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## BRITISH AVIATORS TURN THE TABLES ON THE GERMANS

London.—How a British flying squadron turned the tables on German airmen who had been bombing their aerodrome is related by Lieut. W. A. Barnes, of the Royal air force.

"We had been giving the Hun a lively time," the officer says, "bombing his dumps, billets, communications and towns nightly. When, therefore, he bombed our aerodrome two evenings in succession and completely upset all our arrangements, it was generally agreed that he had scored one over us. Much as his enterprise was admired, however, it was decided to try to check it.

The plan evolved was simple. The next day the British machines were flown over to a neighboring aerodrome, where it was believed they would be safe from raids. Then they started off just after dusk to make a reprisal attack.

"We arrived at the enemy's lair," Lieutenant Barnes narrates, "at a most opportune moment, for a second relay of his machines were just 'taxying' across the ground to 'take off' in the flare path. In our wildest dreams we had not hoped for such luck as this, and every possible advantage was taken of it.

"A few well directed bombs, dropped in among the machines that were awaiting their turn to take off, set fire to two and badly damaged others. Another machine was seen to crash whilst actually taking off in the flare path. Some equally well directed incendiary bombs set fire to a large shed, and then the real fun of the night began.

"By this time the first relay of enemy machines, sent as we afterwards learned to bomb our own aerodrome again, began to return. As they were on their own side of the line, and in blissful ignorance of the fate of their aerodrome, they were flying with navigation lights full on, thereby giving their position away in the darkness.

"Relieved of our bombs, we were able to give fight, and successfully shot down one in flames, while another was distinctly seen to crash on top of a wood.

"Having thus paid our debts in full we left the remainder to land on a bomb riddled aerodrome—no enviable task at night—while we went off home to celebrate a good night's work, with the comforting assurance that the R. A. F. were at least 'one up' on their adversaries' game."

Succeeds to Gardner's Seat in Congress



Wilfred W. Luffin, 64 1/2 years secretary to the late Representative Augustus P. Gardner, the first member of congress to join the senate, succeeded Major Gardner in congress. He is a Republican.

## BELIEVE GERMAN HEAVY GUNS ARE MOVED FAR BACK

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—The progress made by the Franco-American troops on the Aisne-Marne front is considered eminently satisfactory by the commanders, and the failure of the Germans to employ artillery extensively has tended to confirm the belief that their heavy guns have been moved far back, perhaps to a position which may mark a new line.

While steady pressure is being maintained on the arc forming the bottom of the sack, the allies are determinedly hammering the flanks where Von Boehm and Von Bhen have concentrated the armies, returning blow for blow in the hope that they can hold out until the main body of the Germans can be withdrawn with a minimum loss.

Aerial operations were again of less importance today on account of the weather. It was cloudy all day and there were numerous showers, making it impracticable to keep up the observation balloons which usually mark both lines. Occasionally both the allies and the enemy attempted to use planes but these in most cases were forced to descend on account of the rain.

There is a growing belief that the enemy will make no effort to stand on the Arde river, Fere-en-Tardenois, and even Ville-en-Tardenois, directly east, are already under heavy fire from the flanks and the south line, making the roads as well as the temporary railroads virtually useless for transport purposes. These positions must be almost untenable.

The Germans are doing their utmost to hold the high ground southeast of Soissons for a continuation of their line either along the Arde or further north along the Vesle.

