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CLIMAX REACHED IN BATTLE WAGED BY GENERAL FOCH

Simonds Says Whole German Army is Breaking Down—Foch Sees a Great Decision Near at Hand and Throws in His Last Reserves.

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS.

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New York City, N. Y., September 30th.—There can be no mistaking the fact that Foch's battle has reached its climax. Within a brief period, perhaps of hours, certainly days, a German retirement out of northern France is assured. German resistance, tremendous and sustained in certain sectors, is breaking down completely at others.

Perhaps the most amazing single incident of recent days has been the Belgian success about the old Ypres salient. In a single day, with insignificant losses, the Belgians have taken all the ground which the British spent five months and half a million casualties in taking one year ago. This can only mean one thing; that the German army as a whole is breaking down.

Foch's tactics are now clearly revealed. The period of maneuver is over. The moment in the battle has arrived when a decision is to be sought and from the Yser to the Meuse Foch is throwing in his last reserves. The pace can not be long maintained; the "event," to use the Napoleonic term, is a sight.

NO LONGER ONE OFFENSIVE.

It is no longer one offensive, but half a dozen, all co-ordinated. Belgium King Albert and Gen. Plumer are winning the battle of Ypres; in French Flanders and Artois, Horne, Bing and Rawlinson are refighting victoriously the battle of Cambrai; above the Aisne Mangin is winning the battle, Nivelle lost in 1917; in Champagne, Gouraud is winning the contest only partially won by Petain in 1915.

Finally, the famous fields about Verdun are behind Pershing and he is advancing over ground which has seen no Allied Soldier since August, 1914. In sum, all the old offensives are being refought simultaneously. All the old hopes long postponed are being realized. We are going forward from the sea to the Meuse, slowly in places, with phenomenal rapidity at others, but everywhere advancing.

And in this situation it is no longer possible to watch or weigh any single phase. Perhaps Foch himself does not yet know where the decisive break will come, but it seems certain that one of the many blows will achieve the first objective to compel a general German retreat out of France, away from the Hindenburg line. And the second objective is to crush the retreating armies, to turn the withdrawal into a rout, to break the military power of Germany—to do it this year, and in the present battle—this is the single purpose.

FOCH'S SUPREME BID.

We are seeing to-day a battle of France, a battle in extent of front, in numbers engaged, in material employed, and unhappily, in casualties, unexampled in human history. Foch is now making his supreme bid for a decision. And it is essential that he should see it whole, see it as a single battle, like Waterloo or Gettysburg, not a series of battles, not a number of unrelated engagements. It is equally necessary to perceive that neither cities, territory nor positions are of great importance. All these circumstances have become minor. Ludendorff accepted battle on the Hindenburg line more than a month ago with a clear perception of the issue. He has now been beaten geographically. His lines are in retreat and he must shortly go back to the Meuse and Scheldt. So much has already been decided.

In that sense Foch has won his Leipzig, but after Leipzig Napoleon took his beaten army behind the Rhine, fought on almost escaped ultimate defeat. Can Ludendorff do the same? This is the present problem. We shall have an answer now in a time relatively brief. We are on the threshold of one of the greatest military events in human history.

SOFIA SEES THE OUTCOME.

And turning to the Balkans, we have an appraisal of allied prospects. Bulgaria took the German side confident of German victory three years ago. The battle news in Sofia has changed all. Bulgaria will not wait another hour. She surrenders unconditionally. Why? Because there is no longer any doubt in Sofia as to what is to happen. Is there any reason to question that events in Bucharest and in Constantinople will not move with equal rapidity?

What is happening now is like the break-up of the ice in a river when spring comes. This is the real parallel to the military situation in France. The German lines are breaking like the river ice, rapidly in some places, slowly in others, but everywhere breaking. Cambrai, Roulers, St. Quentin, Laon, Vouziers—these were the objectives of campaigns lasting months, of separate campaigns which were the main efforts, of a whole year, and now we are at the gates of all of them at one time.

LUDENDORFF IN STRAITS.

