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## AMERICANS IN BIG DRIVE; GEN. PERSHING COMMANDING

Gains in Excess of Four Miles are Made and Several Villages are Captured—St. Mihiel Reports Captured by the French.

(By the Associated Press.)

The American first army under command of General Pershing is in action against the Germans on a 20-mile front on the famous St. Mihiel salient in Lorraine, which had stood a sharp wedge in the French line southeast 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, and at last accounts the Americans, with whom some French troops are brigaded, were fast sweeping across the salient in an effort to close the mouth of the big pocket before the Germans can extricate themselves from the perilous position they are in as a result of the suddenness of the blow and the element of surprise it carried with it.

Although the advance of the Americans was swift and sure and gains in excess of four miles on the southern side of the battle area were made, the cavalry far outstripped the tanks and footmen and was last reported operating along the railroad near Vigneulles, almost in the center of the salient and some ten miles northeast of St. Mihiel and also northwest of Pont-A-Mousson, through the forests and along the railway line running northward to Metz, the great German fortress, the southern outer fortifications of which are less than 10 miles distant.

Thiacourt, Bouillonville, 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 Combrès was captured and the environs of Denmartin in Montagne were reached. To the south everywhere the Americans penetrated into the heights of the Meuse and the French fought their way into the outskirts of St. Mihiel. Unofficial reports are to the effect that the town has been captured by the French.

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.

From the war maps it would seem almost impossible for the Germans to evacuate the salient, as they apparently are trying to do, without huge losses in men and material. The first reports show that the Americans took 700 prisoners in the first stages of the battle and had suffered remarkably small casualties.

The strategy of Marshal Foch in the present maneuver cannot be foreseen, except that it has as the first objective the leveling of the St. Mihiel sector and the straightening of the allied line from the region of Verdun eastward. The obliteration of the salient would be necessary before a direct thrust toward German territory from this region would be possible. Whether Marshal Foch has in view a campaign up the Meuse valley or Metz and the Moselle valley in mind remains to be seen.

In the north, Field Marshal Haig is still hard after the Germans in the region of Cambrai. Here, he again has advanced his front toward the much desired German base; penetrated into the old British defense line; crossed the Canal Du Nord north of Havrincourt; taken Havrincourt and another section of the Hindenburg line an descent a thousand Germans into the British prisoners' cages in the rear. The Germans fought hard at Havrincourt to stay the British, but all their counter attacks were beaten off.

Further advances for the British also are reported in the region of La-Bassee canal and northwest of Armentières.

## FIRST SEPARATE DRIVE BEGUN BY PERSHING'S MEN

Sixteen Months of Great War Effort in the U. S. Has Reached Its Goal in This All-American Attack—It Means Third Great Organized Army Is in Action at the Front.

Paris, Sept. 12.—The first big American offensive which began today between the Meuse and Moselle rivers, was conducted under General Pershing's personal supervision and was executed under orders of American officers with American soldiers. This was the first distinctly American operation of a major character launched on the western front.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Sixteen months of vast war effort by the United States reached its first goal today when General Pershing's forces struck their first independent blow in France against the German army.

Reports tonight show that success was meeting the American commander's effort to fling the enemy out of this sharp salient thrust in behind the fortress of Verdun in the first year of the war. But of even greater significance to government officials was the fact that the all-American attack meant that the months of ceaseless toil and effort have now brought forth a third great organized army, which has taken its place beside the French and British armies and is striking for decisive victory for democratic ideals.

Up to a late hour no official report from General Pershing had come. General March, chief of staff, and his officers were gathered about the great war maps, however, tracing out the lines of the conflict from press accounts as they were received. President Wilson himself visited Acting Secretary Crowell during the afternoon and there is no doubt that he was then told what General Pershing had accomplished and what might be expected to develop from this blow.

First reports were vague. They told merely that the American army had launched an attack around the St. Mihiel salient, the only sharp thrust toward the heart of France that remained to the German leaders to show for their offensive efforts since the war began. It seemed possible that the objective of the attack was Metz, just beyond the German border on the Moselle river.

