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GERMANS FLEE IN DISORDER BEFORE THE U.S. INFANTRY

With the British Army in France, July 5.—(By the Associated Press.)—All the traditions of the United States army for valor were brilliantly sustained yesterday in the successful attack made against the Germans south of the river Somme when for the first time American infantrymen took their stand beside their British cousins and fought shoulder to shoulder.

It was a baptism of fire for the Yankee soldiers on this front, staged on Independence Day, and they came through with flying colors—fitting comrades for the famous Australian warriors whom they were assisting.

"The Americans fought like fiends," declared one British staff officer. "They did all of that. They were magnificent and folks at home may be proud of the part their boys took in this unique Fourth of July celebration in the shell torn valley of the winding Somme. They were fighting over ground which had already been stained with the blood of thousands of brave soldiers, but no better troops ever charged across the rolling fields than the pioneers from the American army."

Along with this, it is possible to make the cheerful statement that their casualties were very small, according to the latest reports. Virtually the entire body of Americans came through unscathed. This was probably due to the weak resistance which the Germans offered to the Anglo-American onslaught.

One does not need to detract from the work of the gallant Australians by telling of the powers of the Americans. The soldiers from the Antipodes far outnumbered those from the United States and did a corresponding amount of the sanguinary labor. It goes without saying that the big framed men from Australia, who fear neither man nor devil, fought with the customary fierceness which has made them a terror to the enemy. Yesterday's operations were specifically planned as a Fourth of July celebration which should bring the Americans into the British battle line for the first time.

The American troops who were to take part in this memorable event were brigaded with the Australian allies, who took the deepest interest in the forthcoming wedding of the link of brotherhood. The plans were carefully rehearsed until every American knew his role as well as

the hardy veterans from his majesty's army. Few people along the front knew of the forthcoming event but the British staff officers were watching every move with the keenest attention. Those officers today were outspokenly delighted with what they had seen. The Americans went over the top with the Australians, behind big tanks, as they had been doing the same thing all their lives. Then came the clash with the enemy infantry among the shell hole defenses and trenches under the grey light of the early dawn.

There was no hesitation. For a week past the British experts had been dining into the ears of the Americans the words "kill!" "kill!" "kill!" It is the cardinal slogan of the fighting man and while it is not pleasant to dwell upon, yet that is what war is.

The Americans had learned their lesson well. The British officers spoke of this after the affair was over. No drill master ever got better returns for his talks than the one who taught these Americans this hardest lesson of all. A great number of Germans paid the supreme price yesterday and the men from the United States exacted a very heavy toll.

The Americans were naturally happy last night over the success of the operation in which they had played a creditable part, and the Australians were no less pleased with their new found pals.

Washington, July 6.—The Germans fled in disorder from the Bois de la Roche to the Bois des Rochets before the charging American infantry during the operations in the vicinity of Vaux last Monday and Tuesday, General Pershing reported in his communique for yesterday, received today at the war department. The hand to hand fighting, the general said, was of short duration.

Artillery fire in support of the American infantry was so effective, the statement said, that communication between German battalion and regimental headquarters could be maintained only by a single messenger dog.

This description of the fighting around Vaux was given in the course of a narrative of events in Vaux sector, along the Marne, in Picardy, in Lorraine, and in the Colmar sector during the early part of this week. Artillery, machine gun and aerial activity was noted in nearly all of the sectors with an unusual movement behind the enemy lines along the Marne. There was also heavy artillery fighting there and near Vaux, and in the Marne sector enemy ammunition dumps were destroyed by American artillery.

The statement on operations yesterday told of the capture of Germans by American patrols in the Chateau Thierry region and the repulse of a hostile raiding party and two enemy patrols in the Vosges.

