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## GERMAN FORCES CRUSHED BY ALLIED OFFENSIVE

(By the Associated Press.)—The French have driven the Germans before them for an important gain east of Montdidier in Picardy. That city, which was the apex of a German salient that now has been wiped out, fell to the French First army at mid-day Saturday. Before night fall, according to the French war office statement, the victorious French forces had carried the battle line forward to an average depth of six miles on a front of approximately 20 miles.

In three days of engagements that culminated in the taking of Montdidier, the French took 8,000 prisoners. Their captures also included 200 guns and an enormous amount of material.

Crushed by the impact of the British, French and American offensive on the battle line from Albert, northeast of Amiens, to the Oise river, north of Compeigne, German forces are streaming back toward the Somme river and the Nesle Noyon canal. So far as can be determined, the enemy is in full retreat all along the front against which the allies flung themselves on Thursday morning. It is reported from Paris that French patrols are in Chaumes, the principal German center west of the Somme.

Montdidier, at the tip of the German salient in Picardy, has been taken by the allies, who cut off large numbers of the enemy when they sought to beat a retreat from the city. Thousands of prisoners were taken there by the allies, it is reported.

North of the Somme stubborn enemy resistance at Chipilly spur, a height which dominated the whole valley of the Somme in that region, has been broken, and the Germans north of the river have joined their comrades in retreating.

South of Montdidier, French have plunged through German lines on the hills west of the Matz river and are reported to be in the valley of the stream at Marquglise.

When the situation is studied on a map it can be seen that the Germans are in a serious position east of Montdidier. The allies have closed in on Chaumes and have had the railroad junction south of that town under artillery fire for two days. If Chaumes is lost to the Germans, they will be forced to make a long, perilous march eastward over the country roads toward Noyon. The rapid progress of the French below Montdidier has placed even this road under fire and made it almost impossible as an avenue of escape for the harassed enemy.

In the center, the Germans are reported to be in full retreat. Allied airmen have seen roads filled with German motor lorries and have been active in bombing these lines of transport. The bridges of the Somme river south of Peronne are under fire and the one at Peronne is reported to have been broken. This will throw new complications in the German high command's task of extricating its shattered armies from the field where they have been defeated.

It now appears that German lines in Picardy must have been stripped when Crown Prince Rupprecht sent troops to the rescue of the German crown prince's army south of the Aisne three weeks ago. Paris newspapers remark on the fact that the captives taken are, for the most part, rather old and it is said that they are members of reserve divisions.

Crown Prince Rupprecht, however, is known to have a large number of splendid troops which probably will be thrown into battle at once. So far, only two of

## FIND MEN IN ARMY FOR ANY WORK

With the American Army in England, July 23.—When a soldier leaves the United States he should not feel certain he is going to win glory on the battlefield in France. Whether officer or enlisted man he is subjected to further scrutiny in England and in France and until a little corps of keen eyed and careful officers have completed the examination no one can tell into just what part of the big army machine he is going to fit.

There are in England camps where every man who passes through is "trade indexed." This is especially true of one camp where a large part of the airmen and motor transport forces arrive shortly after debarkation. The records accompanying them show what the men have been doing in civil life and a further examination of them and a scrutiny of the demands often determine the part they are to take, sometimes only for temporary duty but in some cases for an indefinite period.

From this lot are selected the men who will go in the big repair shops at once. Men experienced in electrical work are sent to stations where their service is most needed. Orders for automobile experts are filled and not infrequently the men in command of the station are called upon to supply men for following, for a time at least, exactly the same kind of work they were doing in the United States before their numbers in the draft were called.

A big hospital is being erected at one camp. The money for the material was furnished by the Red Cross. The work is being done by the army. The construction of the buildings is not materially different from that of war hospitals being erected in the United States, and the same class of skilled labor is being used. Experts in the use of cement are working there. Plumbers are doing the same sort of work they were paid to do in the United States, carpenters are employed in doing as high grade labor as could be found anywhere, and the drawing of the plans and specifications was done by architects and engineers. All the men whose work is going into the buildings have been taken from the rank and file of those who have been taken from the rank and file of those who reached camp on their way from the ports of debarkation.

