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\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO FRONT

PERSHING'S ENTIRE FORCE HAS BEEN GIVEN INTO HANDS OF GENERAL FOCH.

ON THEIR WAY TO FRONT

Germans Lose Great Numbers in Killed and Wounded—French and British Make Gains

The American army in France is to fight shoulder to shoulder with the British and French troops who now are engaged in the titanic struggle with the Germans in Picardy. General Pershing's entire force has been given into the hands of General Foch, the new generalissimo, who is to use the men where he deems.

More than 100,000 Americans, intensively trained and fully accoutred, are available or immediate use in aiding to stem the tide of the German hordes, and large numbers of them on railroad trains and in motor trucks, and even afoot, already are on their way to the battle front, eager to do their part in defeating the invaders.

The miserable weather which has broken over the country is proving no deterrent to the Americans as they push forward from all directions toward the battle zone.

The acceptance by France of General Pershing's offer for all American men and material for the present emergency has in effect virtually resulted in a unified army command, so far as the French army and American forces are concerned. This is shown by the fact that the orders issued to the American troops are of French origin.

Great activity continued throughout the zone where the American troops are quartered, etc., as sent.

Even more activity was observed behind the German lines opposite the American front on the Toul sector. An entire battalion was seen on the march. Infantry at other points was being shifted about, while the cavalry also was seen again. Numerous automobiles of members of the German staff made their appearance behind the lines.

Three American patrols penetrated the enemy's lines. One patrol went in until electrically charged barbed wire was encountered. This was cut. Enemy sniping posts took warning and opened fire on the Americans, who were forced to retire. No casualties were suffered.

Another patrol inspected German front line trenches, but did not encounter a single German. The third patrol penetrated the enemy's wire field to a French airplane which fell there last week. The engine of the plane was found to have been removed.

The enemy gas-shelled the American batteries without effect.

On Way to Front Lines.

Washington.—The announcement that American soldiers actually are on their way to the fighting lines to take places beside their hard-pressed British and French allies, sent a thrill throughout the national capital. It was the first positive statement that General Pershing's forces actually are on their way to the battle lines to help stem the tide of the German drive.

The American soldiers previously referred to in the official dispatches being in the fighting are believed to have been the engineers or other auxiliary troops, which probably were caught at their work, as they were a few months ago at Cambrai when the Germans suddenly enveloped parties of British forces behind their lines in a swift turning movement.

The sending of General Pershing's fighting troops to places in the British-French line has been expected by military experts to follow the creation of a unified command under the French chief of staff, General Foch, and General Pershing's formal offer of all the available American resources.

KING GEORGE VISITS HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE

London.—Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France, describing King George's visit to the front, says:

"In the course of an inspection the king visited an airdrome, where he inspected an American section, the members of which he congratulated upon their fine and smart appearance, praise which was well justified, for a likelier looking set of lads never yet swore to drive Huns out of the air.

GENERAL FOCH



General Foch, the great French strategist, has been placed in supreme command of all the entente allied armies.

GERMAN CASUALTIES 400,000

THE BRITISH REGAIN GROUND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SOMME RIVER.

British Have Repulsed Heavy Attacks and Driven Germans Back Across the Ancre River.

The stretch of the great German offensive in France apparently is fast diminishing. On the seventh day of the titanic battle there were strong indications that the enemy was feeling materially the strain he had undergone and that his power had been greatly impaired through hard usage.

While the town of Albert has been captured from the British and west of Hove the French have been compelled to give ground in the face of greatly superior numbers, the British have repulsed heavy attacks, both north and south of the Somme and also driven back across the Ancre river the Germans who forded the stream. The fighting still continues of a sanguinary character on all these sectors, but everywhere the British and French are holding the enemy. Especially severe has been the fighting west of Albert, where the Germans, in an endeavor to debouch westward were repulsed by Field Marshal Haig's men with the heaviest casualties.

All along the 50-mile front, from the region of Arras to the south of the Oise, near Noyon, the effects of what was to have been the final stroke to end the war in a victory for the Teutons are only too plainly evident in the redevastation of the countryside and the wreck and ruin of the towns, villages and hamlets through which the armies have passed.