Later accounts made it clear, however, that for his first blow, General Pershing had determined to employ the pincer tactics Marshal Foch has now used with repeated success in hurling the foe back from the Marne and out of the Picardy and Flanders salients. The chance lay ready to the American leader's hands.

Almost due south of the war-raked fortress of Verdun which has defied every German effort, the town of St. Mihiel stood at the apex of a great enemy wedge into the French lines and which all but cut Verdun off in the first German rush toward Paris. Along the eastern curve of this salient American troops have stood for months, holding the lines. Americans also were on the line between Verdun and St. Mihiel, but St. Mihiel itself was held by the French for the fate of Verdun rested upon that line.

Surging forward on a 12-mile front to the east of St. Mihiel, Pershing's men have rolled over the complicated defenses of the enemy all along the line and thrust a steel-shod jaw into the territory behind the enemy forces that hold the town. From the other side, another American thrust has carried the lines forward to meet the bulge from the east and a grim trap is being drawn about the enemy forces that remain in the salient.

It was only 20 miles across the mouth of the pockets and the reports tonight showed that this had been closed in to less than 15 miles.

Through that narrowing gap the German forces in the depth of the salient must escape; and to withdraw without confusion that might turn the retreat into a rout, they must shake off the French forces which are battering them all along the St. Mihiel front.

On the face of tonight's reports, officers here believed there was good promise that General Pershing might succeed in closing the neck of the bag and trapping a considerable force. The fact that the enemy was still offering stubborn resistance in St. Mihiel showed there was a considerable German force still in the depths of the trap.

## OVER 3000 MEN REGISTERED IN UNION COUNTY YESTERDAY

Three Aliens Registered in North Monroe, One of Whom Had Taken Out First Naturalization Papers.

The registrars serving at the North Monroe precinct in the courthouse were chief registrar W. J. Pratt, I. H. Blair, T. L. Crowell, W. C. Crowell, John Thomas Helms, Gus G. Benton, F. H. Wolfe, W. A. Hnederson and G. D. Davidson. Those serving at the South Monroe precinct were T. J. W. Broom, Fred Maness, J. W. Lathan, T. L. Riddle and W. C. Sanders. One man aged 29 years was registered at South Monroe. He explained that on the previous registrations he was an inmate of an asylum.

There were sufficient registrars to serve all those who came to register without any one having to wait for a long time. A report has reached Monroe that at one of the rural precincts a man advised a man aged 45 who had come to register not to do so but to make a test case of himself in order to see if those 45 years old had to register. The case will be investigated.

About 3,238 men between the ages of 18 and 45 inclusive, who had not registered for military service in previous registrations registered in the county yesterday. Of this number 280 were registered at South Monroe and 705 at North Monroe. About 100 of those registered at North Monroe were absentee registrants, those away from their county or usual voting place. One alien who had taken out first naturalization papers and two who had not taken out first papers, registered with the North Monroe registrars.

## BIG NAVAL RADIO PLANT LIKELY TO BE NEAR CITY

### LARGEST RADIO STATION IN THE WORLD IS PLANNED

Site Between Monroe and Bakers Is Pronounced Admirable By Captain Todd—Messrs. J. C. Sikes, E. C. Carpenter and G. B. Caldwell are in Conference With Washington Officials.

Special correspondence to the Raleigh News and Observer this morning states that the largest radio station in the world will probably be located near Monroe. This correspondence gives an account of a conference between Mr. J. C. Sikes, Mr. E. C. Carpenter and Congressman Lee Robinson and Capt. David Scott, director of naval communications. At this meeting the site proposed near Monroe was declared to be admirable. The correspondence says that unless unforeseen difficulties arise the plant will no doubt be located in North Carolina.