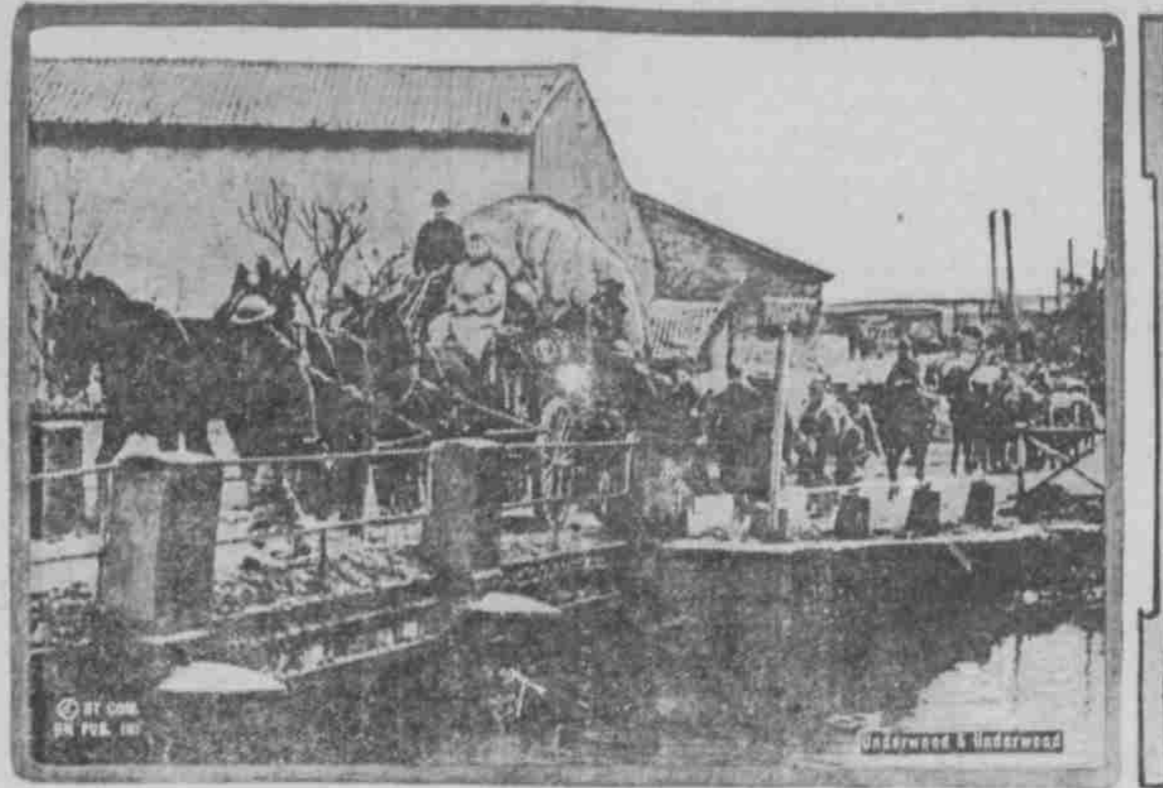
The flanks of the French, British and other armies are withstanding every effort of the Germans, who appear to be making a most determined effort south of Soissons. The line remains much the same as it has been for the past two or three days, the only changes being slight advances. The battle line now totals approximately fifty miles, although there is no actual fighting along every mile of it, and is a more broken one, made so by the character of the enemy's withdrawal, especially on the south side.

The effect has been the presentation of a highly dangerous, spongy front, into which any part of the advancing line might fall. Were it not for the hunting down of the enemy and cleaning out of points of obstruction, some parts of the line could be far in advance of where they are.

The Germans have left officers who know how to maneuver skillfully partially deserted units so that at times it appears almost ironical to refer to their defense as a rear guard action. It is just that, however, although by any standard except established in this war, the almost half daily and really minor encounters would be styled big battles.

Prisoners brought to one of the American division headquarters today were men of the landwehr who confirmed former statements of prisoners that the armies engaged in the retirement are leaving only enough men to resist efforts to hurry them. Like other prisoners, they professed weariness of the war and said this feeling was general, but supposed they must go on, since the men in high command so willed.

## SUPPLY WAGONS FOR THE AMERICAN TROOPS AT THE FRONT



Trains of supply wagons moving through a French village and over a low bridge on the way to the troops at the front.

## ALLIED LINES ADVANCE OVER A WIDE FRONT

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 28.—The German line is again north of the Ourcq river, and Fere-en-Tardenois, which has been entered by French troops, is at the mercy of the allies. The tightening of the flanks holds promise that the retreat will be continued. The line along the greater part of the bottom of the Soissons-Rheims salient has been pushed forward in some places as much as five miles.

The Germans are bringing in to play their artillery in force to check the plunges of the Franco-American troops. The Americans have played a brilliant part in the advance, which included the occupation of Sergy on the north bank of the river, and a number of small villages.

The line tonight follows the Ourcq river to Sergy and to Goussancourt, the latter place lying about six miles north of the Marne.

The Germans offered bitter resistance, but not to compare with that which began late today for the retention of the higher ground further north of the river. There they supplemented their defense with artillery fire reaching over the American front lines to the supports, the volume of fire at times attaining enormous proportions. Unwavering the Americans held their ground and even advanced slightly, while the French on their sectors to the right and left resisted as steadily against the vicious efforts of the densely congested area.

The retreat of the enemy has by no means become a rout, and so long as the picked troops around Soissons and Rheims are able to keep well open the mouth of the bag through which the Germans are falling back it is expected that the greater portion of the armies of the crown prince will be successful in reaching in order the line where it is intended for them to turn and make a stand.

