fire and finally arrived within the British lines in safety with the French officer and the German prisoner.

He then reported "ready for duty," asked the major in command of the British airmen not to make any report of the affair and refused to give his name. The major was unable to keep the affair quiet and the full details were made a part of his official report of the day's fighting.

Lieut. Edmund G. Chamberlain was born June 14, 1891, at San Antonio, Tex. He was educated at Princeton and in the university of Texas. During the period when American troops were grouped along the Mexican border, he did scouting duty along the

Rio Grande. He became a 2nd lieutenant of the marine corps on August 1, 1917, and was promoted to 1st lieutenant on July 1, 1918. Before being assigned to aviation duty, he served at Philadelphia, Minola, N. Y., Lake Charles, La., and Miami, Fla. He was officially reported to have been engaged in 15 bombing raids over the enemy lines, according to an announcement made at Washington on August 21.

HOW GENERAL FOCH MADE HIS ENTRY INTO ITALY.

First Officer to Recognize Him Found Him Carrying Load for Italian Boy Soldier.

(Rome Dispatch.)

The following story is going the rounds of the newspapers in Italy:

The Italians—influenced by devil-mad rumors—were still retreating before their German-Austrian "kammerads."

The British and French troops poured into Italy, commanded by Foch.

At once the Italians began to make some sort of a stand. An Italian boy soldier, loaded down with a heavy bag of supplies, was climbing a steep path. No horse or automobile could make it; everything must go on men's backs.

The young Italian was very tired. The load was too much for him, but he kept plugging ahead.

He heard a footstep. A brisk old man, dressed in the horizon blue of France, came up beside him.

"Pretty heavy load for you, son," said the old Frenchman, speaking Italian.

"Oui, m'sieu," agreed the son of Italy, speaking French to be courteous.

"Let me give you a hand," said the old French soldier, and he seized the heavy bag and threw it over his own shoulders, and the sons of the two Latin nations kept climbing. After a time the man in horizon blue said, "Let us rest a minute," and they sat down beside the path.

Soon some Italian general staff officers appeared—one of them being on the king's personal staff. Of course, the two soldiers by the roadside came to their feet to salute the high officers.

But the Italian officers stopped. The one who belonged to the king's personal staff ejaculated one word: "Foch."

"That's who it was—Foch. 'Le Patron' which is French for the 'big boss.'"

He had been caught acting like a common human being. But it didn't faze him. He didn't forget that he is Le Patron. He saluted the Italian high officers stiffly, threw the bag on his shoulders again, and with the Italian soldier beside him protesting volubly, those two started up the path again.

Pretty safe sort of a man, Foch, eh? Pretty good sort to have charge of our boys who go "over there."

BAKER IN FRANCE AGAIN TO VISIT AMERICAN ARMY

Official Party Includes Gen. Gorgas and J. D. Ryan — Went Over on Transport—Ryan Will Familiarize Himself With Airplane Situation.

Washington, Sept. 8.—The war department today announced the arrival in France of Secretary Baker, accompanied by an official party, including John D. Ryan, assistant secretary in charge of aircraft, and Major General Gorgas, surgeon general of the army.

Mr. Baker and his party made the trip on an army transport which carried its usual quota of soldiers to France. Before leaving this country the war secretary said the personnel of his party would make plain the purpose of his second visit to France and that he hoped the trip would not keep him away from the United States for a very long period.

It is understood that Mr. Ryan went abroad for the purpose of familiarizing himself with the airplane situation overseas and to inspect the factories engaged in building planes for the American army. Surgeon General Gorgas will inspect the American army hospitals overseas.

Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, chief of the embarkation service, who also accompanied Mr. Baker, will visit the American ports of debarkation in France to acquaint himself with facilities and conditions in those places.

Lieut. Col. George H. Baird, military aide to Mr. Baker, also is in the secretary's party.

This is Mr. Baker's second visit to the American army in France. Several months ago he spent some time abroad inspecting the ports at which American troops and supplies are landed; the lines of communication between those ports and the army at the front and the army itself.