At the moment the Belgian and American operations at opposite ends of the line are most interesting, because each is cutting away one of the anchorages of the whole German front. A little further advance in Belgium or in Lorraine and Ludendorff can delay no longer. In fact, it is hard to see how he can stick it out much longer any way. Both

of his flanks are turned north of Ypres and Verdun. Mangin is breaking his center toward Loos, Haig is beating the heaviest blow of all toward Cambrai. It seems to me the situation of the German line in France is already comparable to that of the Confederate Army about Petersburg after Five Forks. It has been broken in many places. It is held by troops already plainly shaken, as the enormous total of captures day by day indicates. The German is still fighting desperately, but when one thinks of the months it took last year for Haig to advance from Ypres to Passchendaele, the achievement of the Belgians on Saturday is explicable only in terms of declining German morale.

It is time to begin to study the line of the Scheldt and the Meuse. The Hindenburg line is about played out. But can Ludendorff reach the new line? This is becoming the military problem in the last week of the campaign of 1918.

MR. MARSHAL NASH DIES AT CAMP DIX, NEW JERSEY.

Son of Mr. Robert Nash—Funeral and Burial at Marshville—Other news items.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Marshville, September 30th.—Mr. Joseph Taylor left last week for Durham to enter Trinity College.

Mr. C. P. Ross of Polkton has accepted a position with the Marshville Planing Mill Company and will move his family to Marshville at an early date.

Mr. L. W. Collins, of the salesforce at the United Cash Store Company, moved his family from Monroe last week. Mr. Collins is occupying the Newsome house vacated by Mr. J. T. Williams.

Mr. L. E. Marsh, has sold his farm, cattle, stock, and farming implements to Mr. J. M. Little of Marshville, consideration ten thousand dollars. This farm is located in Gilboa community and is one of the best in the country.

Mr. C. P. Hartsell has purchased the old M. K. Lee residence lot, in front of the Presbyterian Church, and will build a residence on it in the near future.

Misses Annie Armfield and Kate Carroll, of Monroe, were guests of the former's parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. Armfield Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

Mr. John T. Belk of the B. and B. Manufacturing Company, returned last night from a week's trip to Tulsa, Okla., Mr. Belk accompanied his father to the Old Soldiers' Reunion at that place.

Mesdames C. C. Hawley and McLemore of Hamlet were shopping visitors in our town Saturday.

Private Paul Stegall of Camp Wadsworth visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. Will Stegall in east Marshville Sunday.

Mrs. W. O. Austin and baby returned to their home in Hamlet Sunday after spending several days with Mrs. Austin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Ross.

Mrs. R. M. Vaughan and daughter, Miss Carrie Belle, left Saturday for Wilmington where they will reside. Marshville regrets the departure of this estimable family, but wish them success in their new home.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Howard, Sunday, Sept. 29, a son.

Miss Pauline Hamilton is attending the Teachers' Institute in Monroe.

Dr. H. L. Price of Retreat, Pa., is the guest of his kinswoman, Mrs. L. A. Price, this week.

Mrs. R. H. Cunningham and children of Monroe were week-end guests of Mrs. J. B. Bailey.

Miss Eula Miller Redfern of Monroe is spending several days guest of Mrs. Lee Ashcraft.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Green and Mr. and Mrs. Ed M. Marsh motored to Ansonville Sunday to hear Rev. Jim Green, who is conducting a revival at that place.

Sergt. G. W. Gasser of Camp visited friends here Friday and Saturday of last week.

Miss Annie Harrell has accepted a position as sales lady with the J. T. Garland Co.

Mrs. Frank Harrell returned last Wednesday from a visit to relatives in Rutherfordton.

A telegram was received Sunday by Mr. Robert Nash of east Marshville stating that his son, Marshall Nash, aged 27 years, died Saturday of pneumonia at Camp Dix, New Jersey. The body is expected to arrive here Tuesday, when funeral services will be conducted at the Baptist church, and interment will be in the cemetery here. This young man was among the first to leave from our midst, and our entire community sympathizes with his parents and relatives in their grief.—Mrs. J. E. Bailey.

