

## FOCH FOLLOWS UP STROKE OF AMERICANS BY LAUNCHING AN OFFENSIVE IN THE LAON SECTOR

**German Forces Pushed Back From One to Two Miles; 20,000 Germans Taken by Americans in New Drive; Process of Cleaning Up St. Mihiel Salient Continues.**

American Headquarters in France, Sept. 14.—(Reuter's).—When the St. Mihiel operation began there were from 90,000 to 100,000 Germans inside the salient. They escaped at the rate of 1,000 hourly, but the pincers closed and trapped a hitherto unknown number. The 13,300 already taken prisoner does not include the bulk of those believed to be trapped in the salient.

(By the Associated Press).—Marshal Foch, pursuing his policy of giving the Germans never a minute's rest, followed up the incisive stroke of the Americans, which wiped out the St. Mihiel salient in two days' time, by launching an offensive Saturday morning on the French front along the bend in the line around Laon.

The blow took immediate effect on the German lines, pushing them back from one to two miles at points in this important sector, where it is well nigh vital for the Germans to hold fast if they hope to retain control of any considerable part of northern France during the coming winter.

Meanwhile the process of cleaning up the St. Mihiel salient was being continued by General Pershing's troops, who so far are reported to have effected the capture of more than 20,000 Germans as the result of the clean-cut drive of the American first army.

There were indications in the reports from the front that the American success might have done somewhat more than straighten out the line above the former St. Mihiel bend, for the Germans were said to be retiring near Chatillon, along a front five or six miles to the northwest of the former western tip of the salient. They were probably forced to this in the readjustment of their line to meet the altered conditions.

With the lessening of the tension on the St. Mihiel front, interest is centered at present in the French assault on the Ailette-Aisne front. General Petain's troops here were gaining ground where every yard was extremely valuable, as the German positions along the Aisne and the Vesle to the east have been under an increasing threat for some time by the French advance on their left flank. The advance will not have to be pressed much further before a German retreat on a wide front in this sector will be compelled.

By driving in sharply in his present move, Marshal Foch probably intends to make untenable even the Chemin des Dames, the former German holding ground north of the Aisne. He has made marked progress already in this by taking Mont des Singes, south of the Ailette. It is but a short distance thence to the Anzy-Pison line, the capture of which by Petain last fall compelled the German prince to fall back from the Chemin des Dames to the Ailette line to the north.

The French progress likewise represents a renewal of the drive at the St. Gobain massif, and therefore at the citadel of Laon, which that bastion defends, moving directly into the massif further north, above the Ailette, the French are reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

Along the Aisne the advance has taken the French some distance further towards the east and they were early reported to

### Allied Forces Advance.

London, Sept. 18th.—British troops last night advanced their lines north of the Arras-Cambrai road, establishing posts in the vicinity of Cauchy and Oppy, according to today's reports from Field Marshal Haig.

On the Flanders front the British pushed ahead in a successful minor operation on both sides of the Ypres Comine's canal on a front of more than two miles.

With the British Army in France, Sunday, Sept. 15.—Mais semy, a village five miles northwest of St. Quentin, has been captured by the British. The place was taken during a local attack directed against the high ground upon which this hamlet is situated. This adds another important position to those recently taken along the ridges west of St. Quentin.

A little below this place and to the southeast of Holnon wood the British also improved their lines slightly. Fighting of a local nature continues on the northern battle front near La Basse, where the enemy has been forced to give ground steadily. Beyond this no important infantry action has been reported but heavy artillery duels have been fought at numerous points.

British gunners bombarded the Hindenburg line fiercely for four hours yesterday and heavy enemy losses were inflicted. The German gunners have been maintaining an intense fire in the Gouzeaucourt sector and deluged Havincourt with explosives yesterday. Today brought the first fair weather the British front has seen for a week. The sun came out bright and warm this morning and has been rapidly drying out the water-logged ground over which it was becoming increasingly difficult for troops to operate.

With the American Army in Lorraine, Sept. 16.—German artillery activity increased somewhat on the front today. No infantry attacks however, were made.