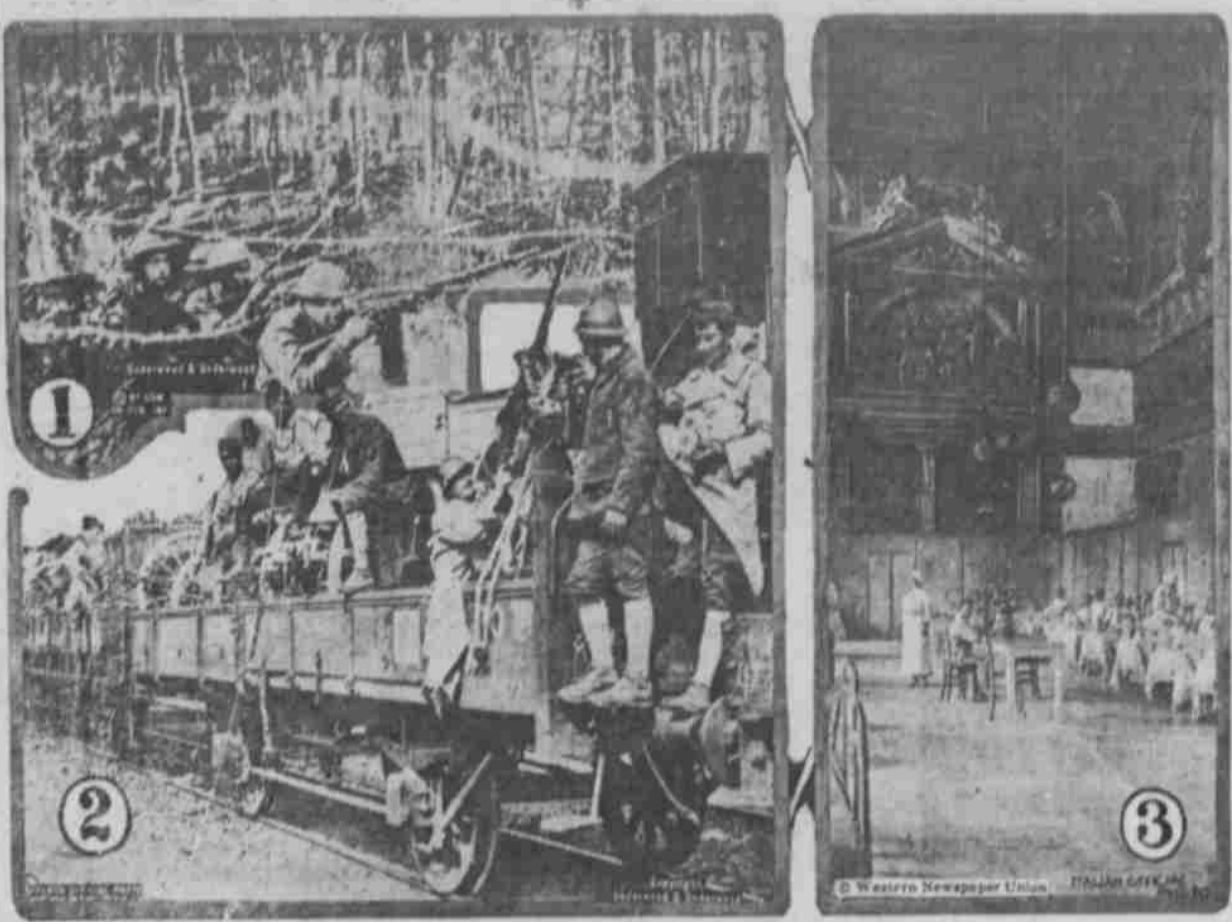
Officers engaged in fixing the trade index of the army have boasted that from the ranks of the national army there may be found men who can do any class of work required, from grinding a diamond to working on the rifling of a big gun. These divisions have come in contact with the allies, but they have been unable to check the onward rush of the victorious armies of Haig and Debeny.

The number of prisoners captured during the first three days of the offensive is very large. It is hinted at Paris that it exceeds by far the figure given out in the official statements. Two divisional headquarters, with their staffs, are said to have been taken. The guns and war materials lost by the enemy constitute a very heavy loss.

Since the American forces occupied Fismette, the northern suburb of Fismes, on the Vesle, there have been no reports of further attacks in that region. It is believed, however, that the allies there are gathering themselves for a new assault which may have its effect on the great battle going on further north.

Although there have been rumors of heavy fighting south of Arras, there has been no confirmation of them as yet.

Nothing is known as to the situation in Flanders, where on Friday the Germans are reported to be withdrawing from their advanced position.



1—American troops of the Rainbow division in the trenches meeting the German attack with rifle fire and bayonets. 2—French troop train on which is mounted an anti-aircraft gun. 3—Italian wounded recuperating in the Quirinal, the magnificent royal palace in Rome which has been turned into a hospital.

## HELP FOR THE HELPLESS A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

Last year the whole world was thrilled when the news flashed over the wires that Jerusalem had been delivered from the hands of the Turk. The feeling was universal that the Holy City should be restored to the people who had builded it and with whose history it is forever associated. This is a fine sentiment, but finer and vastly more important than the restoration of the Holy City is the salvation of millions of Jews from hunger and disease and death. In Turkey, in Palestine, in Luthania, in Poland and in Galicia starvation stares the children of Abraham in the face. Daily Jewish husbands see their wives grow thin and pale and fade away into the Great Silence. Daily Jewish babies tug frantically at breasts that are withered and dry; and above the din of battle is heard once more the voice of Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are not.