Most of Washington's 20,000 automobiles were kept in their garages. A senator who appeared on Pennsylvania avenue motoring towards the capitol was stopped by a policeman and questioned about the urgency of his business.

Herbert C. Hoover, the United States food administrator, has been awarded the Audiffret prize of \$3000 by the French academy of moral and political science. The prize was awarded to Mr. Hoover for his services as food administrator in Belgium and the conquered territory of France.

FRENCH PORTS JOYFULLY WELCOME AMERICAN BOYS

Little Children Shout "Vive Les Americans"—Great Receiving Point in Overseas Republic Not Afraid Americans Came to Take Possession and Settle Down as Huns Said.

American Port, Western France, July 31.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—In no section of France are the people more enthusiastic over the coming of Americans than at this great receiving port for American soldiers. German propagandists at first spread the idea that the Americans were coming to take possession, settle down and stay; but all this now has passed.

Along the country roads, the passing of Americans is the signal for a demonstration, with peasant children scattering flowers and cheering "Vive les Americans."

It has required much diplomacy on the part of the American commanders, military and naval, to preserve and develop the international spirit among all the foreign and native elements.

Now the central square of the port has been renamed "Place President Wilson." On the two national holidays, July 4 and 14, all combined to do honor to the American commanders and Americans, presenting them their silken flags and flowers and bronze statues.

The socialist political element is strong in these parts, and this too has required tact on the part of the American commanders. When a recent buffet supper was given, it was arranged that French and Americans should be represented by all branches of their service, privates as well as officers, in the true spirit of democracy and social equality. And so each side selected as guests 10 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers and 10 privates. It was the same for the navy. The English also came in, officers and men on the same basis.

And thus this international gathering of social equality was carried out. American, French and British generals and admirals mingling familiarly with American bluejackets and soldiers and French and British tars. There was no patronizing spirit of the higher ranks over the lower, but a real getting together in a common work in which all ranks were doing their part.

The mayor of the city was deeply impressed with this manifestation in which the new-comers from America took the lead, and the venerable French admiral, an officer of the old school, proved himself one of the most agreeable hosts of American sailors and marines.

There have been some huge problems to work out in making this such an effective American receiving point. At first there was no fresh water except from a few uncertain springs. With hundreds of thousands of soldiers on the way here a safe and sure water supply was imperative. Soon there will be a reservoir storing fifty million gallons, capable of supplying the army, the American naval ships and transports, and the port itself, for one month if not a drop of rain falls. Besides direct mains to the army camps, there are 12-inch mains leading right to the seafroont, with connection to our destroyers and shipping in the harbor, pumping fresh water to ships at sea.

On the water front one notices that the big American warehouses are covered with strange hieroglyphics. These it turns out are shipping addresses and crate markings, as all the lumber in this array of buildings is from crates and boxes bringing army supplies. Some of these crates carrying cars were immense. Every plank and beam was saved, for lumber is very scarce here, and even the nails were drawn and saved. And out of this waste lumber and nails have arisen most of these mammoth buildings marked from end to end with shipping addresses.

Besides the immense work of receiving troops and supplies direct from America, this is headquarters also for the channel ports, through which other streams of troops and supplies pour in from England when the first arrival from America is made at Liverpool or other English ports. Thus two streams are pouring in here, one from the west, the other from the north, both merging and moving forward in one united stream to the fighting front.

Along the sea front one gets an idea of the vastness of the work going on. On the docks and in the outer harbor the debarking of troops and supplies goes steadily forward. Four American transports just in are former German ships, one of them a Trans-Atlantic liner, three others freight boats. On the land side huge warehouses are rising, with negro, Chinese and German prisoner labor clearing great tracks of ground for the miles of buildings steadily advancing. Warehouses are bulging with war material, and on the open spaces rise mountains of barbed wire and ordnance stores and acre on acre of cays and cranes and coal all the vast machinery and material of warfare.

It is very evident this is no passing construction meant for a day, for the vastness and completeness of this war machine make clear that this is a preparation which looks far ahead and provides for every eventuality—not only for the millions men now here, but for the millions more still to come.

—Rev. W. H. Ball's daughter, writing him from England, states that it is the opinion of most people there that the war will be over by October.