

AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE TRENCHES

SAMMIES ARE NOW IN THE FRONT LINE

Artillery and Infantry Forces Now Exchanging Shots With the Hun Few Hundred Yards Away

TROOPS IN A SECTION OF THE FRENCH FIRST LINE

American Troops Joyfully Greeted Upon Their Arrival In Trenches By French---Case Of First Shell Fired At Germans Sent President

(By Associated Press.)

With The American Army In France, Oct. 27.—American troops are in the first line trenches on the French front. The artillery fired the first shot of the war at 6 o'clock on the morning of a recent day at a German working party. There has been intermittent artillery fighting since.

The helmeted infantry marched in without the knowledge of the enemy on the same night, through rain and mud. The French soldiers in the trenches welcomed them enthusiastically.

The nearest enemy trench is several hundred yards away. The sector is one of the quietest on the front. It has not been taken over, being under the control of troops under the direction of the French. The Americans have shelled German gun positions and troops, the enemy sending back shell for shell. The first shell case will be sent to President Wilson

Following is the first official statement issued from the American headquarters:

"In continuation of their training, as a nucleus for instruction later, a contingent of some battalions of our first contingents in association with veteran French battalions, are in the first line trenches of a quiet sector of the French front. They are supported by some batteries of our artillery, in association with veteran French batteries.

"The sector remains normal. Our men have adapted themselves to actual trench conditions in the most satisfactory manner."

The case of the first shell fired at the Germans by the Americans, which is to be sent to President Wilson, is now in the possession of General Sibber.

The shell was fired by a red-haired runner as his comrades in the ranks and the assembled officers cheered. Later a Frenchman in the field was attended to by the American and French medical units in celebration of the first American contact with the enemy. The gun used in firing the first shot was one of the famous French 75s. On the second day the French shelled a German gun position which was located by sound and the enemy replied with shells and projectiles falling close to the Americans who joined in the artillery duel.

American troops will be relieved after a week by others. Thus the American expeditionary forces are getting the benefit of actual war conditions.

Sunday was a little, almost deserted, shell-wrecked village, well within hostile lines, and a few kilometers from the front. The Associated Press correspondent watched the troops marching up in a driving rain. They were covered with sticky mud and their faces had been firing all day. The impression was given that there was considerable more mud on their faces than there is on the ground.

It was soon after a hull in the firing line that the first machine gun was captured by Missouri mules. The mules were in ponchos and with their helmets over their eyes, came down the road beside a dark and thin line of some infantry rolling back, giving off a savory odor of warm food.

All passed in silence. The last gun captured had been taken in the form of a shell who had been taken ill. The mules were held on by two of his walking comrades. Through another street paved with cobble and its sides lined with gaunt

skeletons of shell wrecked houses, came the sound of the tread of many bobtailed boots and in the darkness the dim uniforms of men could be seen marching.

The cautious flash of an electric pocket lamp disclosed that they were American infantry, packs on their backs, rifles slung on their shoulders, rain glistening on their helmets and coats, the wind whipping the bottom of their coats around their legs which were moving with machine-like precision.

The Americans swung down the street apparently as proud as though on dress parade notwithstanding that they had marched miles from the hill, they had had been since coming by motor trucks and railway from the instruction centers. As the ranks passed every now and then a soldier could be heard whistling softly to himself, his nearby comrades listening silent to sentimental and popular pieces.

Finally from the rear came the whistled strain of a tune which all knew, and from many places in the ranks whistles and voices joined in the tune was "Tipperary." It lasted briefly, as an officer, turning, ordered "stop that noise!" As the German troops nearby much depended on approaching the zone quietly. The troops turned a corner and disappeared down an ink-black screened road. As a major standing near listening, looked continuously at illuminated watch dial. He said: "The men from other direction should now be entering the trenches. I have been standing here waiting to hear if the Germans discover the movements." He paused, listened and then continued: "There is no firing yet, although I expect it for no doubt we are in for a strafe if the 'boche' knows we are going in."