COUNTER ATTACKS BY THE GERMANS ARE VERY WEAK

British headquarters, July 5.—Perry Robinson describing the action wherein United States army troops distinguished themselves says:

"The operation in which Australians were chief actors was completely successful as an operation could be. At 11 last night the enemy made what seemed three feeble counter attacks in the attempt to recover ground, but in no case did our positions yield. They did attempt to establish themselves in advanced positions which the Australians considered too near our line, so after beating back the counter attacks they went out and cleaned out these advanced positions, and added 60 more prisoners. The number of prisoners will be

ITALIAN TROOPS WHO ARE FIGHTING ON THE PIAVE



These Italian troops have driven back the Austrians on the Piave and are busy constructing a pontoon bridge to cross that river. The fighting on that front has been intense.

1,500, including 40 officers, chiefly Brandenburgers and Westphalians, a stout looking lot, over a hundred machine guns, a score of trench mortars and one anti-tank field gun.

"Our casualties were singularly light. The attack seems to have been such a complete surprise that the enemy was fairly demoralized; throughout. From the middle of the day until late afternoon he hardly ever shelled our new positions. Later he commenced shelling heavily, but that, with feeble counter attacks has been the total of his retaliation."

"Tanks did their part admirably. No single tank failed to get across the German lines. At least five reached their final objectives, completely terrorizing the enemy infantry. Of those five, which for one reason or another had trouble, all but one had road repairs made and have been brought back. Casualties of the tank crew were few, none fatal.

The only life lost in any tank was that of an Australian soldier. When a tank stopped the crew got out to take air and this man climbed into the machine out of curiosity, just before it was hit by a chance shell. He was killed. Great service was done in bringing back the wounded, the tanks making a regular ambulance service from the front line.

"Aircraft co-operated largely in the attack, especially by going forward simultaneously with the beginning of the bombardment and dropping large numbers of bombs on Hamel village and other points, also by low flying, harassing the enemy infantry and co-operating with our machine gunners. The whole operation was admirably planned and furnished an excellent example of a combination of the various arms."

"An extraordinary general order by the officer commanding the third German division, dated May 18, has come into our hands which shows a curious state of discipline in the German army and seems to indicate great discontent at insufficient rations. The order reads:

"Recently supply trains of both normal and narrow gauge railways have again been attacked by armed soldiers and pillaged. Threatened by arms, those in charge of the trains being unarmed, and in small numbers, have been unable to offer resistance to these excesses. This conduct on the part of German soldiers constitutes defiance of discipline and must be repressed with the utmost rigor. Consequently by order of the army headquarters those in charge of supply trains will hereafter carry arms, if necessary light machine guns will be provided, with ammunition. These men will be in the position of police guards, with all rights and duties of the latter and will not hesitate to use arms in case of attempt to pillage. Pillagers will be arrested and returned to their units, where they will be brought before a court-martial; if those in charge of trains fail in their duties, they will also be handed over to military tribunals."

Reference to machine guns shows these robberies must be made by parties of men in considerable strength. They suggest more than petty thefts by occasional lawless individuals.

HAVOC WROUGHT BY TANKS SUGGESTS METHOD

With the British Army in France, July 7.—(By the Associated Press.)—No further attempt by the Germans to retake ground wrested from them Thursday by the combined Australian attack has been reported today. Not satisfied with the positions acquired from the enemy in the initial attack, the Australians Friday night again drove forward just south of Vaire wood and jammed the Germans back some 40 yards more along a front of 2,000 yards.

The operation was entirely successful and has made the new line much stronger.

Details now are available concerning the work of the large fleet of tanks which participated in Thursday's battle. The tanks gave invaluable assistance to the attacking infantry. Officers say that this was one of the most economical assaults ever undertaken on the British front owing to the fact that the tanks saved casualties among the infantry by mopping up machine gun posts and strong points in advance. In numerous instances whole machine gun crews with their rapid fire were literally ground into the earth by the tanks, which swept over the enemy posts like steam rollers.

One group of tanks alone destroyed or captured more than 30 machine guns and brought about the surrender of at least 200 Germans. In addition, many Germans were slain by these great engines.