Paris, Sept. 16.—The town of Vailly on the north bank of the Aisne east of Soissons, has been captured by the French. The war office announced today.

The French have continued their progress between the Oise and the Aisne and captured Mont Des Singes.

### Grateful Message is Sent to Gen. Pershing

Washington, Sept. 14.—President Wilson today sent a cablegram of congratulations to General Pershing on the achievement of the American troops in wiping out the St. Mihiel salient. The President asked that his "grateful and affectionate thanks" be conveyed to all concerned in the victory.

The message said: "Please accept my warmest congratulations on the brilliant achievements of the army under your command. The boys have done what we expected of them, and done it in the way we most admire."

"We are deeply proud of them and of their chief. Please convey to all concerned my grateful and affectionate thanks."

have reached Vailly, on the north bank of the Aisne, pushing the Germans back from the river as they advanced.

The British front has held intact against a series of German assaults in what appears to be a fit of desperation over the inroads made in the defense of Cambrai by Field Marshal Haig's forces in their recent progress. The British successfully beat off several such attacks at Havincourt and Gouzeaucourt, holding their valuable positions on the high ground in this sector.

## GERMAN PRISONERS BEING SEARCHED BY THE BRITISH



A batch of German prisoners who have been captured by the British being searched by their captors for concealed weapons and anything that may prove to be dangerous to the welfare of the allies.

### Instant Death For All Spies, Traitors, Cowards

With the American Army in France, Sept. 10. (By the Associated Press.)—American troops of all units have been instructed to kill on the spot anyone who in time of battle urges surrender or attempts to persuade them that further resistance is useless.

These instructions, which originated with a certain division and have now been universally adopted because they proved so popular, were made necessary because someone in American uniform during a German attack on Fismette, on August 27, ran among the troops, calling upon them to cease resistance and declaring that the officers advised surrender.

The instructions point out that these statements were absolutely false and added: "The person who spreads such an alarm is either an enemy in our uniform or one of our own troops who is disloyal and a traitor, or one of our troops who has become a panic-stricken coward. Whoever he is, he should be shot on the spot. In battle, there is no time to inquire into the identity or motives of persons who create panic or disorganization or who advise surrender."

"It is the duty of every officer and soldier to kill on the spot any person who in a fight urges anyone to surrender or stop fighting. It makes no difference whether the person is a stranger or a friend, an officer or a private."

### Galway Castle Sunk by U-Boat

London, Sept. 13.—The British steamer Galway Castle, of 7,985 tons gross, was torpedoed and sunk this morning. She had 990 persons on board, of whom more than 800 were reported saved.

The missing from the Galway Castle number 180. They include 120 passengers, 36 naval and military officers and men, and 33 of the crew.

Ninety third-class passengers lost were without exception women and children. The liner floated for two days in charge of the captain and volunteers.

The passenger list included 300 women and children. The bodies of the children who had died, were brought ashore. The captain and several of the officers are reported to have been still on board the ship when she was last seen and sinking.

The Central News account of the sinking says that one of the lifeboats was driven by a stormy sea against the ship's propeller and smashed. One of the steamer's passengers, the account adds, was Henry Burton, minister of railways of the Union of South Africa, who was saved, and Major Rabantine, a member of the South African parliament, who is missing.

### Americans' Line Advanced One to Two Miles

Washington, Sept. 15.—The American line on the left bank of the Moselle river, in the St. Mihiel sector, has been advanced from one to two miles and now includes the towns of Vilcey and Norroy. General Pershing said in his communique for today, received tonight at the war department. An enemy counter-attack launched near St. Hilaire, at daybreak today, was easily repulsed and a number of prisoners taken.

Seventy-two guns abandoned by the enemy "in his hasty retreat" were brought in during the normal extension of the American lines beyond Jaunay, General Pershing said. This brought the total number of guns captured since the Americans started the drive which wiped out the St. Mihiel salient to more than 200.

The statement follows: "Headquarters, American Expeditionary Force, September 15: 'Section A. In the St. Mihiel sector there was increased artillery and aviation activity.'

