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MIGHTY STRUGGLE IS NOW RAGING

NOTABLE GAINS OF GROUND AND TREMENDOUS LOSSES BY ENEMY MARK FIGHTING.

SORRY PLIGHT OF GERMANS

Foe is Fighting Stubbornly But to No Avail; Allies Have Taken More Than 34,000 Prisoners.

After a short period of relative calm on the Soissons-Rheims salient the central and western sections of the battle front again have been the scenes of mighty struggles.

On both sectors the allied forces have achieved notable gains of ground which, observed on the war maps, seemingly place the German armies in front of them in precarious positions.

In battles extending from the region immediately south of Soissons to the northwest of Fere En Tardenois and southwest of the last named town over the upper portion of the left branch of the "V" salient running ten miles eastward from Nesles to Ville En Tardenois and with St. Gemme as its southern base, American, French and British troops have pushed back the armies of the German crown prince.

Northwest of Fere the entire elbow of the line where it turned eastward along the northern bank of the Ourcq has been blotted out, making the line a straight one from Fere to Hartennes and giving the allies much better ground over which to work in further outflanking Soissons on the southeast and for pressing on toward Fismes.

The most important gain, however, was on the upper western point of the "V," southeast of Fere. Here the village of Clerges and the Meuniere wood were taken, a maneuver which places the Germans at the bottom of the "V" at St. Gemme in a seemingly precarious plight, for from the wood and the village the allied guns will be able to rake the Germans, if they northward, their only avenue of escape, of an enfilade fire. Through the capture of the Meuniere wood, the width of the "V" from the fringes of the forest of Rontigny on the east, has been cut down relatively to four miles.

SECOND BATTLE OF MARNE BEINGS PRACTICALLY AT END

New York.—Despite minor fluctuations in the immediate future, such as remains possible after every similar conflict has reached its real term, the second battle of the Marne has ended. It was practically over last Sunday when the Germans began to take root in the hills north of the Ourcq and south of the valley of the Cerise about Soissons and of the Andre west of Rheims. Boehm's army has found at least a temporary halting place on this front, as did Kluck's a little further to the north after the retreat from the Marne, four years ago.

The largest number of divisions which have been reported as fighting in the defeated army is 71, and there have been other estimates smaller, but not materially smaller. Three quarters of a million men is perhaps a fair appraisal of the fighting strength of the Germans at the Marne, at least a quarter less than were used in the first battle of the Marne, and comparing with 36 divisions used in the battle of Pleardy in March. Of their forces engaged the Germans have lost between a quarter and a third, from 200,000 to 250,000, upwards of 500 guns and a mass of war material, which has not yet been tabulated, but is known to be enormous. In the 14 days of the Foch counter-offensive the Germans have retired something like an average of ten miles on a front of 50, with a maximum of 15, and have thus evacuated more ground than they have surrendered on the morrow of any battle in the west, save the first Marne, and from a third to a half as much as was involved in the famous Hindenburg retreat of March and April, 1917.

LARGE BODIES OF GERMANS ARE FLEEING NORTHWARD

With the fall of darkness fighting continued between the allies and the Germans on the western side of the Soissons-Rheims salient. Allied observers reported that bodies of German troops were fleeing precipitately northward along the road leading from Lagny, which lies about midway between Soissons and Fere-en-Tardenois for the first time allied reserves are said to outnumber those of enemy.

FRENCH TAKE GREAT BOOTY FOLLOWING UP HUN RETREAT

London.—The booty captured by the French in following up the German retreat from the Marne included a large amount of bridging material which the Germans had collected just north of the Marne.

It is pointed out that the intention of the Germans to effect the passage of the river in great strength, and also in the direction of Paris in their retreat.

ELIAS J. JACOBY



Elias J. Jacoby of Indianapolis, for many years associated in law practice with the late Charles W. Fairbanks, former vice president of the United States, and who is now vice president of the Railroadmen's Building and Savings association, was advanced to the highest office of the Order of the Mystic Shrine for North America at the meeting of the Imperial Council, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Atlantic City, being made imperial potentate.

THE ONE GREAT OBJECT

PRESENT LURE IS INDICATION OF FIERCE STRUGGLE—MAY BE GIN AT ANY MOMENT.