Just where this stand will be made is problematical. More than half the pocket has been recaptured by the American, French, British and Italian troops opposing the enemy, and there have as yet been no signs of a let up in the petrograd movement. If, as some of the military critics have suggested, Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria purposes to start an offensive against the British in France and Flanders as a diversion against the big battle now in progress no signs of it are apparent at present. What little fighting has been going on in this region has been in the nature of patrol raids, in which the British have taken a number of prisoners and machine guns.

Evidently impressed by the threat of the British premier that if they remained on strike until Monday they would be liable to military service, a majority of the dissatisfied munitions workers in England will return to work immediately.

## The Kaiser's Talk to Hell

The kaiser called the devil up on the telephone one day: On the central listened to What they had to say. "Hello!" she heard the kaiser's voice, "Is old man Satan home? Just tell him this is Kaiser Bill. That wants him on the phone."

The devil said, "Hello, Bill," And Bill said, "How are you?" "I'm running here a hell on earth. So tell me what to do."

"What can I do?" the devil said, "My dear old Kaiser Bill; if there's a thing I can do To help you, I sure will."

The kaiser said, "Now listen. And I will try to tell The way that I am running On earth a modern hell. I've saved for this for many years. And I've started out to kill: That it will be a modern job— You leave to Kaiser Bill. My army went through Belgium— Shooting women and children down. We tore up all her country. And blew up every town.

My Kips dropped bombs on cities, Killing both old and young; And those the Zeppelins didn't get We took out and hung. I started out for Paris. With the aid of poisonous gas; The Belgians, damn 'em, stopped us. And would not let us pass. My submarines are devils— Why you should see them fight; They go sneaking through the seas And sink a ship at night. I was running things to suit me Till a year or so ago, When a man named Woodrow Wilson Wrote me to go more slow.

He said to me, "Dear Williams, We don't want to make you sore; So be sure to tell your U-boats, To sink our ships no more. I didn't listen to him, And he's coming after me With a million Yankee soldiers From their homes across the sea. Now that's why I called you, Satan. For I want advice from you; I knew that you could tell me The thing I ought to do."

"My dear Kaiser Williams, There's not much for me to tell, For the Yanks will make it hotter Than I can for you in hell. I have been a mean old devil. The not half as mean as you; And the minute I get you here I will give my job to you. I'll be ready for your coming. And I'll keep the fires all bright; And I'll have your room all ready When the Yanks begin to fight. The boys in khaki will get you; I have nothing more to tell; Hang up the 'phone and get your hat, And meet me here in hell."

Kaiser, Says Rosner, Saw The Battle From a Tower

Amsterdam, July 27.—Emperor William, who, according to his favorite correspondent, Karl Rosner, watched the battle of Rheims from a tower which gave him a good view of a wide sector of the front, sent his troops from this vantage point, Rosner reports, the following telegram: "His majesty informs his troops that he has arrived behind the front of the attack and shall watch the battle from a tower. His majesty's good wishes accompany his troops. His majesty's word to his troops is: 'With God for the emperor and the empire.'"

## Rain Makes Much of Front Almost Impassable

With the British Army in France, July 28.—Continued rain has turned the Flanders front at many places into an almost impassable mire, while all other parts of the front are wet and soggy. Such conditions are most unfavorable for launching an assault against the British lines even if the enemy, who is busy trying to save his troops north of the Marne from further defeats, should have some such plan in mind.

Large quantities of gas have been projected against various sections of the German lines which have also been shelled freely and, according to prisoners the enemy units are losing strength little by little.

So far as the German soldiers themselves are concerned they seem perfectly satisfied to push matters for their officers have been telling them extraordinary tales in order to make them fight instead of submitting to capture when they come into contact with the British. Prisoners taken during recent minor operations say that they had been warned before leaving their own lines that the New Zealanders were opposite and that on no account should they allow themselves to be taken alive as the New Zealanders were cannibals. They were told that they would be offered cigarettes, and eaten directly after. All the prisoners, much to the astonishment of their captors, firmly declined to accept cigarettes.

## Prime Minister Voices Gratitude to America

Havre, France, July 26.—In a declaration to the Associated Press in connection with the anniversary of the beginning of the war, Gerard Cooremab, Belgian prime minister, said:

"Long before the war the United States of America won admiration by amazing vitality and fertile energies of this people of the western hemisphere who had created as if by magic a world that was new.

"At the present moment we, with no less admiration, are witnesses of an unforeseen manifestation, by this same creative power in its marvelous organization of an army which has astonished the world equally by the rapidity of its improvisation and the valor of its contingents.

"By their intervention in this gigantic struggle the United States will assuredly exert decisive influence on the destinies of humanity.

"To its admiration for the great American nation, Belgium adds her special feeling of gratitude on account of the inestimable generosity which the splendid munificence of the United States never ceases to heap upon its peoples in occupied territory and upon its refugees exiled on foreign soil.