W. H. Barker, an agent for John Robinson's circus which comes to Monroe, Friday, Oct. 18th, is in the city today on a rather peculiar mission. He has been commissioned by Mr. Robinson to purchase twelve barrels of crude oil. This oil is to be used on the elephants when the circus arrives. "We oil the elephants several times during the hot months in order to keep their skin from cracking open," explained Barker. "In India there is sufficient moisture in the atmosphere to keep the elephants' skin soft and pliable. That moisture is lacking in the United States and we supply it through the medium of oil. We use one barrel of oil for each elephant and the lubricant is applied with brooms and mops and thoroughly massaged into the skin. The elephants greatly enjoy a massage and actually grin when they see the oil."

BULGARIANS ACCEPT ALLIED TERMS WITHOUT RESERVATION

Means Complete Military Surrender—Turkey, Cut Off From Her Allies, Will Likely Sue for Peace soon—Allies Form Strong Semi-Circle About the Enemy.

(By The Associated Press.)

Bulgaria is definitely out of the war, and Turkey, virtually cut off from communication with her allies and her armies in Palestine almost annihilated, likely will be forced to sue for a cessation of hostilities against her.

Seeing eventual defeat staring her in the face through the swift progress of the Serbian, Italian, British, Greek and French troops in the reclaiming of Serbia and the invasion of Bulgarian territory, the Bulgars begged for an armistice, reserving to themselves no conditions. All the territory now held by King Ferdinand's men is to be evacuated; the Bulgarian army is to be immediately demobilized and all means of transport inside the kingdom, even along the Danube, is to be given over into Allied hands.

Thus, in addition to the isolation of Turkey, the back door to a direct invasion of Austria-Hungary is flung open to the Allies and doubtless the time is not far distant when advantage to the full will be taken of the new avenue through which the enemy can be reached. With the debacle in Serbia and Bulgaria complete, the Austro-Hungarians in Albania soon will be put to the test and when their evacuation to their own borders is accomplished, the Allies will have welded an iron semi-circle about the central powers from the Black sea to the North sea.

Viewing the situation in all its aspects—the success of the great offensive in Belgium and France; the blotting out of the war zone in the Balkans; the cutting off of the Turks from intercourse with Germany and Austria-Hungary, except by the long route through the Caucasus and southern Russia and the steady gains that are being made by the Allies in making Russia once more a factor in the struggle—the darkest days of the war seemingly are faced by the Austro-Germans.

Although it had been officially announced that hostilities ceased against the Bulgarians at noon Monday, the French official communications, Monday night, said French cavalry had entered Uskub, one of the most important communication centers in Serbia. It is not improbable therefore that the French are still hard after the Germans who are known to have been fighting with the Bulgarians in this region, acting as rear guards.

London, September 30th.—The armistice concluded with Bulgaria by the Entente Allies is a purely military convention and contains no provisions of a political character.

Bulgaria agrees to evacuate all the territory she now occupies in Greece and Serbia, to demobilize her army immediately, and surrender all means of transport to the allies.

Bulgaria also will surrender her boats and control of navigation on the Danube and concede to the Allies free passage through Bulgaria for the development of military operations.

All Bulgarian arms and munitions are to be stored under the control of the Allies, to whom is conceded the right to occupy all important strategic points.

The Associated Press learns that the military occupation of Bulgaria will be entrusted to British, French and Italian forces, and the evacuated portions of Greece and Serbia respectively to Greek and Serbian troops.

All questions of territorial rearrangements in the Balkans was purposely omitted from the convention.

The Allies made no stipulation concerning King Ferdinand, his position being considered an internal matter, one for the Bulgarians themselves to deal with.

The armistice will retain in operation until a final general peace is concluded.

Frank C. Mullis Declared a Deserter.

Frank C. Mullis, who failed to report for induction into the service when notified by the local board of exemptions and was declared a deserter, has been sentenced to twenty years in the Federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. At the expiration of this time he is to be given dishonorable discharge from the service.

The following account of the trial at Camp Jackson is clipped from Friday's issue of the Columbia State:

Private Frank C. Mullis of the Seventeenth Company, Second Provisional Regiment, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Depot Brigade, was tried by the general court martial on the charge of desertion and was given twenty years at hard labor in the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. and is to forfeit all pay and allowances and at the expiration of his sentence is to be dishonorably discharged from the service. On the trial of the case he pleaded not guilty to the specifications and charges.