To Kill as Many of the Other as Prime Object of Opposing Forces. Field Marshal Assassinated.

Washington.—An odd calm fell over the Aisne-Marne battle area with only the thunder of the guns to tell of new and more terrible guis of the war storm to come. Paris and Berlin both noted it. The infantry had paused for breath, while the artillery pounded new roads of advance for General Foch's victorious armies.

The victory was given new significance by General March, chief of staff. Putting aside the reserves with which he hitherto has commented on the wider aspects of the battle, General March told the newspaper men at his mid-week conference that each army was now bent on the destruction of the other; all lesser strategy objectives had been swept away on both sides. The mission of each is to destroy the fighting power of the other. It is the ultimate military objective that both are now seeking and there can be no halting short of the goal.

The objective of each army is the other army, each one of them wants to kill as many of the other as possible.

The chief of staff had prefaced this new concept of the great struggle with a careful outline of the battle positions, showing that since last Saturday another ten miles had been cut out of the length of the battle line by allied successes. It is now barely 24 miles around the flattened salient in which the enemy has massed virtually a million men as against 74 miles when the counter-attack was set in motion. From Chateau-Thierry the Americans have made the maximum advance, covering 14 miles to reach the positions where they rested.

CONTROL OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES TAKEN OVER

Washington.—Control of telephone and telegraph lines were taken over by the postoffice department and their operation placed under the general supervision of a special committee created for the purpose by Postmaster General Burleson.

Mr. Burleson announced that until further notice the companies will continue operation in the ordinary course through the regular channels and that all officers and employees will continue in the performance of their present duties of the same terms of employment. The plan is, however, to co-ordinate the facilities of the various companies.

BIG LOCOMOTIVE ORDER FOR MILITARY RAILROADS

Washington.—The war department has ordered 510 locomotives for military railroads in France from the Baldwin Locomotive Works at a total cost of about \$25,000,000. It was announced that about 10,000 freight cars for service in France, costing about \$15,000,000 will be ordered within a few days. The locomotives will be of the American mogul consolidation type weighing 37,000 pounds and will cost about \$50,000 each.

COAL IN BELGIUM IS NOW SCARCEST ARTICLE

Havre, France.—Coal, which before the war was the basis of Belgium's prosperity is now the scarcest article in Belgium—for the Belgians. The year's production of coal was 25,000,000 tons and 250,000 men were employed to the mines, before the German invasion. Now Germany is taking all the coal and the Belgian government is wondering how the deficit will be made up.

CRISIS IN ALLIED OFFENSIVE NEAR

ALL ALONG FRONT OF 36 MILES ALLIED FORCES HAVE STEADILY PRESSED ENEMY.

SOISSONS HAS BEEN RETAKEN

Americans Now Control Almost All Hill and Forest Country in Southern Area.

The crisis in the allied offensive on the Soissons-Rheims salient apparently has been reached. French troops have entered the town of Soissons, the western anchor point of what remains of the famous salient, and all along the 36 miles of curving battle line from Soissons to Tardois, which lies about three miles west of Rheims, French, American and British troops have pushed in the entire enemy front and sent the Germans backward everywhere in precipitate retreat. Over the battle front the allies, by quick and forcible methods of onslaught, have deeply indented the German defense line for splendid gains, which seemingly foreshadow the necessity of the eventual retirement of the forces of the German crown prince to more tenable ground in the north.

The plains behind the northwestern portion of the battle front now are entirely dominated by the allied big guns. In the south the French and Americans have negotiated almost all of the hill and forest country and are encroaching precipitately toward the Fismes railway, while on the east the British and French are almost astride the Rheims-Soissons railway and have their guns now so placed that the enemy is sure to be sorely tried as he endeavors to press back and gain a haven of refuge along the Vesle river.

Just how far the retreat of the Germans will go cannot at present be forecast, but with the southern line swinging northward in conjunction with that on the east toward the Vesle, and with the French dominating the Aisne eastward from Soissons, it is not improbable that the Germans may be compelled to take refuge north of the Aisne.

