

COUNTER-ATTACK TO TURN THE TIDE

Allies' Maneuver Army Now to Enter Fight.

GERMAN PROGRAM DEFEATED

Great Counter Is Now Awaited— Washington Waits Confidently For Next Step In The Battle.

Washington.—The crisis of the great German offensive has passed. The British army which has faced the ferocious onslaughts of the vast Teuton war machine has weathered the storm. Failure will mark the enemy campaign and the frightful losses he has sustained will be utterly in vain.

This is the substance of the most comforting information which has reached Washington in seven days, information which has come from the highest British sources and has been transmitted to equally high officials of this Government. The Ministry in London did not express these assurances, it may be noted, as a result of one day's or two days' fighting. It did not rush to any conclusion regarding the operations in France. On the contrary, the British Government waited until it could speak with a sense of soberness before it undertook to speak at all.

It may be added, coincidentally, that the official dispatches from the battle front today tend strongly to bear out the official communication which has reached the American Government. These dispatches show very clearly that the drive has lost its initial momentum; that Germany is fast exhausting her reserves; that, with the lengthening of the German line of communication and supply, enemy artillery has become less effective, and that on the whole, it has become measurably certain that German might cannot force that breach in the British line for which this offensive was undertaken.

And these unofficial messages are exactly to the same effect as the official dispatches, except that the latter do not deal in detail and did not say more than that the British army had passed safely through the most momentous crisis of the war with the single exception of the Marne.

Washington.—Field Marshal Haig's reply to President Wilson's cablegram was received at the White House. "Your message of generous appreciation of the steadfastness and valor of our soldiers in the great battle now raging has greatly touched us all," cabled the Marshal. "Please accept our heartfelt thanks. One and all believe in the justice of our cause and are determined to fight on without counting the cost until the freedom of mankind is safe."

London.—Field Marshal Haig has issued the following special order of the day: "To all ranks of the British Army in France and Flanders: "We are again at a crisis in the war. The enemy has collected on this front every available division and is aiming at the destruction of the British Army. We have already inflicted on the enemy in the course of the last few days a very heavy loss and the French are sending troops as quickly as possible to our support. "I feel that everyone in the army, fully realizing how much depends on the exertions and steadfastness of each one of us, will do his utmost to prevent the enemy from attaining his object."

General Staff officers agree that the logical step to be taken next by the British and French is a counter-attack upon a scale that will send the Germans staggering backward. Such a counter, if it is to be most effective, should be launched at the earliest possible moment, officers here say. It should be begun while the German lines are lengthened and before it is possible for the enemy to bring up their batteries, particularly their heavy artillery.

This Government knows definitely the size and the power of this reserve force, but it disclosed today no details whatever regarding it. It is the general understanding, however, that from 400,000 to 500,000 men compose it and that when the proper time arrives it will be thrown into battle either upon the flanks of the German army or directly in its path.

And it is this reserve which is relied upon to force the Germans back step by step until the Allies have reclaimed what terrain they desire for the safety of general positions.

GREATEST GERMAN DRIVE ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE MILES.

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. Westward from where the old battle line reared itself the Germans everywhere have pushed forward for material gains, but with foes before them who fought with the greatest bravery and stubbornness and ceded no ground unless recompensed at exorbitant rates in men killed, wounded or made prisoner. It is estimated that in the great attacks delivered in mass formation more than 400,000 of the near 1,000,000 men the Germans threw into the fray are dead, wounded or in the hands of their foes.

About 25 miles represents the greatest point of penetration made at any place by the enemy, and on the northern and southern ends of the big salient he has left his flanks dangerously open to counter-attacks, which, if successful, might possibly 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, will soon 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 survey could scarcely 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.

Just who is in command of the German forces seems to be somewhat in doubt. Late dispatches report that Field Marshal von Hindenburg has been at Dvinsk, in the Russian theatre, and German war correspondents assert that General von Ludendorff not only planned the offensive but was on the ground last Friday personally to control the attacks.

GERMAN CASUALTIES ESTIMATED AT 400,000.

A dispatch from British Army Headquarters in France says: "From the average of casualties in the various German units as given by prisoners, one arrives at the conclusion that the German Emperor has lost 50 per cent. of these men since he gave the signal for the advance. The official British statement of Tuesday said it had been established that more than 70 German divisions had been engaged in the battle. The usual estimate of the present strength of a German division is 12,000 men, so that a loss of 50 per cent would mean casualties in excess of 400,000 for the Germans in less than a week of fighting."

