

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

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AMERICANS SECURE GERMAN PLAN OF ATTACK

With the American Army in France, Saturday, March 2.—A plan of attack, including a map of the American positions, indicating every dugout, which was removed from the body of the Prussian captain which led to the recent assault upon the sector northwest of Toul, shows how completely the Germans prepare their raids—if, in fact, this was but a simple raid not having as its ultimate object the retention of a portion of the salient.

The map goes into such detail as to show every machine placement, every trench and every depression in the ground within the American lines. At the bottom there is simply a line drawn, labelled "our front line." Along this line are five shaded portions, each marked "nest."

Four rehearsals were held for the attack and the troops who made it were specially picked from new arrivals of fresh troops in the sector. They were told that the Americans were in front of them.

After the artillery had nearly leveled the American position, the Germans started out from their nests, each of which contained 40 infantrymen, one lieutenant and three pioneers to precede the infantry and five to follow it. The two groups upon the American extreme right went around this flank and the group upon the extreme left carried out a similar movement there.

The two groups in the center had planned to attack directly, but the American defense changed all the plans. When they were met by the heavy machine gun fire from the American lines they saw it would be impossible to gain a footing there, changed their direction, and followed the other groups around the flank. The duty of the pioneers preceding the infantry was to clean up any wire that had not been broken by the artillery, while the pioneers who followed carried large quantities of explosives for the purpose of cleaning up the dugouts.

Official reports of the interrogation of the prisoners taken by the Americans show that all of them did not believe Germany would win the war. One of the men told the intelligence officers he presumed that the Americans, like the Germans, did not want to fight but had to. The officers quickly changed the German's viewpoint by informing him that all of the troops in the attacked positions were volunteers.

One prisoner, whose home is in German Lorraine, said he thought the fatherland would lose the war, but he hoped not. He knew nothing about the Americans except that they were in the war, the German newspapers not printing much upon the subject, he said, and being slow in reaching the front lines because of mail congestion.

This prisoner said he was convinced that the recent strikes in Germany were caused by a desire for peace, adding that all Germans wanted the war to end. He was certain that an offensive was coming, but did not believe it would be launched before April 1.

None of the prisoners had seen any German tanks, they said. All of them added they were glad to have been taken prisoner, especially by the Americans, because they believed they would be well treated.

The prisoners' accounts showed that the sector opposite the American position was commanded by General Stalzwann.

The correspondent talked with a dozen of the American wounded in their hospital cots. Every one of them was anxious to tell of some deed of heroism or other performed by his fellows, but displayed great modesty regarding his own exploits. One youth, whose home is near Savannah, Ga., and who looked to be not more than 18 years old, told this

story:

"I was in the front line when it seemed like every shell in the world started coming our way. Where the Germans got them is more than I know. I never believed that many existed. One burst near where I was.

"A piece hit a fellow on the other side of me who came from Texas. The corporal picked him up in his arms and started with him for a first aid station in the midst of a perfect shower of dirt and mud which was being kicked up. I don't know whether he ever got there or not.

"By that time I got into a machine gun emplacement with another corporal, whose home is in Missouri, leaving my rifle outside. Things got so hot we decided to try to get to a steel shelter at the end of a trench.

"The corporal went first, but a few feet away a shell exploded almost on him and killed him. I stepped out and saw that my rifle had been blown to pieces. This left me defenseless, so I started in another direction hoping to find a rifle or a pistol, because I knew the Germans would be around soon. About the same time a piece of shell hit me on the left side, and down I went. A sergeant yelled an order for me to go to a first aid station.

"I was just approaching the station in the rear of two stretcher-bearing teams who were proceeding, bent over to escape, if possible, the flying pieces of shell, when a shell plumped down on top of the station, exploded, and wiped it out. A piece of rock hit me in the head. When I woke up some stretcher-bearers had me, hauling me over the shell holes.

"I've sure got to hand it to those men with the Red Cross on their arms. They all worked like dogs in that hell out there. They seemed to have but one idea—to do their duty—and apparently cared nothing for their own lives while doing it. They were game right to the core."

In this connection it may be said that there are a certain number of men who wear the Red Cross whose names are on the casualty list.

An artilleryman from New Jersey described what happened in the gun pits.