The text of the special leased wire correspondence follows:

The largest and most important naval radio station in the world will probably be established near Monroe, Union county, North Carolina. The site chosen for the station has been pronounced admirable by Capt. David W. Todd, director of naval communications, and unless unforeseen difficulties are encountered the enterprise will be located in North Carolina.

Representative Lee Robinson, J. C. Sikes and E. C. Carpenter, citizens of Monroe, held a conference with Captain Todd yesterday and the results of the interview were declared altogether favorable to the Union county site. The essential qualifications for the operation of a radio station are an abundance of power and situated outside the boundaries of the frost belt. The Monroe site offers these advantages.

Representative Robinson indicated today that in the event of the establishment of the station millions of dollars would be spent in its erection and maintenance. Thus another big time enterprise would find its setting in the Tar Heel State, where communications and shipbuilding industries are contributing to the business of winning the war.

It will be remembered that several days ago a party of three men connected with the bureau of docks and yards visited Monroe for the purpose of viewing favorable sites for some kind of government plant, but they

were not allowed to give out what kind of plant it would be. Several sites were shown them and they seemed favorably impressed at the time. Monday night Messrs. J. C. Sikes and E. C. Carpenter left for Washington to see what could be done toward securing the plant for Union county. They must have received a favorable reception for Wednesday night they wired Mr. G. B. Caldwell to come to Washington to attend a conference. The telegram received by Mr. Caldwell did not state what was wanted of him. It is the opinion of men here, however, that he was wanted to explain the site to Capt. Todd, Mr. Caldwell being the one who showed the representatives of the bureau of docks and yards the several sites while they were here. It is thought that a site near Bakers is the point under consideration. Mr. T. L. Riddle, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, gave it as his opinion this morning after reading the correspondence in the Raleigh paper, that as it would probably be the largest radio plant in the world more land than the representatives of the government got options on while here would be required and they wished to confer with Mr. Caldwell, who is manager of the Monroe Insurance and Investment Company, concerning the possibility of securing more land in case it was decided to locate the plant near here.

The three men from the bureau of docks and yards while here explained that the plant which the government expected to locate somewhere must be situated on a plot of ground one mile square. That it must have a rock foundation and retain moisture well and that it must be level. They were very favorably impressed with the sites shown them.

Before leaving they left instructions with Mr. Riddle to forward data concerning the climate, the available power and the rate for it. The site at Bakers is not more than two miles, at the most, from the Southern Power Company's lines and that at once answers the power question.

If located here, and all indications now point in that direction, the plant will probably be permanent. The government representatives here a few days ago did not ask what the land could be leased for for a certain time but they wanted to know what it could be bought for.

Charlotte has her camp, Fayetteville has her camp, Raleigh has been allotted "the tanks," and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and the business men of Monroe will push the effort to land the radio plant for Union county.

## AGE OF REGISTRANT TO GOVERN ORDER OF CALL

Those Aged Between 19 and 21 and 32 and 36 Will be Called out First—Officials Have No Desire to Break Into the Economic Life of The Country.

Washington, Sept. 10.—Youths of 19 and 20 years and men between the ages of 32 and 36, inclusive, who register Thursday, will first be called to the colors. Provost Marshal General Crowder announced today, and until the supply of available fighting material in their ranks has been exhausted, older men will not be inducted into service. Questionnaires will go out first to registrants of those ages and local boards have been ordered to proceed with their speedy classification so that some of them may be called in October.

Pointing out that in classifying men above the ages of 31 the army draft would be "attacking the country's economic life and entering an unexplored field," General Crowder, in a public statement to all employers industrial representatives besought their aid in applying the plans of industrial deferments so that "the maintenance of the military establishment of the national interest during the emergency" may not be interfered with.

## Personals From Stouts.

Correspondence of The Journal

Stouts, Sept. 10.—Mr. Charles Blanchard returned home Sunday after spending several days with relatives in Charlotte.

Mr. Perry Ritch of Alabama left for Camp Jackson the 6th after spending several days with home folks.