Witnesses for the prosecution testified that two or three days prior to the time Mullis was ordered by his local board to report for military duty he wrote a letter to the local board endeavoring to explain why he would not answer the call. He was taken before his local board and questioned and admitted writing the letter. In this letter Mullis admitted that he had been "requested" by the local board to appear at Monroe on a given date for military duty.

ALLIES EVERYWHERE MAKE PROGRESS AGAINST ENEMY.

Germans Front Seems to Be Going to Pieces—Serbian Territory Being Redeemed—General Allenby in Palestine Counted Fifty Thousand Prisoners Friday night—North Carolina Boys in the Thickest of the Fight.

(By The Associated Press.)

American troops from New York, Tennessee and North and South Carolina—were in the thick of the fray Sunday which badly smashed the German positions over a front of more than fifty miles from the region of Arras to LaFere.

On a three-mile front the Americans stormed the Hindenburg line and captured the towns of Bellicourt and Nauroy, crossing the Cambrai canal in the operations.

Meanwhile to the South the British stormed the main Hindenburg defenses on the Scheldt canal, crossed the waterway and gained the hill beyond, taking many prisoners. To the north the British have their hands on Cambrai, the important German base over which recently there has been so much fighting. The Canadians are in the northwestern outskirts of the city, while a naval division has reached the southern environs.

South of St. Quentin to LaFere the French have pressed forward their line and taken some five hundred prisoners. Along the Chemin-Des-Dames the French have advanced their line for a distance of two miles, capturing the highest point on the famous ridge.

In Belgium, the Belgians and British have driven forward and taken Dixmude, 10 miles from the North sea southeast of Neuport bringing their line into closer union with that in the region of Ypres. The capture of Dixmude if it is pressed for further gains eastward will seriously affect the German submarine bases on the North sea.

PROGRESS EVERYWHERE.

The entente allied troops everywhere are continuing to make progress against the forces of the Teutonic alliance.

In Belgium, Flanders and France material advances have been made on all the fighting fronts; in Serbia the territory of the overrun kingdom is fast being reclaimed, while in Palestine the Turkish armies under the attacks of General Allenby and the tribesmen of the king of the Hedjaz have virtually ceased to exist as fighting units.

Additional large numbers of the enemy have been made prisoners and large quantities of stores have been captured.

Keeping up relentlessly their violent attacks from near the sea in Belgium to the region of Verdun, the Belgian, British, American and French troops are fast driving wedges into the enemy line forcing him to retreat or defeating him in sanguinary battles. No rest is being accorded the Germans and apparently their front is fast going to pieces under the impetus of the allied blows.

In Belgium, between Dixmude and Ypres, King Albert's men have pressed back the German front four to five miles and taken 6,000 prisoners. Ground that the enemy had held since the invasion of Belgium in 1914 has been restored to Belgian ownership through the efforts of the mixed Belgian and British forces, and at last accounts the Allied Forces were well on their way to the important junction town of Roulers.

DESPERATE RESISTANCE.

To the south from the region east of Arras to St. Quentin the British with the Americans fighting on their right, everywhere have penetrated the German defenses over the thirty-five mile front. Desperate resistance was offered by the Germans but the Allied troops refused to be denied and swept through the remaining portions of the Hindenburg line and are standing, according to the latest reports virtually on the doorsteps of Cambrai. More than sixteen thousand prisoners have been taken in this region since Friday.

Under the effects of the British, Americans and French, the Germans have been cleared out of the entire department of the Somme and part of the department of the Ardennes is now in French hands for the first time since 1914.

In union with the attacks to the north the French along the battle-front north and northeast of Soissons have delivered fresh attacks, under which the Germans are in retreat north of the Aisne toward the Ailette, indicating that the enemy line soon must be re-adjusted eastward at least as far as Rheims, if not farther. The French now are on the banks of the Ailette river at the western end of the Chemin-Des-Dames making it apparent that this strong defense line soon must be passed by in retreat northward.

KNOWS SITUATION IS SERIOUS.