"A counter attack launched by the enemy at daybreak near St. Hilaire was easily repulsed and a number of prisoners taken. 'On the left bank of the Moselle our lines have been advanced one to two miles and now includes the towns of Vilcey and Norroy.'

"The normal extension of our lines beyond Jaunay resulted in bringing in 72 additional guns abandoned by the enemy in his hasty retreat. This brings the total number of guns captured to date to more than 200."

### Counter Attack by The Huns Fails

With the American Army in Lorraine, Sept. 14.—The enemy counter-attack against part of the American lines Friday evening and again during the night but met with an intense and accurate artillery fire and recoiled.

The Americans took a few prisoners in these attacks. Hard fighting has taken place in the quarries northeast of Fey-en-Haye, where the Germans had placed one big gun and many machine guns in a well defended position.

Additional Austrian prisoners have been taken; native civilians said they came in only a few days ago. Artillery fire and gas shells were sent against certain American positions during the night but they did little damage.

The Americans are organizing their newly taken positions rapidly and are pushing forward exploitation parties. Prisoners and supplies are being collected and roads are being constructed in No Man's Land. Much booty and ammunition have fallen to the Franco-American allies.

Prisoners and refugees alike are greatly impressed by the

fact that the Americans are eating white bread, regarding it as a particularly ominous sign for Germany.

Throughout the night and early today Pershing's men continued to advance and finished cleaning up the St. Mihiel salient. They cleared the forests of lurking Germans.

### Uncle Sam to the Rulers of Germany

We tried to be neutral, But you would not have it so. You ravished your neighbors. You outraged humanity. And, failing to dominate us, You reviled us. You ordered us from the free seas.

You ambushed us on their high ways. You waylaid us in the night. You killed our helpless people. You drowned our women and children. You destroyed our property. You violated our rights. You insulted our sovereignty. You dishonored our flag. You sneered at our protests. You scorned our good will. You flouted our friendship. You mocked us as "money changers."

You derided our courage. You jeered at our army. You scoffed at our means of defense. You defied our offensive power. You goaded us into war—and now, You shall answer to 23 million men. Placed by my command by Congress, To make the world safe for Americans, And other peace-loving people, Civilization will subdue and disarm you.

Your vast machinery for torturing humanity, Through your lust for pillage and conquest, Shall be dismantled. You shall be made Safe to live among law-abiding nations. Take notice! UNCLE SAM. —From the Equitable Bulletin.

### PERSHING'S ARMY STILL ADVANCES

London, Sept. 15, 6:25 p. m.—General Pershing's army, according to this afternoon's news, is making fine progress. Since yesterday afternoon it has advanced from two to three miles on a 33-mile front and the fortress guns of Metz have come into action against it.

The enemy appears to be withdrawing to some further line which will protect the railway communications in the vicinity of Metz, which at present are under the long range fire of the Americans.

American patrols are advancing at various points a couple of miles beyond the general advances. The American line at noon to-

## AMERICANS HAD VERY EASY TASK

American Army Headquarters, Friday, Sept. 13.—Nothing could better illustrate the increasing weakness of the German arms than the ease with which the Franco-American forces, entrusted with the task, advanced in the St. Mihiel salient. It is true the operation was admirably planned and carried out, but one rarely has witnessed anything like the ease of that first day's fighting.

There was, of course, a barrage, but not a very terrific affair, as barrages go. After the barrage there was nothing very startling in the way of gunfire and the machine gun-rattle produced quite an effect by only coming now and then.

All the while the Americans were going forward with the steadiness of a flood, trickling in to woods on one side and passing out of them on the other, spreading about a village and overwhelming it and breaking against a hill or a mountain and gradually working over the top. They moved like something worked by a clock, but always well ahead of schedule. Rain soaked and slipping about in the mud, they still went forward, while back along the flood came long lines of gray-blue creatures who had been swamped in its course.

Whatever way one looked, there were sure to be Germans—men as fine as you could wish for, or creatures so poor that their presence in the line afforded the most damning proof of German insufficiency in manpower.

The mud had proved too much for many of the tanks and the rainstorms had swept the air-planes out of the sky, but still the Americans went on, with just the booming of a few big guns behind them and a melting away of the enemy in front.