Mr. Murphy Conder of Charlotte came home Tuesday night. He will remain here until Uncle Sam calls him.

Misses Grey Dellinger and Edna Boyd of Indian Trail visited their cousins, Misses Mattie Lee and Elizabeth Boyd, Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blanchard were visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Current Sunday.

Mr. R. M. Conder went to Charlotte Tuesday night where he attended the Woodmen meeting in that place.

Our protracted meeting is in full progress this week. Great interest is being manifested in both the day and night services. The meeting will go on until Sunday.

There was a burglar in this vicinity one night last week. He first entered the home of Mr. G. W. Robinson, but did not take anything as Mr. Robinson heard the noise and scared him away. It is reported that he went into the home of Mr. H. S. Presley the same night.

Miss Kate Conder was a visitor in the home of Mr. J. P. Ritch Sunday. —Violet.

## ENEMY USES ALL HIS RESOURCES TO CHECK ADVANCE

His Heavy Artillery Brought Into Action After a Month's Silence in Desperate Effort Along Hindenburg Line—Ruin in Wake of German Spurs All France to Cry "Let us Get Into Their Country and Follow Their Example!" (Wm. Cook, in New York World.)

Paris, Sept. 10.—The latest reports from the battlefield—from the Somme to the Vesle—indicate the enemy's determination to offer desperate resistance to the allied advance on the Hindenburg line. Nevertheless the Franco-British troops continue to press forward, daily capturing prisoners and material.

## LINE BADLY CRACKED

Already the Hindenburg line has been badly cracked, for not only have the British overrun the northern switch line, but the French armies are hammering away south to La Fere. It is here that the enemy's resistance has become stronger, for any approach to the City of Laon would be a serious defeat for the Germans.

Laon is the centre of a strategic railroad system, with branches running right and left toward the German front. The greater part of the enemy's supplies for his troops in St. Gobain Forest and those on the Chemin-des-Dames pass through Laon. Its capture would also enable Gen. Mangin's men to take the Chemin-des-Dames in the rear, and even now that is threatened.

The roar of German large guns is once more heard on the battlefield which during the greater part of the month was the scene of one of the hottest, fiercest battles, but which was strangely free from artillery duels except for the use of a few small field guns. The German troops, beaten, exhausted, after such fighting, are now eagerly seeking the protection of their heavy artillery, which was drawn away from the battle during the allied offensive.

## EXPECTS RETREAT TO CONTINUE

Not only have the Germans sought the protection of their guns, but also that of the rivers and canals which abound in Picardy. Discussing a probable German stand on the Hindenburg line, a highly-placed French military official told me he expected Ludendorff would try to reorganize his broken divisions on that line, but that the allies are now too strong for him and would make short work of the elaborate defensive positions organized by von Hindenburg.

This official's opinion is that, in a very short time, the Germans would be fighting for their very lives on a line running near the Neuse and that

possibly they would not be able to hold such a line very long.

"These are great days for France and the allies," said the official. "Although we must not be too optimistic, we can safely say Germany is beaten." VENTS RAGE ON TERRAIN GIVEN UP

In the meantime the enemy is again giving proof of rage that consumes him at being forced to retreat. In all the fighting of the last fortnight many villages have been liberated, but few remain except as names. Everywhere is desolation; that which was not destroyed in battle was blown up, sometimes a week after the fighting, the Germans having placed timed infernal machines in those parts of buildings which still stood.

A typical example of this was shown in Nesle, where the church blew up and crumbled to pieces six days after the allies occupied the town. Ludendorff cannot say the allies guns destroyed buildings under such circumstances.

"Let us get into their country and follow their example," is the cry of all France.

## AMERICANS SHOW FOE HOW TO FIGHT INDIAN FASHION

Belt in No Man's Land Over Mile Wide Offers Every Opportunity For The Sport and Prisoners—Doughboy Fell into a Trap, But Catches His Captors—German Misses His Furlough.