About 25 miles represents the greatest point of penetration made at any place by the enemy in his advance, and on the northern and southern ends of the big salient he has left his flanks dangerously open to counterattacks, which, if successful, possibly might result in a retreat greater than the 1916 retrograde movement of von Hindenburg and nullify in its entirety the drive that has been accomplished. It is not improbable that British and French reserves, and possibly American troops, known to be behind the battle front soon will be thrown against the weakened enemy.

Notwithstanding the strength of the German drive, nowhere has the British or French front, along the latter of which American troops have given a good account of their ability as fighters, been even dented. Ground has been given, it is true, but so skillfully and with such precision of movement that from north to south a surveyor scarcely could have worked out a more even line. Still intact in the hands of the allied forces are portions of the old line from which Hindenburg fell back in his "strategic" retirement in 1916.

GENERAL FOCH HAS SUPREME COMMAND

ALL FORCES OPPOSING GERMANY IN FRANCE ARE FIGHTING UNDER SINGLE COMMANDER.

EARLY 'STRIKE-BACK' EXPECTED

Germany Claims 70,000 Prisoners and 1,100 Guns Captured Since Drive Began—American Forces Offered Foch.

The entente forces opposing Germany in France are, for the first time during the war, fighting under the control of a single commander. General Foch, the great French strategist, to whom has been accorded much of the credit for the victory of the Marne in September, 1914, is generalissimo of the entente allied armies in France. This report was received in the form of an unofficial dispatch from London, but in the evening it was officially confirmed by advices to Washington from Paris.

Early in the day, President Wilson sent a personal cable message of congratulation to General Foch and General Pershing placed at the disposal of the French commander the American forces now on French soil. General Foch is given supreme command over all the men on the battle lines, and, in addition, has a strategic reserve force, the size and location of which is not known, but which, judging from reports, is very large.

After eight days, during which it has swept forward over the rolling hills of Picardy, at times like a tidal wave, the German offensive has slowed down. Instead of a sweeping advance, its progress has been checked at all but one sector of the front, and there it has been merely creeping for the last two days—this fact even admitted by the German war office, which usually conceals nothing.

From Arras, north of Arras, to Albert, on the Somme, the British lines have been holding stubbornly and have thrust back the Germans at a number of points. From Albert south to Montdidier, there has been a slow movement to the west, but the hills west of Montdidier are still being held by the French. No ground has been made against the French along the southern side of the salient driven into the allied lines, while it is asserted that the French counter attack from Lassigny to Noyon is still going on. The extreme depth of the German wedge now is about 37 miles.

Soon, if Effective. When this blow, if it comes, will fail, or where, is as yet sealed in the minds of the men directing the progress of military affairs for the allies, but seemingly it must come soon, if it is to be effective. The German advance now is converging on Amiens, the railroad center of northern France, which is known to be the ganglion from which run the main communications of the British army in northern France. The railroads from Paris to Amiens was cut by the Germans at Montdidier, but this would not be vital if Amiens itself is held by the allies.

The German thrust in front of Arras, while, according to Berlin, it netted thousands of prisoners, has apparently come to a stop before Orange Hill, Telegraph Hill and the labyrinth, strongholds held by the British in this sector. Repeated mass attacks by the Germans on these points have resulted in terrible losses to them, without, however, breaking the line and causing more than a straightening of the front before Arras.

MANY WIFE WHEAT OFF HOTEL MENUS

Washington.—Wheat and wheat products were wiped off the menus of several hundred of the country's leading hotels in response to a request of the food administration that "every independent, every well-to-do person in the United States" should pledge complete abstinence from wheat until the next harvest.

CLASS OF 1919 TO BE CALLED TO THE COLORS

Paris, March 29.—The soldiers of the class of 1919 are to be called to the colors at an early date, which is to be fixed by the ministry of war. This was decided on by a vote of the chamber of deputies this afternoon. It is known that the ministry of war has decreed that the recruits shall report April 15. The chamber voted 490 to 7 on a law providing that the date of the calling of the class be advanced.