Numerous towns and hamlets have been captured by the allied troops during the latest fighting and at some points they have advanced from two to three miles. South of Soissons the entire Crise river has been forded by the allied troops, northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois the allied line has been pushed well to the east of the region of Grand Rozoy and the town of Saponay has been taken. In the center the Nesles wood is being swept clean of Germans by the French cavalry and American and French troops are pressing the Germans hard north of Sergy and the hamlet of Nesles.

Further eastward almost to the gates of Rheims, combined forces of British and French everywhere are sorely harassing the enemy. In this latter region, in addition to Thillois the village of Ville-en-Hardenois is in allied hands and the French now are on the heels of the Germans two and a half miles north of the Dormans-Rheims high road over a front of nearly four miles.

Altogether, viewed from the war maps, the situation for the allied troops at present is a most promising one for complete success in riding the Soissons-Rheims salient entirely of the enemy.

250,000 CHRISTIAN GREEKS ARE DEPORTED BY TURKS

New York.—More than 250,000 Christian Greeks have been deported by the Turks from their homes in the flourishing regions of Turkey bordering on the coast, notably from Samoson, Aiyall, Trebizond and Smyrna, according to a report from the Greek foreign office of the relief committee for Greeks of Asia Minor, given out here.

They have been taxed out of business, their homes and property confiscated and themselves driven into the deserts to die of starvation.

DR WILLIS HEADS NAVAL BASE HOSPITAL UNIT

Richmond, Va.—Announcement was made of the organization of a naval base hospital unit headed by Dr. A. Murat Willis, of the Johnston-Willis hospital. The unit will be comprised of 50 nurses and 10 doctors who are specialists in various branches of medicine and surgery.

FORMER NORTH CAROLINIAN ARRESTED IN WASHINGTON

Washington.—E. I. Travis, of Halifax, N. C. former member of the corporation commission of that state and a leader in North Carolina politics and two other men, E. J. Joseph and Leon Green, were arrested at a Washington hotel by federal authorities charged with conspiring to obtain a contract for a New Jersey company. The names of the concern were and he suggested.

FRANK L. BAYLIES



Frank L. Baylies of New Bedford, Mass., who has distinguished himself as an aviator with the French flying forces was reported missing recently.

FRENCH ALSO MOVE FORWARD

BITTER FIGHTING CONTINUES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND GERMAN FORCES.

French Troops on Both Side of Fighting Front Also Move Forward for Goodly Gains.

American troops fighting north of the Ourcq river in the Soissons-Rheims salient have enlarged their brilliant victory of Monday at Sergy, where they cut to pieces divisions of Germany's picked troops and took and held the village against counter-attacks.

Notwithstanding continued heavy opposition by guns, machine guns and large numbers of the enemy, soldiers from the middle western and eastern states drove their line northward from Sergy Tuesday for a distance of about two miles and were resting at night on the slopes approaching the woods beyond the town of Nesles. Where they stood at last accounts, the Americans formed the apex of the long line running across the salient.

While the bitter fighting was in progress between the Americans and Germans, the French troops on both sides of the fighting front also moved forward for goodly gains northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois and east of Sergy. In the Nesles forest the Germans are holding strong positions, from which they are shelling, but thus far ineffectively, the menacing allied line before them.

Prussian guards and Bavarians were in the thick of the fighting throughout Tuesday, but again they were out-manuevered and outthought by the Americans and again suffered heavy casualties.

The Germans apparently are on the eve of attempting to end their retreat from the Soissons-Rheims salient and turning and offering frontal battle in force to the entente allied armies.

The day of rear guard actions seems drawing to a close. Violent counter-offensive measures against their antagonists already are in progress.

BATTLE OF TH EMARNE HAS ENTERED NEW STAGE

Washington.—The second battle of the Marne has entered a new phase. Both French and German official statements tonight reflect the increased fury of the fighting, for several days past, in dictating to officials here that a new crisis is approaching. The decision cannot long be delayed.