No "strafe" developed although the Germans put over a few customary shells—hitting nothing.

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Second Liberty Loan Campaign Closes With Today. Wilmington Banks Will Be Open Until 9 O'clock Tonight to Receive Subscriptions. Do "Your Bit" Now!



I WAS TOO LITTLE FOR A SOLDIER BUT I BOUGHT A LIBERTY BOND!

HIS BIT

ALLIED SUCCESSES ON WESTERN FRONT OFFSET AT ISONZO

Italians Unable to Withstand Onslaught of the Austro-Germans

THE LATEST TEUTON EFFORTS NOT ENDED

Just What the New Drive Against Italy Will Amount to is Not Yet Apparent—Crown Prince Quiet

Grave inroads upon Italian territory are being made by the powerful Austro-German army that broke through the Italian lines on the northern Isonzo front. Already, according to Berlin, no less than 60,000 prisoners and 450 guns have been taken by the invading forces.

The German official statement declares that the Second Italian army has been defeated and that almost the entire Isonzo front of the Italians well down to the Carso is imperilled by the Austro-German thrust.

It is semi-officially admitted in Rome that the situation is considered extremely serious with enemy north-west of Gorizia well on the road to Cividale, which is some five miles within Italian territory and seeking an opening to force his way to the Italian plains. Attacks also have been begun south on the Carso front but these have been repulsed by the Italians.

American infantrymen have gone into first line trenches on the French front, and the American artillery has fired its first shot of the war.

Announcement of the presence of some battalions of the American forces on the firing line was made in the first official statement issued from American headquarters in France. The men are stationed in one of the quietest sectors of the front in company with French troops and under French direction, the sector not having been taken over by the Americans.

French successes on the Aisne and British pressure in Flanders are offset for the moment by the Austro-German blow against the left wing of the Italian forces on the Isonzo. However, the latest Teuton effort has not yet progressed far enough to be called dangerous to the future success of the allied arms.

General Cadorna's men were overwhelmed, seemingly, by the massed blow of heavily reinforced Austrian divisions under the command, it is reported, of Field Marshal von Mackensen, the leader of two very successful offensives against the Russians. The Italian leader probably considered it better to withdraw his battered soldiers from the sharp curve in the Isonzo northwest and southwest of Tolmino to a line from Monte Mag-

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SECOND PERIOD CLOSSES AT 9 O'CLOCK TONIGHT

Competition for Second Diamond Ring Also Ends Tonight—Out-of-Town Contestants Can Mail Subscriptions Anytime Today—Last Lap of Race Will Start Monday.

TODAY'S LEADERS.

- Bertha Allsbrook ... \$1,300
Pauline Underwood ... \$4,070
Bernice Martin ... \$3,905
Mattie Powell ... \$3,615
Elizabeth Bullard ... \$2,950
Ruth Teachey ... \$2,750
Sallie Garrell ... \$2,670
Mollie Gordon ... \$2,450

Nine o'clock tonight will witness the close of the second period in The Dispatch contest, and also of the second and last Special Prize offer made in connection with the contest.

Never again will \$15 clubs count for as many votes as they do now in the second period which is just about to close and never again will as valuable a special prize of any kind be offered in connection with the contest. It is now the last call for the Diamond Ring and for the exceptionally valuable second period votes. It is now the time when the question of the final winners is in process of positive solution.

Every effort should be put forth by the contestants who want their names to appear in the final honor roll to get in every possible subscription by the closing hour of the period tonight. Every promise of a subscription should be made a reality. The time is short, and the second period schedule is the key that opens the door of victory. A few hours of earnest work may be sufficient to produce that nice little margin of reserve votes that will mean the winning of one of the prizes or the diamond ring. To let up on subscription-getting work today would be fatal. Every moment counts.