I call upon the good people of North Carolina to harken to this cry, to rally to the help of the helpless and once again to show themselves worthy of the high service they are privileged to render. The hounded, hungering Jew can well afford to die. We cannot afford by indifference and inaction to have his blood on our hands.

Therefore, I, Thomas Walter Bickett, Governor of North Carolina, do hereby set apart Monday, the 19th day of August, 1918, as Jewish Relief Day. I ask all newspapers to give wide publicity to this day, and especially ask that on Sunday, the 18th day of August, notice be given in all the churches in the State that the following Monday will be observed as Jewish Relief Day, and the people will be given an opportunity to help this stricken race.

On Monday, the 19th day of August, I beg all our people to give to this most worthy cause generously and gladly. Let Jew and Gentile touch elbows, and work together for the relief of these millions in distress, and may He, who made and loves as all, bestow upon every giver and every gift this Heavenly benediction.

Done at our city of Raleigh, this 3rd day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, and in the one hundred and forty-third year of our American Independence.

By the Governor:  
SANTFORD MARTIN,  
Private Secretary.

THOS. WALTER BICKETT,  
Governor.

## Many Prisoners and Much Material Taken by French

London, Aug. 10.—Montdidier fell to the French first army, which had been operating south of Montdidier, according to the British war office announcement tonight. Many prisoners and great quantities of material were taken by the French.

The general line reached by the allies in the Albert-Montdidier sector now runs from Libons to Fribony-Les Roye, Lignieres and Conchy-Les-Pots. The statement added that the number of prisoners was increased.

The text of the communication follows:

"The attack launched yesterday evening, in accordance with the allied plan of operations, on our right by the French first army south of Montdidier was developed by our allies this morning with complete success. Enveloped from the north and from the southeast, Montdidier fell into the hands of the French before mid-day, together with many prisoners and great quantities of material."

Rome, Aug. 10.—French troops penetrated deep into the Austrian entrenchments on Monte Sisemol this morning, capturing 250 prisoners, according to an official statement issued by the war office.

## Tar Heel Offers the Government His Home

Washington, Aug. 10.—Thru

Senator Simmons—a patriotic North Carolinian, who says he has no money but is willing to give the United States government the use of his home and farm, has tendered to the war department property near Carthage. S. B. Bartlett, of that place, makes the unusual offer and Senator Simmons' office has forwarded it to the war department.

While the law and custom forbid the United States accepting gratuities, it is possible the government may find some use for the Bartlett home at a nominal compensation, just as it accepts the virtual free services of the dollar-a-year men.

At any rate, Uncle Sam is likely to appreciate the spirit expressed by Mr. Bartlett, who writes Senator Simmons as follows:

"Am writing to offer my home to the government free of charge, as it is located just two and one half miles from the James McConnell hospital thought perhaps it would do the government some good. The house has 10 rooms, large pantrys, large porches, lovely maple shade and water, on sand clay road, leading to Pinehurst, Aberdeen, Southern Pines, etc. There are 300 acres of land, an ideal place for hens and cows, plenty of wood and ten fireplaces.

"My boys will enlist as soon as they are out of the crop and as I will have no help to run the farm I did not know of anything better to do than offer it to Uncle Sam

for the duration of the war, absolutely free. I have another small place I can live.

"Hoping to hear from you soon and that I may help in this way as I have no money, I am,

"Yours to do all I can,  
(Signed) S. G. Bartlett,  
Carthage, N. C.

## THINK ADVANCE MUST CONTINUE

Paris, Aug. 12.—Military commentators in the Paris newspapers express confidence that the allied advance, while slowed up, is bound to be continued.

It is certain that the German retreat is not over," says L'Homme Libre, while the Petit Parisien declares that the capture of Lassigny by the French is only a question of hours. In fact, the entire group of hills between Lassigny and the Oise is being encircled, the Petit Journal declares, and must inevitably be evacuated.

Generally, critics point to the fact that because of his serious losses under the allied blow the enemy has been compelled to use troops he was reserving for future operations while the allies, it is declared, have been mastering the enemy with only their line troops without drawing upon their reserves. The Germans, it is pointed out, increased their losses by their violent reactions on Sunday for the purpose of covering their retreat.

## FURTHER PROGRESS MADE ON RIGHT CENTER

London, Aug. 11.—Today the situation south of the Somme was becoming more stabilized. There has been no important allied advance in the last 12 hours and in some places a slight retirement has been necessary.

The fighting has been desperate and of a ding dong character and for the moment any big advance on this front is not expected.

The enemy apparently is calling upon his reserves to help him save all material possible.