"I was asleep in the dugout when the fun began," he said. "We ran out to the gun. The shells were raining down all around. One shell hit near the pit and loosened the logs overhead. After that every time we fired the concussion brought down one or two logs. Mud, stone and pieces of shell came in at the front. Five spokes were knocked from one wheel of the carriage and the gun muzzle was nicked. Two or three men were slightly hit and laid away at the end of the pit while the rest of us kept on firing.

"Suddenly, a piece of steel came through the gun shield which I was behind and hit me in the shoulder. About that time we were all carried to the dressing station, and here I am. I don't mind this wound, but I hope to the Lord it gets well soon so that I can get back with my outfit."

All the infantrymen asked questions regarding the fate of their comrades. Keen distress was displayed by all the men of the company commanded by the captain who was killed. One of them said:

"He was a fine officer, and believe me, he took care of his men. Any one of the company would have gone through hell at his order. We will pay Fritz for that if we haven't already done so."

A Kansas man who was in the fight said that the last he saw of the captain he was kneeling alongside a spitting machine gun and blazing away at the Germans with his own automatic pistol. "I saw him fall flat," added the private.

The captain was killed by a gunshot wound in the chest. All the American dead now have been buried in a little graveyard a few hundred yards from the spot where they fell. The German bodies also have been collected and buried nearby.

FRENCH TROOPS ADVANCING BEHIND HEAVY CURTAIN FIRE



This remarkable photograph shows French troops coming head on in the advance behind a heavy fire curtain, which makes them indistinguishable to the enemy. This raid was made directly across No Man's Land on the enemy trenches, and the photographer evidently risked his life, as he must have been at an advanced listening post.

361 AEROPLANES WERE BROUGHT DOWN BY THE ENGLISH IN FEBRUARY

London, March 2.—Three hundred and sixty-one aeroplanes are officially reported downed on all battlefronts in February. Two hundred and thirteen of these were on the western front, five in Italy, four in Palestine, three in Macedonia, one in Mesopotamia. Two hundred and seventy-three were German and Austrian and 88 allied. The total for December on the western and Italian fronts alone were 399.

There were several entirely blank days during the past month and others when flying was possible for one brief period.

The British and Italian airmen in Italy continued in February a successful offensive against the Germans and Austrians. Forty-five enemy machines were destroyed, 23 by the Italians and 22 by the British. French airmen crashed two, Italian gunners three. The British drove one out of control, a total of 51.

BRILLIANT WORK DONE IN RUGGED PALESTINE

British Army Headquarters in Palestine, Feb. 28.—The army's dashing work last week in the mountains east of Jerusalem enabled more rapid progress to be made than the Turks thought possible. The fighting was in a country where machine guns could hold up whole columns. Guns were placed in positions where it was most difficult to rout them, but the London troops never hesitated. Miles of infantry were sliding downhill over smooth and slippery stone, thru slithering muddy valleys and climbing mountains. It was a wonderful feature to get a gun through such country.

What is probably a new artillery record was established in these Jericho operations. Guns began firing at an altitude of 2,020 feet above the sea. When they finished they were in action in the Jordan valley, 1,100 feet below sea level. Houses near Jericho road which screened the machine guns bore many marks from shells and heavy guns.

Indications of the enemy's precipitate retreat were found at Fajm el Babr, near the northwest corner of the Dead sea, which the enemy made a base for loading grain from the area to the east. The Turks blew up a repair shop and burnt stores, but left substantial buildings intact.

Mounted troops had an arduous time for the country was particularly difficult for cavalry. Mounted troops started near Bethlehem and for miles had to lead their horses. In some places they had to move in single file. They were held up before Naby Musa, the traditional burying place of Moses, but some Anzac's who reached flatter ground near the Dead sea, threatened Naby Musa with a flank attack. When finally dismounted, the attack on Naba Musa was made just before dawn, the Turks fled. The Anzacs entered Jericho and went forward to the brink of the river Jordan.

THIS STATE IS BEHIND IN WAR STAMP SALES

Winston-Salem, March 2.—While America is running ahead of England in her weekly sales of war savings stamps, North Carolina is still near the bottom of the list of states, according to information that comes from Washington to state headquarters here. North Carolina's standing is based on the amount of her December and January sales that were reported to state headquarters, but it is expected that when reports in full are received for February, that her standing will be considerably higher than what it is now reported.