WILL H. HAYS



Will H. Hays, the new chairman of the Republican National committee, though only thirty-eight years old, has developed the natural Indiana gift of politics from the precinct organization through the state chairmanship and right into his present position without a hitch in his record for success as a political organizer. In the last general election as chairman of the Indiana organization he turned what looked like defeat into a big Republican victory. He is a lawyer with a large practice.

AMERICANS ARE IN THE FIGHT

INDICATIONS THAT ALLIES ARE READY TO STRIKE BACK AT SOME POINT.

Germans Desperate Effort to Widen Salient Defeated.—Dent in Allied Line Becoming Wedge-Shaped.—Point at Albert.

After six days of terrific fighting, the German offensive in France is beginning to show signs of losing its momentum. The progress of the enemy has materially slackened and the form of the dent made in the allied line west of Cambrai has begun to resemble the familiar wedge-like salient, instead of the broad straight forward movement offensive which carries all before it.

At its apex this wedge has gone beyond Albert, to the south of that place, and is to the westward of the old allied line as it stood a year ago when Von Hindenburg began his "strategic retreat." From this point the line runs off to the northeast at a gentle angle, with the line to the south running back until it reaches the Oise river.

In spite of tremendous exertions and terrible losses, the German efforts to widen the tip of this salient were defeated. The British lines have stood firm to the north and have forced the Germans to turn southward toward the point of least resistance.

Americans Taking Part. Official statements issued at London confirm the report from Berlin that American forces are engaged in the struggle. They are reported as "fighting shoulder to shoulder" with the French and British in the region of Roye, on the southern side of the salient driven into the allied front. There has been no official report sent to Washington as to the identity of these troops who are taking part in this greatest battle in history.

With the slackening of the German pace there come indications that the allies are ready to strike back somewhere along the front. Just where this blow will be launched will not be known until it is struck, but it may be expected that its impact will be terrific. It is known that the allied war council at Versailles created a great strategic reserve of men to be used in just the contingency which confronts the armies which have borne the brunt of the fighting since last Thursday morning.

WILSON CONFERS WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS.

Washington.—The second of the weekly conferences between President Wilson and heads of executive departments, or special war administrations, was held with Secretary Daniels and Acting Secretary Crowell added to the list of officials who participated in the conference last week. The heads of the war-making branches were called in by the President to discuss questions of industrial production affecting their departments.

GERMAN SPIES IN AIRPLANE PLANT

RESPONSIBLE FOR PART OF DELAY IN PROGRAM SAYS NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR.

SUBSTITUTED INFERIOR METAL

Investigation Into Delay Started By Senate Military Committee in Secret—90 Days Behind Schedule.

Washington.—Investigation into delay in the airplane program was begun by the senate military committee behind closed doors after several days of discussion in the senate which culminated in the assertion by Senator Overman of North Carolina that part of the trouble was due to German spies in the Curtiss plant which as extensive government contracts.

Members of the committee were pledged to secrecy and Chairman Chamberlain announced that no statement would be issued until the inquiry had been completed.

Maj. Gen. George O. Squires, chief signal officer, and Colonel Deeds, of the aviation branch, were the first witnesses called. They remained with the committee nearly four hours. The committee plans to hear Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell, who has just returned from a visit to the American front in France. Later Commander Briggs of the British flying corps; Colonel Walton, of the American signal corps; and Howard Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board, will be called.

Senator Overman furnished Chairman Chamberlain with the names of his informants, so that they can be called. His speech followed charges that instead of having by July 1, 12,000 airplanes in France or ready for shipment as provided in the original program, that number would total only 37 and that the American airplane program was 90 days behind schedule.

Senator Overman said although he would make no charge against any one employe of the Curtiss concern, there were spies there and were he secretary of war he would commandeer the plant and put in new employes. A metallic brace used in the construction of airplane frames from which a piece of metal had been removed and lead inserted so as to weaken it, was exhibited by the senator as a sample of spies' work.

The first machine tested at the plant fell, he said, and on investigation showed that this tampering had been the cause. A delay of two months followed, while government inspectors went over every airplane part in order to replace parts which spies had weakened.