## FRENCH FORCE THE ENEMY TO GIVE GROUND

(By the Associated Press.)—The Franco-American troops, continuing their pressure on the Germans in retreat from the Marne, have reached and crossed the Ourcq river and penetrated the town of Fere-en-Tardenois, one of the great German supply bases for the enemy troops inside the Soissons-Rheims salient.

Meantime on the center of the allied right wing, southwest of Rheims, attacks by the French have forced the enemy to give further ground and enabled the French to capture several towns of strategic value and to draw their front appreciably nearer the high road which runs north-eastward from Dormans to Rheims.

On the extreme wings of the gradually decreasing pocket—near Soissons and Rheims—the enemy, heavily reinforced, is holding tenaciously to his ground realizing that successes there would result in a general crumbling of his plans of defense against the locking up of his entire armies inside the big bag. In addition to the large number of troops for reinforcement that have been thrown on these two sectors, the German long range guns from the region north of Soissons and north and north-east of Rheims are keeping both wings of the salient under a heavy enfilading fire.

Under the battering tactics of the Americans and Frenchmen the German line on the south has now been driven back more than twelve miles from the point south of Chateau-Thierry, where the allied troops locked the door to Paris against the enemy July 18 and themselves became the aggressors in what has turned out to be one of the greatest battles of the war.

The crossing of the Ourcq, even if only be advanced elements of the allied forces, presages a general crossing later on. The French official communications thus far during the battle have been remarkably conservative in their estimates of the gains that daily have been made and it is indicated in unofficial dispatches that allied troops are considerably in advance of the line as announced officially.

Where the Germans are in retreat from the south the cavalry has been brought into the fighting and numerous tanks and machine guns in profusion are everywhere hurrying the enemy whose losses are heavy.

Meantime, airplanes are flying over the retreating hordes dropping bombs, while the big allied guns from the sides of the salient

## May Be the Medium of Peace Negotiations



Plesiani A. Stovall, United States minister at Bern, Switzerland, who, it is reported, may be chosen to act as a medium for peace negotiations between this country and Austria.

## A Great Chain of Ship Manufactories is Now Nearing Completion

Washington, July 27.—America's great chain of ship manufactories is approaching completion.

There are now 118 fully equipped yards in the United States, and 44 others partly complete, of which 23 are more than 75 per cent finished and only six less than 25 per cent ready to begin building tonnage. Many have been built from the ground up, while the others have been extended and enlarged to such a degree that many of them amount almost to new yards.

Thirty-seven steel yards which the United States had when war began have grown to 72. The old yards have been increased from 162 ways to 195 and more are being added. Eighty yards for building wooden ships now are in operation or nearing completion. The remainder of the total number of yards are for building concrete ships, a new industry developed by the war need.

Hog Island, the greatest of all shipyards and one of the four government fabricating yards, is 90 per cent complete and will launch its first ship next month, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson acting as sponsor.

ent are keeping up their intensive firing from all angles into the Germans.

From behind the advancing lines the allied heavy guns kept up a continuous bombardment throughout the day, shelling the German positions, wherever the airmen reported troop concentrations.

Heavy artillery has been used by the Germans in their rear guard actions, but to no such extent as today, and this gives some basis for belief that Von Boehm, the German commander, is preparing to make a stand.

It is pointed out, however, that until the Arde river is reached all the advantages of ground are with the allies. So it is generally believed that the dropping of his heavy guns is merely an indication that his armies are being withdrawn with all speed from a position which is intolerable and which unless relieved might result in the disorganization of what so far has been an admirably conducted retreat.

The Americans began their advance on Sergy early in the morning. They had been driven back a short distance Saturday night but when they moved this morning under cover of the artillery—a few pieces going forward with the advanced line—they proceeded almost unbecked to the river, crossed the bridge and occupied the town about midforenoon.

The Germans used gas but the attacking party long ago had had its baptism of gas fumes and knew how to utilize the masks and to avoid the ravines through which the fumes filtered. When the town was occupied there was some street fighting but not much the Germans retreating to higher ground.

Until today the wounds received by the American soldiers have not been serious as a rule on account of the failure of the Germans to use artillery. A great majority of the wounds were clean flesh wounds, made by bullets from machine guns and rifles.

Considerable material has been captured, including a few locomotives which the Germans put out of commission. There were relatively few prisoners.

Many stories are told among the old lines of the deprivation in the German morale. Greatest significance is attached to a letter taken from an officer written by his brother in Germany, giving it as his opinion that a revolt was imminent unless the war was stopped.