In order to know exactly how North Carolina stands, Colonel Fries requests that all county chairmen, and all sales agencies, through their county chairmen, make a full report of the sales in their counties up to February 28. This report will include the December and January sales as well as February's. He says that it is most necessary that the county chairmen make these reports as requested that not only the state but the nation may keep accurate statistics and know how well war savings stamps are meeting the needs of the country at this time.

America's total amount of war savings to the present is reported to be about \$75,000,000, while her daily income is close to \$2,000,000. England's total for 3 months was \$11,293,000. England's campaign for war savings has been on for two years. She sells on an average of \$9,000,000 a week while America's sales have already averaged more than \$10,000,000 a week. The biggest monthly sale in England was \$7,000,000; the biggest monthly sale for America was \$40,000,000. England was seven months reaching her first \$100,000,000.

That \$2,000,000 a day flowing into the treasury from the small savings of the people, does not mean, says a dispatch from the treasury department at Washington, that the government has all that it needs to finance the war. The nation needs each day, says the dispatch, the labor products of millions of its citizens engaged in agriculture, mining, manufacturing and transportation. Money alone will not command these necessities of war.

People must reduce their expenditures for personal comforts and luxuries, says the dispatch, and put their surplus earnings into government loans. This will mean that the government will have \$2,000,000 to spend every day to win the war rather than the people spend that amount for mere personal pleasure and satisfaction.

RED CROSS INSTALLS "FRONT LINE SERVICE"

Washington, March 3.—Installation of a special "front line service," with all American troops engaged in actually fighting the Germans has been undertaken by the Red Cross in France. This

plan, a development of the front line canteens through which the American Red Cross during the past six months has been serving hot drinks to more than a million French soldiers, was announced in a cablegram received today by the war council.

"Today the Red Cross has 15 rolling canteens behind the lines," the message said. "From these canteens are sent forward daily, often in the small hours of the night, 50 or more large receptacles containing hot drinks. These are served free to the men going on or just coming off duty. The work has proved itself to be of such value to the French that the American army has asked the Red Cross to have this service directly in touch with the medical relief stations nearest the front. The work is often done under heavy shell fire and requires men of great bravery and sympathy."

BREAK WITH GERMANY MAY FOLLOW ARGENTINE VOTING

Buenos Aires, March 1.—An active electioneering campaign for the renewal of the terms of half the total number of deputies is in progress. The polling will take place Sunday and the country is almost certain to support President Irigoyen, giving the radicals an effective majority. Such a result may have an important effect upon the international policy of Argentina, and may possibly lead to a rupture in relations with Germany, bringing in Chile.

Feeling here generally remains definitely pro-ally, but it is said the president must have a working majority before he can put into practice his plans.

STEVEDORE IS KILLED AND TWO BADLY HURT

Newport News, Va., March 2.—One negro stevedore was killed and two wounded, one probably fatally, when guards of the 48th infantry early tonight fired on a party of 200 to 400 stevedores who were attempting to wreck a small store near their camp. The names of the dead man and the wounded had not been ascertained tonight.

Colonel Van Voorhis, chief of staff here, said at 10 o'clock that everything was quiet and that he anticipated no more trouble. The colonel says the trouble resulted from an argument between Private Turner, of the 323rd labor company, and a white clerk in a soft drink place known as Saunders store, late this afternoon.

Turner gathered about 300 negro stevedores around him and returned to the place tonight. Armed with bricks and bottles the negroes attempted to wreck the store. The sergeant of the guard stationed about 400 yards away ordered the guard to arrest the stevedores. The stevedores took to their heels. The guard bore down on them and the guard fired about 15 shots after two commands to halt had gone unnoticed.

SOME AMERICANS KILLED; SOME ARE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED

With the American Army in France, March 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Another German raid on the American line was made at 9:30 o'clock last night in the Chemin-des-Dames sector. After sharp fighting the enemy retired, leaving four prisoners, two of whom were wounded.

The Americans lost some killed and a number slightly wounded or missing. All are New Englanders.

Three companies of shock troops, one of which had been brought from Laon by motor cars for the attack, came up behind a heavy barrage which had been put down along the left flank of the American forces. After sharp fighting the enemy retired.

The American and French artillery effectively counter-rolled the enemy during the attack, which was localized and during his retirement.