In Champagne and northwest of Verdun the Germans have sensed to the full the seriousness of the situation facing them—where further advances by the French and Americans of necessity will compel the re-adjustment of the line from the north to the Swiss frontier. Large numbers of re-inforcements have been thrown into the battle in Champagne to halt the advances of the French toward the important junction town of Vouziers, but nevertheless General Gouraud's men have pressed forward northward from the region east of Rheims to the northern fringes of the Argonne forest taking many positions of high strategic value.

Meantime the Americans also have advanced their front, capturing Brulles-Sur-Meuse and Romagne and at last accounts were progressing favorably northward along the Meuse valley and to the east of the Argonne forest, the turning of which by the combined forces of General Gouraud and General Liggett seems probable within a short time.

DELEGATES IN SALONIKI.

The Bulgarian delegates who are endeavoring to arrive at terms with the Allied Forces under which Bulgaria will quit the war, have arrived in Saloniki but the Italian, French, Greek, Serbian and British Armies are keeping up their drive across southern Serbia and into Bulgaria. Krushevo, the Bulgarian base twenty miles north of Monastir, has been captured by the Italians, in front of whom the Bulgarians are in rapid retreat. The Serbians have won the important mountain range of Plachkovitsa, south of Kochana, while to the east the British and Greek forces have taken further territory from the enemy in the region of Lake Doiran and across the border in Bulgaria.

In Palestine the victory over the Turks is all but complete. Friday night General Allenby had counted fifty thousand prisoners and three hundred guns.

The losses of the Teutonic allies on the western front since the Allied offensive began July 18 have been two hundred thousand men made prisoner and three thousand guns, twenty thousand machine guns and enormous quantities of material captured.

BELIEVED THAT BULGARIA REALLY DESIRES PEACE.

Not Merely Seeking a Breathing Spell, But Needs Peace Grievously—Germans Will Prevent an Actual Break if Possible.

London, September 29.—The news from Bulgaria which comes through various channels compels the belief that the Prussia of the Balkans is not merely seeking a breathing spell but really wants peace. All the evidence indicates that she needs it grievously and must have it.

The German pretense that Premier Malinoff was acting on his own responsibility finds no confirmation. King Ferdinand's crown is at stake and he is trying to save his dynasty.

The Bulgarian finance minister and commander-in-chief are now on their front, according to the newspaper Vaterland which adds that an American attaché will participate in the negotiations.

MATTERS AT STAKE.

While Bulgaria has been disintegrating for months as a factor in the war her military defeat has brought matters swiftly to a crisis. Her three armies are separated and not only are beaten but two of them are scattered in flight with their German allies sharing the same fate. Yesterday's official report from the front speaks of the number of prisoners taken and points out that most of them were Germans.

Occupation of Sofia by Allied troops is a possibility of the near future. The terms of the Allies are plain but stringent. Bulgaria will not be allowed to withdraw from the war and assume the position of a neutral. She must surrender and give up what territory she has gained by arms as well as some privileges of transit and the same usefulness she yielded to Germany while professing neutrality. There is a suggestion that she may be required to use her army on the side of the entente.

The answer of the Allies is an ultimatum. "The allied powers have no further conditions to propose," says a semi-official pronouncement.

GERMANY'S POLICY.

Germany's policy in this crisis, is learned from the newspapers of that country. She is trying to rush re-inforcements to Bulgaria. One report says heavy contingents are gaining and on their way will show themselves in Sofia to re-assure the people of the Balkan capital. Germany will not let Bulgaria make peace if she can prevent it by force or persuasion.

There may be a race between the German army and the Allies to reach Sofia. Germany is supposed to have six divisions in Rumania which she may be able to send to Bulgaria. She hardly can withdraw troops from the western front during the greatest struggle she has experienced there. Probably Austria also will be called upon for help.

The latest development seems to confirm reports that King Ferdinand's long absence from his kingdom during the summer was because he was afraid to remain there. German papers are now speaking freely about their allies.

"From the day of Malinoff's appointment," says Vorwaerts, "it was well known in political circles that our alliance was in the greatest danger. In addition to the cabinet's pro-entente sentiments there is an extraordinary ardent desire for peace on the part of the people whose food for months has been crumbling into indigestible maize bread. Even if the supporters of our alliance should succeed in getting the upperhand we should indulge in no illusions regarding the value which the preservation of the alliance can still have for Germany."