The out-of-town contestants will be given an opportunity to work up until the last minute of the period. All subscriptions mailed anytime today will be honored for the second period votes and for the diamond ring offer. This allows the candidates living outside the city the same advantage as

SIX OF ESCAPED GERMANS CAPTURED

(By Associated Press.) Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 27.—Six of the 10 Germans who escaped from the alien detention camp at Fort McPherson Tuesday night were captured last night by agents of the Department of Justice. Five were taken at Surrency, Ga., and the sixth, Johann Adelhardt, a non-commissioned officer, was arrested here.

their competitors in the city.

The closing of the second period tonight marks the rounding out of the quarter, and Monday will find the contestants on the home stretch. On the quarter all handicaps can be overcome, if time is rightly made use of. The few hours left of the present period may be sufficient to overcome any competition in the field. Speed is necessary on the last day of the second period and the second special prize offer if the race is to be won. To halt or falter through false confidence would be the worst of folly. The work done today may be decisive.

The question has been frequently asked—sometimes by the candidates: "What candidate at this time seems to have the best opportunity of winning?" To this only one reply can be made. It is certainly impossible at this time to even venture a guess as to "who's who." You never can tell by the noise of the whistle how fast the train is going, nor is the "honk, honk" of an automobile in any way indicative of its speed. The smallest autos sometimes have the loudest horns.

PLAN EVACUATION OF HELSINGFORS

(By Associated Press.) Petrograd, Oct. 27.—Preparations are being made in Helsingfors for the evacuation of that city, according to a telegram received here. A report from Stockholm to the Novoe Vremya says that in view of the easy advance in Russian territory, the Germans are preparing for a descent on Finland and, profiting by their propaganda, expect to be able, with small forces, to capture the Russian troops, without resistance and to cut the railway at Tornea, severing communication between Russia and Sweden.

ESTIMATE FOR NEW VOTE OF CREDIT

(By Associated Press.) London, Oct. 27.—The supplementary estimate for a vote of credit for 400,000,000 pounds sterling, which is to be moved in the House of Commons Tuesday by Andrew Bonar-Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was issued today. This will bring the total loans for the year to 1,900,000,000 pounds sterling, and the total since the commencement of war to 5,692,000,000 pounds sterling.

FINAL DAY OF LIBERTY LOAN DRIVE

FRENCH VICTORY IS GREATER THEN FIRST REPORTED

Troops Exceeded Hopes of the Most Sanguine by Passing Objectives

BUSY CONSOLIDATING NEWLY WON GROUND

Eleven Thousand Prisoners Already Counted and More Coming in; French Show Superiority

(By Associated Press.) With the French Armies in France, Oct. 25.—However great may be the praise bestowed on the French troops for the brilliance of their victory over the Germans north of the Aisne this week, it is too small an appreciation of their herculean efforts in the face of one of the most difficult tasks of the war. This is the opinion not only of their immediate chiefs but of all who have seen them at work. Fronting them were the finest divisions of the German Crown Prince's army, occupying positions that were strongly fortified and having the keenest appreciation of their value.

Notwithstanding this the French not only succeeded in attaining every objective but exceeded the hopes of the most sanguine and advanced beyond the appointed places. More than 11,000 prisoners already have been counted and sent to the rear. Others are coming in and large groups still are hiding in subterranean shelters and their fate can only be captured.

The French line now runs along the southern side of the Aisne-Oise canal without a break from Westward of the Auxillon to Pargny-Filain, while the town of Filain has been completely dominated. The correspondent today watched the French infantrymen who after four days of almost uninterupted fighting, were busily employed digging themselves in along the new front. Their extraordinary exertions had not extinguished their good humor and willingness. Notwithstanding privations and suffering from weather conditions, with increasingly cold rain storms drenching them at intervals, they worked with pick and shovel as energetically as they had done with rifle and grenade during the furious battle.

The German artillery, which showed activity last evening, was quiet today because the French batteries had mastered it. The French superiority in this arm is demonstrated by the proportion of shell wounds to bullet wounds among the French wounded. On this occasion only three men were wounded by shell splinters to one by the bullet as compared with the ratio of 19 to 1 in the battle around Verdun.