Other tanks were doing similar work. Taken as a whole, the German infantry surrendered or bolted on the approach of these monsters, the appearance of which in itself is terrifying. The German machine gunners, however, fought to the last in many instances.

Numerous times the Australian and American infantrymen communicated with the tank crews and gave them the direction from which hostile machine gunfire was coming. In every case the tank was able to deal with the rapid fire, and thus allow the infantry to advance. One tank, which was 200 yards in front of the allied infantry, destroyed a nest of six machine guns by running over it after the gun crews refused to surrender.

Another tank crushed three rapid fire, but a fourth machine gun continued firing at a distance of five or six yards. This gun, in turn, was run over and destroyed, together with its crew.

At one point a tank moved against a mound which seemed a likely place for a machine gun. No sign of the enemy was to be seen at first, but after the tank had circled the mound once, about 40 Germans came out of a camouflaged trench and ran toward the allied infantry to surrender.

150 DIE ON EXCURSION BOAT

Peoria, Ill., July 6.—Approximately one hundred and fifty people were drowned or trampled to death at midnight last night when the excursion steamer Columbia, carrying more than 500 persons, struck an obstruction in the Illinois river and sank.

The excursion party started from Pekin, fifteen miles distant from here, early in the evening, spent several hours at an amusement park near this city, and when the return to Pekin was about half completed the steamer ran into the obstruction on the Peoria shore during a fog, smashing a big hole in her bow. The pilot signaled full speed astern and as soon as the vessel pulled clear of the log or rock she began to settle and within a few minutes sank, carrying many persons down.

Soon after the steamer struck a panic occurred among the passengers and many men, women and children jumped into the water without securing life preservers. Those who could swim reached shore, which was only a few feet away. The second deck of the boat where the dance hall is located was crowded when the crash came, and it was here that many were crushed to death.

Ray Jones, fireman on the steamer, estimated that between 150 and 200 persons were on the dance floor when the boat struck and he believed many of these perished. When the boat settled on the bottom the water reached the state rooms immediately below the pilot house on the listed side. The pilot when he found his boat was sinking sent distress signals and within a short time boats from various directions came to the rescue and began to pick up those struggling in the water, but on account of the darkness their efforts were badly hampered.

The police of Pekin early today estimated the number of dead at 150, but Captain H. F. Mehl of the steamer said he believed the number of dead was not more than one hundred.

Search for the bodies was abandoned at 4 o'clock this morning until daylight came. Approximately twenty had been recovered, only a portion of whom had been identified.

This morning only the hurricane deck of the steamer is visible above the water.

With the break of day divers went down into the sunken steamer to bring up bodies of the 100 or more victims believed to be between the crushed decks of the boat.

Almost at the same hour hearses began arriving from the scene of the disaster bringing the first of the bodies of the victims. Soldiers detailed from Camps Bradley and Herring were in Pekin early to preserve order.

Coroner E. L. Cleary, of Tazewell county, early this morning swore in a jury and left with the members for the scene.

TERRIFIC GERMAN DRIVE MAY BE MADE ANY TIME

Washington, July 6.—Germany is preparing for a renewal of the offensive on the west front, which may come at any moment and with terrific force. This is the conclusion reached by General March, chief of staff, as indicated today in his weekly conference with newspaper correspondents.

No other construction is to be put upon the present lull, he said, and at the same time he sounded this new American slogan:

"We have embarked a million men, and we are now going after the second million."

To members of the Senate Military committee during their weekly conference with War Department officials, it was revealed that more than a quarter of a million troops were at various points on the battle lines July 1. The number of American men facing the enemy is increasing every day, the latest units reported in action being those brigaded with the American forces in the dashing attack on Hamel July 4. No official account of the share of the Americans in that venture has yet been received.