It is not permitted to disclose the number of American casualties. One of the prisoners captured said that this was the beginning of a series of similar raids on a large scale along the western front.

RUMANIA REJECTS SORT OF PEACE HUNS TENDER

Amsterdam, March 2.—According to the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin, the peace negotiations at Bucharest, Rumania, have failed. It is understood King Ferdinand's reply to the central powers was unsatisfactory.

Other German newspapers say the negotiations were interrupted because Dr. von Kuchimann and Count Czernin, respectively German and Austro-Hungarian foreign ministers, had been summoned to Brest-Litovsk. A semi-official statement issued in Berlin, however, denied that they had left the Rumanian capital.

POSTMASTERS MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT EXPLOSIVES

Washington, March 2.—Postmasters hereafter will be held to strict accountability for allowing packages containing explosives, inflammable articles, alcohol, etc. to be forwarded from their offices for shipment to the American expeditionary forces in France.

In making this announcement tonight, the postoffice department called attention to the fact that under the law postmasters may be held jointly responsible with the senders of the unmailable matter should fire or explosion result from the presence of such matter in the mails, whether the fire or explosion occurs in this country or abroad.

Penalty for violation of the law against placing articles in mail which are known to be unmailable is a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years or both.

Son of Rich Illinoisan Joins British Aviators



Richard C. Ives, son of E. L. Ives, a wealthy structural steel fabricator of Bloomington, Ill., was accepted the other day as a member of the British Flying Corps by the British Canadian recruiting station in Chicago. Nineteen ribbons and two cups won in athletics testified to his physical qualifications. When Cadet Ives returns from his training in Canada, he is reported, he will wed Miss Sara Arango of Chicago.

AMERICANS CAN FIGHT WEARING GAS MASKS

With the American Army in France, March 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—The three recent raids, one in the Toul sector and two along the Chemin des Dames, have demonstrated that the American soldier, notwithstanding his previous inexperience, now is perfectly at home in a gas mask and able to fight just as well with as without it. In so quickly reaching this stage the Americans have shown their usual adaptability. Gas was used in all three attacks in just sufficient quantities to make masks necessary, as the Germans in their later attacks did not desire to encounter quantities of their own gas.

When the engagement at Toul began, virtually all the Americans were masked. Some few of the men, however, are reported to have taken a chance when the German infantry attacked, pulling off their masks for freer action. One officer risked his life to give commands to his men during the roar of explosions. He was unable through his mask to make his men hear, so he pulled it off and yelled his orders. As it happened, there was no gas in this particular section, but he did not know it.

The officer was willing to sacrifice his own life to get his men to a place of safety where they could also strike effectively at the enemy.

There were many other instances of personal bravery. A lieutenant, a sergeant and two privates were in a dugout when some Germans looked in. One cried in good English:

"Come out, Americans." The four Americans blazed away with their automatics, then rushed to the entrance to stumble over the bodies of the men, whom they had apparently killed by their quick resistance.

During the bombardment, which hardly could have been more terrific, two men who were concealed in a shell hole were buried by dirt thrown by another exploding projectile. They shouted for help and it came quickly. Their comrades left the shelters, from which they were ready to leap into action the moment the attacking infantry appeared, and exhorted the buried soldiers while stones, mud, earth, pieces of trees and shell splinters spattered about them.

Notwithstanding the fierceness of the fight at close quarters, not more than one bayonet was used, and this one on a German. The Americans, using their automatic pistols, sent bullets into the German attackers with good aim in spite of the excitement. Rifle bullets accounted for many more.

Although the army has been cursing the weather and the mud for days, there is one man in the line today who is glad it was muddy, for he owes his life to the slippery "duck boards," or the flooring in the trenches. With pistol in hand he readied a trench corner looking for Germans. A burly Prussian saw him first and fired, but at the same moment the American slipped and fell on his face. The Prussian thought him dead and turned away. He was quickly dropped in his tracks by the prone American, who fired accurately from the trench bottom. There were men in the fight from virtually all states from New York to Texas. With one or two exceptions all the wounded are expected to recover.

Some of the American dead were buried in a cemetery back of the lines during the night while friendly and hostile shells roared overhead.

A thick wet snow which now is falling is melting as soon as it touches the mud.

The bodies of the Americans slain in the fighting north of Chemin-des-Dames have been buried near where they fell, their French and American comrades participating in impressive ceremonies.