The French guns now are able to enfilade the German positions in three directions, namely toward Brancour, northwest of Anizy Le Chateau and along the valley to Laon, and through the Ailette valley, menacing the German lines on the Chemin des Dames ridge. The canal on the borders of which the French advance rested is dry, but forms a natural line of defense.

The bridges and locks had been destroyed during previous artillery fighting. The Germans last night made a strenuous effort to establish artillery in the ravines behind the plateau but were greatly discommoded by the French bombardment which left them no respite and quickly silenced their fire. The Crown Prince also hurried infantry reinforcements to help his distressed Prussian Guard and other divisions which had been badly mauled.

Prisoners taken from the Empress Elizabeth Guard regiment declared they had been without food for three days and that all their officers retired and left them without commanders to continue the fighting. Seven German divisions altogether were en-

The Supreme Effort to Push Subscription Over \$5,000,000,000 Mark

2,000,000 WORKERS ARE IN THE FIELD Every Energy Bent Toward Showing World American Patriotism—North Carolina Has Subscribed \$14,100,000, the Nation \$4,000,000,000

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Oct. 27.—The Liberty loan campaign went into its final hours today with every energy of 2,000,000 field workers straining to carry it past the 5,000,000,000 mark. "Revised official and unofficial reports today strongly indicate," the Treasury Department announced, "that approximately \$4,000,000,000 in bonds have been sold.

Additional sales of \$1,000,000,000 today, bringing the total to the highest mark hoped for, seemed not only possible but entirely probable. Official returns show that the 12 Federal Reserve banks had returns of \$2,750,105,000; resending subscriptions officially reported to them when they opened their books today. Inasmuch as this total indicates only sales upon which 2 per cent. deposits have been paid, the total is well under the amount of actual sales. A margin of at least \$1,000,000,000 should be given unofficial sales over the official total. The official totals follow:

Boston \$330,100,000; New York \$1,175,000,000; Philadelphia \$102,026,000; Cleveland \$228,000,000; Richmond \$114,470,000; Atlanta \$33,545,000; Chicago \$271,250,000; St. Louis \$93,844,000; Minneapolis \$100,250,000; Kansas City \$57,980,000; Dallas \$37,105,000; San Francisco \$108,353,000. Total \$2,750,105,000.

Returns from the Cleveland district show a remarkable advance, going from \$234,170,000 to \$326,000,000 overnight. Little doubt remains that the district will reach its maximum quota of \$500,000,000. The Kansas City district showed a decided improvement. Every indication is that the San Francisco district has approximated its minimum of \$210,000,000.

The first report from the Richmond district by States came today removing all doubt that it will reach its minimum. The report follows: Maryland \$31,000,000; Virginia \$33,700,000; West Virginia \$13,100,000; North Carolina \$14,100,000; South Carolina \$7,500,000 and Washington, D. C., \$17,500,000.

All other districts reported that their workers were driving at top speed, determined that the night would see the \$5,000,000,000 mark passed."

POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY FOODS

(By Associated Press.) Houston, Texas, Oct. 27.—Texas railroad and warehouse officials were warned today against possible attempts to destroy food supplies in storage or transit. E. A. Pedan, State food administrator, advised that precautions be taken against fires in warehouses and railroad officials were urged to re-double vigilance over the transportation of foodstuffs, especially cattle.

gaged in the opening day's battle, and when the German commanders saw utter defeat staring them in the face, they ordered up, helter-skelter, other divisions from long distance. One of these was recently brought, from Gallia and reached the battlefield in battalion dribs, many of which immediately were caught by the French, and the others merely added to the disorganization among the retreating German troops.

The guards suffered very heavily but principally by being captured, for the French noticed that they surrendered more readily than the other units. Elements of five fresh German divisions were observed at various positions on the French front today and the evident intention was noticeable on the part of the Germans to offer strong resistance to a further advance. For the moment, however, the French have gained everything they set out to gain and can afford to await future developments.