The local board of exemptions has completed the mailing of questionnaires to registrants between the ages of 19 and 37. A number of the questionnaires have been returned and the registrants classified.

MR. WM. STACK MADE TRIP TO FRANCE ON TRANSPORT

Remained in French Port Seven Days, But Was Not Allowed to Land—His Return Trip Delayed Because His Ship Had to Tow Another Vessel to Azore Islands.

Mr. William Stack, the fifteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Stack, arrived home Saturday night after a trip to France on board an American transport.

Sailing for France in convoy with twenty-two other ships the latter part of July he arrived in French port at the expiration of sixteen days. He arose early one morning while on the way over to be told that just before day-break a German submarine had fired a torpedo at his ship and had only missed it by several feet. However, William did not let this report phase him as he did not believe it.

The ship remained in the French port for more than seven days but none of the members of the ship's crew were allowed to land. A number of airplanes could be seen hovering over the port searching for submarines most of the day, said Mr. Stack. The airplane has been especially effective in combating the work of the sub.

Negroes in the American army were employed in unloading the ship which carried everything from army trucks to medicine. Among the number was one from Wadesboro who had entrained to camp at the same time the increment in which was Will Pethal left here. "These negroes are the happiest mortals on earth," "Bill," as he is known to his friends, observed.

On the return journey the ship on which Mr. Stack was a member of the crew picked up a vessel that had lost its propeller and towed it to the Azore Islands. Towing this ship somewhat delayed his ship on the homeward journey and it required one month to make the trip.

Celebration of the Discovery of America.

I am requested by the United States Bureau of Education through Hon. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, to ask all schools of the county to celebrate Saturday, Oct. 12th, the anniversary of the discovery of our country, as Liberty Day. Also the Treasury Department in co-operation with the Bureau of Education requests every school district in the United States, city, town and country-side to arrange for the celebration of the discovery of America, with an appropriate Harvest Home Festival. There is a logical unity between both these ideas and the Liberty Loan. When the people of a community recount the fruits of their summer's labors they will naturally ask what share of these they ought to invest in Liberty Bonds. When they come to realize what the discovery of America has meant to them personally, what it has meant for the cause of freedom and democracy, what it will mean for the salvation of the world in the present world tragedy, when they begin to feel all this, they must of necessity say, this is worth investing in, worth fighting for, worth making any sacrifice for. The Harvest Home Festival is our earliest form of American celebration, before cities were built, and it would be a distinct gain to carry the idea over into city life.

Therefore at the request of the National Departments named above, I am advising through our county papers, the local representatives of the Liberty Loan campaign, of the plans suggested by the United States Bureau of Education and the Treasury Department, for the celebration of this day by all the people. However, our people have initiative, and each community can prepare a program suited to the community in which the celebration is held.

There is something vastly inspiring in the thought of all the local neighborhoods in the United States meeting the same day on the basis of citizenship with united devotion to the ideals for which America stands. "Moral is to force as three to one," said Napoleon. "To mobilize the spirit of America is of paramount importance. October the 12th furnishes the occasion for expressing the Nation's spirit in definite terms of service to meet the Nation's present need."

"The idea is big, the opportunity is great. The time is short. Will you please use every effort to make this the most successful national celebration since the war began?"

Yours for the 4th Liberty Loan,
R. N. NISBET,
County Superintendent.

Canteen Notes.

The Canteen acknowledges with thanks the receipt of \$1 from Miss Eunice Helms of Unionville, \$1 from Miss Bessie Tucker and 50 cts. from Mrs. L. A. Staten.

Misses Mary Griffith and Octavia Houston, two of our faithful workers, left last night for Norfolk, Va. They have enlisted as yeomen in the Navy. Prior to their departure, Mrs. W. C. Crowell's team entertained these ladies at the hut. The members of the team furnished the refreshments and the occasion was enjoyed by all present.

—Mr. R. W. Elliott and party have finished surveying the ground for the proposed Naval Radio Station and will in all probability have the blue prints completed by Thursday. Several delegates will go to Washington this week to discuss matters with officials there. The site for this station is about twenty miles around.