On the American front.—In a certain sector the American troops who hold the line have every opportunity to practice their favorite form of warfare. There is a belt of no man's land over a mile wide covered with brushwood and seamed with ravines. In the middle are two knolls facing one another at a distance of 100 yards or so. On one of them the Germans and on the other the Americans have established advanced posts.

These posts are centres of much scouting and desultory fighting. An American platoon will crawl out at night and make their way with all the caution of red Indians behind the German knoll. There will be some brisk shooting and the Americans will fall back on the trenches before daylight with casual prisoners.

On one occasion, as they crept back with the light of dawn just breaking, they were astonished to hear the rustling and crackling of sticks, which seemed to show that a body of men were coming toward them from the direction of the American trenches. The advance scout listened and whispered to his comrades: "Boys, those are never Americans; they are too clumsy and make too much noise."

## SHARP CLOSE FIGHTING

It was not clear how the Germans could have made their way between the American patrol and the Yankee lines, but the Americans were taking no chances and they dropped at once to the ground, with ready rifles, waiting for the enemy to blunder into them. Guttural exclamations from the Germans, who were stumbling in the undergrowth, gave the Americans their signal. There was a sharp hand to hand struggle with the surprised enemy, in which the Germans were soon mastered. The prisoners said they had come forward from their trenches on the north of the knoll while the American patrol had been working its way along the south side. The Germans set out to return by the south way and were amazed when they found the Americans between them and their trenches.

One night an American on patrol got separated from his companions. In the undergrowth he came upon a barbed wire that had evidently just been put up by Fritz. Suspecting a trap but curious to investigate it, he followed the barbed wire. He was crawling on all fours, when suddenly there was a breaking of sticks, which gave way beneath him. He was precipitated into a deep pit.

## TRIED TO CLIMB OUT

On recovery from the shock of the fall, he tried to clamber out, but the sides were sheer and the top too high for him to reach. The trap had been dug under the direction of an ingenious German, whose voice called out to the American in excellent English:

"Pass your weapons up here, or we shall throw grenades down on you." There was nothing for him but to obey. He passed up his weapons. In the dawn light he saw a head peering over the edge of the pit. A rope was dropped over to him, and as he was hauled up, one German covered him with a rifle while a second gave him a hand.

Once outside the pit the American sank to the ground and began to rub his ankle, muttering something about a strain. Then he rose to his feet, seeming to be in great pain. Two Germans stepped up to secure him. A sudden jab from the American's elbow sent one of them tumbling backward into the pit, while the second German found himself clasped in a grip he could not break.

## MARCHES IN PRISONER

Two minutes later the American was marching his prisoner in the direction of the American line. He met some of the Yankee boys on their way back to the trenches. After handing the prisoner over to some of them, he returned with two others to the pit in which he had left the German, who, of course, gave himself up.

He said the pit had been contrived by himself in the hope of getting the reward of a furlough, which had been promised to any German soldier who would capture an American prisoner.

## REV. W. H. BALL COLLECTED \$150 FOR STARVING JEWS

Last List of Contributors Given Below—Check for \$150 Has Been Sent to Mr. Lionel Well, President of N. C. Society for Jewish Relief, as Monroe's Bit.

Rev. W. H. Ball, who has been untiringly devoting much of his time to collecting funds for Jewish Relief, has made his final report. All the collections amounted to \$150, and it has already been sent to Mr. Lionel Well, President of the Society for Jewish Relief in North Carolina. Only one woman and four storekeepers refused to help in this cause.

Mr. Ball's report is as follows: Jesus said "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me." They said, "Lord, when saw we ye hungry, or thirsty or naked?" He said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, ye did it unto me."