It was not clear whether the enemy had reached a line on which he proposed to halt his withdrawal. The general trend of his present front along the irregular line that now forms the bottom of the Aisne-Marne salient was regarded by most observers, however, as not representing positions of such nature as would lead themselves to a determined effort to bring the Anglo-French-American forces to a halt.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HAS ARRIVED IN LONDON

London.—The naval affairs committee of the house of representatives, headed by Chairman Padgett, has arrived in London after an uneventful voyage on an American battleship. The committee was met by representatives of the British admiralty and other officials and before proceeding to London, visited the naval base and witnessed the joint activities of the British and American navies in those waters.

AIRCRAFT INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN ORDERED

Washington.—Criticism by General Pershing and others of the de Havilland airplane are being investigated. After Secretary Baker's statement last week to senate committee members that General Pershing had sent a cablegram criticizing the British machine, suggesting changes and disapproving further purchase of such aircraft, the senate committee appeared to express its disapproval.

HUNS RAGING FOR BANKS OF AISNE

GERMANS FLEEING FOR SAFETY ARE HOTLY PRESSED ALONG TEN MILE FRONT.

TOWN OF FISMES IS TAKEN

Former Great German Supply Base Between Soissons and Rheims Taken by Allies.

The German retreat continues unabated, with the allies everywhere in hot pursuit.

Apparently the situation now has resolved itself into a race for the northern bank of the Aisne river by the Germans, who have been evicted from strategic positions along the Vesle river, in the center of the line and directly east of Rheims, which seemingly renders necessary that they put the Aisne between themselves and their pursuers as quickly as possible in order to escape further large losses of men made prisoners.

Just how large this bag of captives is at present cannot be reckoned, but unofficial advices from Paris assert that when the figures are made public they will thrill the allied world. General Pershing in his communique says the Americans alone have taken 3,400 prisoners and, in addition, 233 guns.

After hard fighting the Americans and French have succeeded in taking from the Germans the important town of Fismes, once Germany's great ammunition and supply depot, midway on the railway between Soissons and Rheims, while to the east at a number of places along the Vesle river the French have crossed the stream, driving the enemy northeastward. East of Soissons allied troops have negotiated the passage of the Aisne to the northern bank of that stream, where they are in a position to harass the enemy as he endeavors to straighten out his line in conformity with that running northeastward.

So fast as has been the retreat of the Germans in the center that already some element of their forces have succeeded in reaching the northern bank of the Aisne and getting numbers of their big guns across with them. All through the salient towns are still ablaze behind the retreating German, and even corn fields have been set afire in order to prevent the allied troops from garnering the ripened crop.

With the river at freshet and the Germans unable to ford it, they stood with their backs to it and gave battle for their lives. A majority of them were killed and the remainder were made prisoners. One of the most important maneuvers north of the Vesle was the penetration by the French to the village of LaNeuvillelette which releases the German hold on the northern outskirts of Rheims and seemingly delivers the cathedral city from the German menace.

SPEEDY ENACTMENT OF DRAFT EXTENSION MEASURE

Washington.—Legislation to extend the selective service act to all men between the ages of 18 and 45, as recommended by the war department, will be introduced in both houses of Congress at the semi-weekly recess sessions. According to plans of congressional leaders, spending their vacation here, the bill, which will be identical as introduced in each house, will be referred to the senate and house military affairs committees, of which Senator Chamberlain and Representative Dent are the respective chairmen.

Though the house does not reassemble until August 13 and the senate on August 24, it is expected that the draft extension bills will be enacted speedily. Chairman Dent, of the house military affairs committee, said he would call his committee together as soon as the house reassembles and hearings are held.

GERMAN U-BOAT MAKES FORAY IN NOVA SCOTIAN WATERS

Halifax, N. S.—Three American schooners were sunk by German submarines off Seal Island, Yarmouth county, on the Nova Scotia coast. The crews landed on the Nova Scotia coast. The commander of the submarine told an American skipper that he had sunk more American schooners hailing from Boston and Gloucester recently. He did not give the names of the vessels.

GENERAL PERSHING GIVEN CROSS LEGION OF HONOR

Paris.—General J. Pershing commander in chief of the American expeditionary forces in France, was awarded the grand cross of the Legion of Honor by the French government. Promote Clementson sent the following telegram to General Pershing: "I take pleasure in informing you, my dear general, that the government of the French republic has awarded to you the grand cross of the Legion of Honor."

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