At noon today the allied line was as follows, starting from the northwest of Meaulte, which is still in German hands; thence to Etinehen, Framerville and Libons, which are still German; Hallu station (the Germans hold Hallu), Parvillers, L'Echelle and Armacourt, both of the latter still being German, and thence through Tilloloy Park and thru the station of Roye-sur Matz and Moreuil Lamotte to Samson and Marchemont, from which it joins the line on the Oise.

In the area before Vauvillers the enemy has been supported by heavy artillery, but farther southward the French first and third armies have advanced slightly, and in this neighborhood the Germans do not appear to be too well supplied with artillery.

Large fires and long transport columns in the enemy's back areas tend to strengthen the belief that his heavy counter attacks against the British are intended to afford him time to evacuate his stores.

The allied casualties in the first two days of fighting were comparatively light, because the allies virtually ran through the German positions. But since Saturday the fighting has been of a more severe character.

Interest centers around the struggle for the Lassigny massif which is high ground in difficult country and affords a considerable view of the surrounding neighborhood. Its southern edge is in French hands, but a considerable advance must be registered before the allies can cross the Cuy-Noyon road. All accounts agree that the attacks of the third French army on the massif are making satisfactory progress and that an advance of from three to five miles has been made since Saturday morning.

The roads for the enemy retirement are by no means good and it is believed not improbable that sooner or later he will be compelled to retire to the line of Peronne, Vesles and Noyon.

The Germans have materially stiffened their defense against the British, French and American troops on the Picardy battle front, but they have been unable to stem the tide of advance against them.

Although the forward push of the allies has been slowed down somewhat, nevertheless they have made further important progress from the north of the Somme, where the Americans and British are fighting together, to the northern bank of the Oise river, where the French troops are engaging the enemy.

The Americans and their British brothers-in-arms at last accounts were pressing closely upon Bray-sur Somme, aided by tanks and armored cars, which inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy as he endeavored to retard their progress.

Across the river the Germans heavily engaged the British at Libons and its vicinity, and at one point pierced the British line and gained the outskirts of Libons. A counter attack, however, entirely restored the British line and the enemy retired to positions east and north of the village. Unofficial reports from

## PEACE OFFENSIVE HAS A MOTIVE

Washington, Aug. 10.—Hints that the Germans are preparing to launch another "peace offensive" reaching the state department from various sources and evidently of indirect and cautious feelers already put out, led to an authoritative statement tonight that General March correctly stated the attitude of the American government today when he said in a conference with newspaper men that now is the time for the greatest effort at the battle front.

It is known to the officials that more tenuous peace talk would have been forthcoming if the big March drive of the Germans had succeeded to a point where they could claim at least a partial victory. Now that they are feeling under a stunning defeat on that same western front officials say the "peace drive" may be expected because something must be done to keep the German people behind their government by the pretense that it is willing and anxious to make peace, but the enemy will be content with nothing short of the annihilation of the central powers.

Officials here, therefore, are prepared for the resumption of efforts at an inconclusive peace based on the cunning German plan, as practiced at Brest Litovsk on the helpless Russian.

London have credited the British with entering Chaumes and the British cavalry with a penetration of the enemy's territory almost to Nesles. These reports, however, have received no official confirmation.

By far the greater progress has been made by the French from the region immediately southwest and south of Roye to the Oise river. Here they have driven their line well across the Roye-Compeigne road at at Cambonne have reached the road leading from Compeigne to Noyon. Since the capture of Montdidier the French have penetrated eastward to Tilloloy, a distance of about seven miles and to Canny-sur Matz, more than eight and a half miles, and through the hilly region southward to the Oise have averaged gains exceeding six miles, over a front of 12 miles.

The stiffening of the German defense does not, in the minds of observers on the battle front, indicate that the retreat of the enemy has ended. Rather it is assumed that these maneuvers are similar to those carried out over the Marne front, when strong rear guards covered the retirement of the crown prince's armies northward.

The smoke of large fires continues to be seen behind the enemy's lines and the movement of long transport columns eastward is considered evidence that it is the intention of the enemy ultimately to retreat to new lines of defense. Aviators have destroyed all the bridges across the Somme from the region of Peronne southward, and with the enemy's communicating lines either in the hands of the allies or dominated by their guns the retrograde movement necessarily must be slow. Therefore, strong rear guard actions are required to save large numbers of men and guns and enormous quantities of stores from capture. The allied troops gradually are encircling Roye and its capture, which seems imminent, will greatly heighten the difficulties of the Germans in falling back.

Intensive air fighting is proceeding over the battle line. In Friday's battles 30 German machines were destroyed and 22 driven down out of control. The British war office acknowledges that 23 British machines are missing. Unofficial estimates bring the number of prisoners taken by the allies up to 36,000.