FRENCH MAKE DRIVE INTO GERMAN LINES

Slowly assuming the shape of a giant ploughshare, the German drive in Picardy has come almost to a halt except at the very tip of the salient driven into the lines of the entente allies. As this area covered by the Teutonic offensive stands now, it runs, on the south, in an almost straight line from Landricourt, on the old "Hindenburg line," to Montdidier, well behind the allied positions as they stood in 1916.

Savage fighting has taken place on the French part of the line. The German attempts to advance on the extreme tip of the salient driven into the French positions have been fruitless and they have been driven back at the point of the bayonet. The British on the front north of the Scarpe also have repulsed the enemy, but south of this river they have been forced to retire.

From Montdidier the line to the northeast runs with a sharp angle to Warvillers and there it turns northward and passes along the Somme river to above Albert, where it again turns to the northeast until it joins the old lines held by the contending armies on the morning of March 21.

DEATHS AMONG TROOPS IN AMERICA INCREASED.

Washington.—Although health conditions in general among the troops training in this country are described in this week's reports of the division of field sanitation as "very good," deaths among the soldiers increased from 150 the week before to 223. Pneumonia increased in the national army and regulars, but in the national guard all epidemic diseases are declining.

OVER THE LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS

Matthew S. Sasser, carpenter of Mount Olive, N. C., was hospitalized in a rooming house at Richmond as a result of blowing out the gas before retiring. That was the condition reached by coroner White after making an investigation.

Of interest to organized merchants and business men throughout North Carolina is the announcement by Secretary Paul Leonard of Staunton, that the State Merchants' Association will hold its 1918 convention at Wrightsville Beach June 15, 16 and 20.

Fred F. Tatum, of Polkville, president of the Farmers and Lumber Workers State Association, is making elaborate plans for the big convention that is to be held by the farmers and their wives at State College, Raleigh during the latter part of August.

Family Bible refuse to be. At least this is the declaration of United States Commissioner Hugh Swarfield, who detected an effort to change birth dates in the family Bible of William Williams, colored, of Perdue county. Williams was before the commissioner on a charge of violating the selective draft by failing to register.

J. F. Armistead, fiscal agent for the Empire Steel Company, a North Carolina corporation, is being sought by officers of Wake county who have warrants for his arrest in arrest and bail proceedings, the warrant being sworn out by persons who have purchased stock in the corporation on alleged representations.

Traffic officer J. T. Dwyer, of the Charlotte police department has in his possession an adz which was used by his grandfather, Thomas K. Dwyer, in helping to build the Merrimac near Norfolk, Va., during the war between the states. Mr. Dwyer prizes the old relic very highly, and members of the police department were recently given an opportunity to inspect it.

The man who invented the sewing machine achieved what he was after when he stopped trying to imitate the human hand. If you go into a factory you will see machines doing things which only human skill could do but a short time ago, but the processes are quite different from the manual method. The inventors have taken superior to the formulae that nature would seem to have laid down for them.

After deliberating on the matter the city commissioners of Asheville announced their decision to close all the pool rooms and bowling alleys of the city on June 1 by refusing to issue new license for the next fiscal year. This action is taken as a war measure, a large number of citizens of the city having appeared before the board to ask them to close these places for the reason that they promoted idleness and crime.

The advocates of cattle tick in Craven county, that is those who are opposed to the dipping vat route to destruction of this pest, have launched their offensive against the government's campaign to eradicate the tick by dynamiting four vats. One was destroyed on the farm of Mr. W. R. Pate about nine miles east of New Bern and the other three were a few miles further west. The identity of the dynamiters is unknown.

"Out of the tragedy of war there can come no compensation but there may come out of it some things that will lift us up and show us that no man loves anything he will not die for," said Secretary of the Navy Joseph Daniels in an address before the students of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering. He championed the cause of the American youth, vouching for the high purpose, the patriotic spirit, and the zeal of the young men of today, who, he declared, are "worthy of the men who won the liberties which now hang in the balance."

The body of Charles Thompson, 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, of Burlington, after being in the water 73 days, was found just below the dam at Swepsonville, January 12, the boy, with some companions, was walking some planks used for inspecting under the railroad trestle at Haw River and he lost his balance and fell forty feet to the water below.

Efforts are being made to put to work the 2,000 interned Germans at Hot Springs.