General March pointed out that General Foch was carrying out a campaign of "nibbling" at the enemy front, the capture of Vaux by troops of the American Second Division, composed of Regular regiments, having been a striking example of the raids in force. Other officers have seen in these operations evidence of the greater flexibility of the allied armies, due to increased manpower. The fact that 251,000 Americans were engaged on July 1 indicates the extent to which American aid is responsible for having eased the situation in that respect.

Complete confidence in the ability of the Allied and American forces to hold against any blow the Germans can deliver characterizes military opinion here.

Some officers are inclined to believe that the Italian situation is still tending to hold up German operations in the west. General March made it clear that the Italians had not only succeeded in regaining all but one small salient of the ground originally overrun by the Austrian attack, but have considerably improved their old positions at several points. They hold the south bank of the Piave more firmly than at any previous time since that line was taken up after the Italian retirement last fall.

There has been nothing to in-

FORMER MAYOR OF NEW YORK IS AVIATION VICTIM

Lake Charles, La., July 6.—Major John Purroy Mitchel, former Mayor of New York City, an officer in the aviation section of the signal corps, was instantly killed at Gerstner field this morning while flying in a scout machine.

The accident occurred on the flying field, according to reports received here. Gerstner field is fifteen miles from Lake Charles.

WAS DARING-FLIAR.

New York, July 6.—John Purroy Mitchel, killed in an aviation accident today, became a flyer for the army after having been defeated last fall for re-election as mayor of New York City. He had served one term as the chief executive of the country's biggest city, the youngest mayor ever elected to that office. On July 19 next, he would have been thirty-nine years old.

Major Mitchel went into army training, having taken the course at Plattsburg while he was mayor. Upon joining the aviation corps he was transferred to San Diego, Cal., where after successfully covering the cadet training he became a full-fledged flyer. He was frequently mentioned as having shown unusual daring.

dicating the nature of steps Germany may have taken to offset Austrian reverses. There are some officers who anticipate the appearance of considerable German reserves in the Austrian lines, which would influence the situation in the west.

Aside from other considerations, officers are greatly impressed by the fact that Germany is being compelled by some causes not definitely known to allow weeks of summer weather to pass without driving forward. The time that will remain to her during the present year to complete the task she set herself when the offensive was launched is growing short. As it now appears, if another drive should make gains proportionate to the previous efforts, there would hardly remain sufficient time for reorganization and recuperation by the enemy for still another blow later, as the rainy seasons would be close at hand.

With the Germans preparing for a renewal of their efforts to capture the channel ports and Paris, this country continues rushing troops to France. Further indications of the pressure under which the American program is being rushed came today from Provost Marshal General Crowder's office. Orders went to local boards to speed up physical examinations of the men of the 1918 class who have been put in Class One, and have them ready for calls in August.

The draft program thus far made public indicated that it was planned to call at least 300,000 men next month, and in many states most of these will come from the class which enrolled last June 5, as in some cases recent calls exhausted the available in the first class.

Austrians Always Hungry According to Prisoners

London, July 7.—From many Austro-Hungarian prisoners captured by the Italians in the course of the recent operations, interesting information has been gleaned of conditions on the battle front as well as in the dual monarchy itself. Officers, non-commissioned officers and men agree that things along the front line are going very badly, and that, although the officers and men are not actually starving, they are "always hungry." Horses dying from exhaustion or wounds are at once cut up and eaten by the troops.

Former Secretary of U. S. Embassy Is Jailed



Charles Emil Strangeland, former secretary of the American embassy in London, is held a prisoner in New York in default of \$10,000 bail. He was brought from Philadelphia after being examined by agents of the department of justice, who charged him with violations of the espionage act. He is charged with attempting to send letters written in unrecognizable code to his wife in Copenhagen.

Maj. Paul T. Dessez, Brave Army Surgeon



The splendid work of Maj. Paul T. Dessez of Washington, a regimental surgeon with the American army at the French front, has occasioned a special story about him from one of the special correspondents in the war zone. Wounded American and French soldiers covered the floor of a barn in which he was working, and during the height of his labors he was buried by shellfire. Digging himself out, he went right on operating.