Mrs. G. B. McClellan, \$5; Maj. W. C. Heath, \$2.50; J. V. Griffith, \$2; B. Gordon, 2; H. A. Shute, \$2; F. H. Fairley, \$2; Ike Blair, \$2; Mrs. C. C. Sikes, \$2; J. Williams, \$1; Flow & Pifer, \$1; Dr. J. E. Ashcraft, \$1; E. C. Winchester, \$1; Miss Muriel Hinde, \$1; Henderson-Snyder, \$1; J. M. Fairley, \$1; G. S. Lee, \$1; J. E. Stack, \$1; W. L. Howie, \$1; Mrs. J. Blair, \$1; G. N. Clontz, \$1; M. C. Long, \$1; Ab Joseph Co., \$1; H. M. Neal, 65c; Hillard Wolfe, \$1; R. F. Beasley 50c; Neal Redfern, 50c; P. P. W. Plyler, 50c; Ray Shute, 50c; A Lady Friend, 50c; T. W. Maness, 50c; J. S. Stearns, 50c; Lee Griffin, 50c; Miss Antonette Beasley, 50c; T. P. Redwine, 50c; C. B. Benton, 50c; A. M. Secret, 50c; Miss Sallie McLarty, 50c; Capt. Ed Neal, 50c; J. D. Futch, 50c; H. A. Shepherd, 50c; Miss M. Redwine, 50c; J. E. Eldred, 50c; Cider, 50c; R. V. Lockhart, 50c; A. Mite, 50c; W. T. Wolfe, 50c; T. L. Riddle, 50c; E. A. Helms, 30c; L. A. Robinson, 25c; T. C. Collins, 25c; Luther Williams, 25c; J. B. Williams, 25c; Roland Horton, 25c; Rupert Funderburk, 25c; W. C. Sanders, 25c; B. C. Hinson, 25c; C. A. McRorie, 25c; A love letter, 25c; W. J. Helms, 15c; Francis Bundy, 15c. Total, \$150.

## 2,800 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RESCUED BY DESTROYERS

British Liner, with American Troops on Board, is Attacked by Submarine and Beached—All Men Saved—The Enemy U-boat is believed to Have Been Destroyed.

Washington, Sept. 11.—News of the torpedoing of the British liner Persic, with 2,800 American troops on board in the war zone, September 6, was given to the American people today, first through the British admiralty and then later through the navy department. All the soldiers were rescued by accompanying destroyers, the steamer itself was beached and the enemy submarine is believed to have been accounted for.

Officials here viewed the result of the attack more as an allied success than as a disaster. The fact that the steamer was torpedoed when she was endeavoring to overtake the convoyed fleet of transports after overcoming engine trouble which had forced her to lag, convinced officers that submarine commanders still are fearful of attacking troop ships in convoy.

And the immediate and completely successful assistance rendered by the destroyers was taken as an additional evidence that the convoying system now in vogue is practically perfect.

First word of the attack on the Persic, it was learned officially, reached the navy department on the night of September 6, in a brief dispatch from Vice Admiral Sims, although navy officials have emphatically denied, in the interim, that any important news of submarine activities was being withheld. It was understood that the British admiralty expressed the request that they be permitted to announce the news of the attack.

Rumors that a troop ship had been sunk, probably with heavy loss of life, have been current in Washington since the publication of what evidently was an inspired London dispatch stating that allied naval circles had reason to believe that German submarines soon would concentrate their efforts in an attempt to impede the steady flow of American soldiers overseas. No explanation of the purpose of this article could be obtained, however, from naval officials here.

Attacks on troop ships by submarines constantly are expected by officials and it may be that a new and more determined campaign has been determined upon by the Germans because of the reverses suffered by their armies. The greatest possible protection is afforded troop ships and this increase as the American naval forces in the war zone are added by new construction in American yards.

The records achieved by the American and allied navies in the transporting of more than 1,600,000 American soldiers overseas with the loss of only 291 of them, still is considered miraculous. And it is accepted by naval officers as testimony to the success of the convoy system.

"This seems to be a very dangerous precipice," remarked the tourist. "I wonder that they have not put up a warning-board?"

"Yes," answered he guide, "it is dangerous. They kept a warning-board up for over two years, but no one fell over, so it was taken down." —Harper's Magazine.