There was, however, plenty of fierce fighting. The Bois — (name of wood deleted) was not cleared without a struggle which for a time held back that part of the line. There had been a throwing out of mustard gas and sharp machine gunfire before some of the surrounded villages could be left behind and the attack resumed.

There is no disputing that the Boche made a poor showing, but he was for the first time up against an American army, fighting division beside division on a solid front, and he liked neither its pace nor its determination. It was a great victory for a new army, with new staffs, in a new country, because it was a victory for exactness in thinking and precision in working.

day ran through Norroy, on the Moselle, Haumont, Duncourt and to Abaucourt, on the old line.

Yesterday's advance by the French seems to have been in the nature of several local pushes and not a big general forward move. The situation is much the same as it was yesterday. The enemy has been reacting very violently on the French front. He made several counter-attacks, altho he has not recovered any of his lost ground, he is holding up the French somewhat.

The British today are reported to have captured the village of Maifseny, northwest of St. Quentin. It has been discovered that there were six German divisions operating in the St. Mihiel salient. That would give a total strength of 60,000 men, or a rifle strength of 38,000. The Germans had broken up for them, two more divisions in this action, thus reducing their strength in the west to 191 divisions, plus four Austrian divisions and some dismounted cavalry.

London, Sept. 15.—In announcing today that the steamer Galway Castle, with approximately 1,000 persons on board, had been torpedoed, the Central News states 34 members of the crew and a number of passengers are missing.

## GEN. PERSHING ONLY PEACE REPRESENTATIVE

Washington, Sept. 15.—Austria has started a peace move but it will not move the Washington government at this time.

Up to a late hour today the state department had not received any official confirmation of the press report from Amsterdam that Austria had made a definite proposition. Such action, on the part of Austria, would not come as a surprise to Secretary Lansing. It has been felt for some time that such an offer was coming. The reports of bad conditions in Austria, and unrest among the people there have been taken as a promise of a call for a discontinuation of the war.

The plan proposed by Austria, it is said, is for representatives of all the belligerent nations to meet in some neutral country and discuss principles on which a talk of peace could take place. There is to be nothing binding in it; the whole thing would be informal.

General Pershing is the only peace representative this country has to offer at this time. The attitude of a great majority of people connected with the administration or Congress is that the United States is in the war to stay, until the kaiser and his autocratic allies are eliminated.

Two reasons are advanced for the Austrian peace drive: (1) That the kaiser has enough, and has put the weaker nation up to the peace parley proposition, and (2) That Austria is also at the end of her life line, and would save herself through a separate peace.

Months ago, it was pointed out by high officials, America might have talked separate peace with Austria but now, since the Czechs-Slovaks, the Jungo-Slavs, the Lithuanians and others of Austria-Hungary have joined the allies, unless Austria is ready to consent to breaking up of her empire into several parts so that the various peoples can form states of their own, there can be no peace conference.

Senator Simmons, a strong supporter of the administration, said today that in his opinion the President would not agree to any discussion of peace until our forces have gone deep into Germany.

"The proposition of the Austrian government, if it is what the dispatches indicate it is, is on a par with other projects originating in that country and Germany," said M. Simmons.

"This is no time to talk peace. We are in the war to a finish, and will deliver sledge-hammer blows until it is over. We may have setbacks but our purpose is clear, and our program outlined. We will furnish men and money to make the world safe for democracy. I feel that I am justified in saying that the President does not even want the matter discussed at this time."

There is nothing to the Austrian offer. When that country comes with a definite proposition of her own for peace on the terms outlined by President Wilson to Congress on January 8 of this year, then she may be listened to."

### High Praise is Given The American Staff

Paris, Sunday, Sept. 15.—High words of praise for the American staff are given by commentators on the American victory in Lorraine. The pleasing rapidity with which the American staff adapted itself to new methods of warfare is praised and tribute is also paid to young officers who carried out their work with great valor and dash. While the Americans are operating toward the northeast the battle has extended far down into the Vosges region. The German staff is seeking to rectify its lines there.

A registered (X) in this space means that your subscription is about to expire, and will be discontinued if not renewed within 30 days.