HAIG REPLIES TO WILSON.

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TO BREAK ENEMY GRASP.

Palmer Now Authorized To Sell All German-Owned Property.

Washington.—German capital will be divorced from American industrial and commercial enterprises and German plants and enterprises in this country will be thoroughly Americanized, A. Mitchell Palmer, Alien Property Custodian, announced in commenting upon the extension of his powers under the Trading With the Enemy act.

An amendment to the Urgent Deficiency Appropriation bill, which finally passed Congress, gives the Alien Property Custodian the general power of sale of all property which shall come into his possession under the Trading With the Enemy act.

AMERICAN KILLED IN FRANCE.

Lieutenant Nathan, Flyer, Dies Taking Part In Raid.

Newton, Mass.—Lieutenant T. Cushman Nathan, of this city, was killed on March 22 while taking part in an air raid in France, according to word received by his father, Frank M. Nathan, of Boston. When the United States entered the war Nathan enlisted in the aviation branch of the Army and received his commission while finishing his training in Scotland.

U-BOATS TAKE BIG TOLL.

28 Vessels, 16 Of Over 1,600 Tons,
Sunk—19 Others Attacked.

London.—Submarines and mines have increased their weekly toll of British shipping. The Admiralty's report shows that in the last week 28 merchantmen were sunk, 16 of the vessels being 1,600 tons or over and 12 under that tonnage. One fishing vessel was lost. Nineteen merchantmen were unsuccessfully attacked.

A Chase county (Kan.) steer, which had just come in off pasture, gained 45 pounds in 24 hours the first day it was put on feed on the farm of Henry Starkey. This is considered to be a record.

GERMAN DRIVE SLOWING DOWN

American, British and French Troops Fighting.

CHECK ASSAULTS AT NOYAN

Germans Use Tanks, Including Those Taken From The British, And Re- port The Capture Of Several More Towns.

London.—The battle continues on the whole front south of the Somme River. Field Marshal Haig reports from the war zone in France. The Germans have also launched new attacks around Chaules.

London.—The War Office announced that the Germans took Roye at 10.30 o'clock A. M. The enemy has been checked west of Roye and Noyon, the announcement adds.

In the Roye area British, French and American troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder, the official announcement states. French reinforcements are rapidly coming up. "The enemy made no further attacks during the night of March 25-26 on our front north of the Somme," the announcement says. "During the afternoon there have been local engagements on this part of the battle front in which the enemy has been repulsed, but he has attempted no serious attack."

The Germans began new attacks against the combined French and British forces south of the Somme. The line north of the Somme now runs: "Bray, Albert, Beaumont, Hamel, Pussieux, Ayette, Boiry Henin, Wancourt, just west of Monchy, to the Scarpe, and thence along our original front. "The Germans have been attacking heavily south of the Somme." The statement says:

North of the Somme local fighting has taken place at different points. Much movement of hostile troops and transport has been observed in the battle area and these have been engaged by artillery and airplanes. "South of the Somme the hostile attacks reported have been pressed vigorously with fresh German divisions against Noyon and Roye. "This new hostile attack commenced in the neighborhood of Chaules and between Chaules and the Somme, to the north of it. The battle is continuing on the whole front south of the Somme. "In the last six days of constant fighting our troops on all parts of the battlefront have shown the utmost courage. In addition to these British divisions which have already been mentioned, exceptional gallantry was shown also by the following: The Eighth, Sixteenth, Thirty-first, Forty-first, Sixty-first, Thirty-third and Sixty-sixth divisions."

Paris.—The French troops co-operating with the British south of St. Quentin have taken up strong positions on the left bank of the Oise, before Noyon, where they are holding the Germans, according to the War Office announcement.

The text of the statement reads: "Our troops holding solidly to their positions on the left bank of the Oise before Noyon. The fighting continues with undiminished violence along the front comprising Bray-sur-Somme, Chaules, Roye and Noyon. "There is nothing to report from the rest of the front. Berlin (via London).—The night report from general headquarters announces the capture of Lihons, Roye and Noyon, and declares that the German forces have crossed the old Somme battle line at many points. "A new phase has set in in the tremendous battle on both sides of the Somme. The enemy is retreating on a wide front. "During the pursuit we have already crossed at many points our old positions before the Somme battle in 1916 in a westerly direction. "We are before Albert; Lihons, Roye and Noyon have been taken. "German tanks, reinforced by captured British tanks, said an earlier semi-official statement on Sunday's fighting in the west, "took a leading part in breaking the brave enemy resistance."

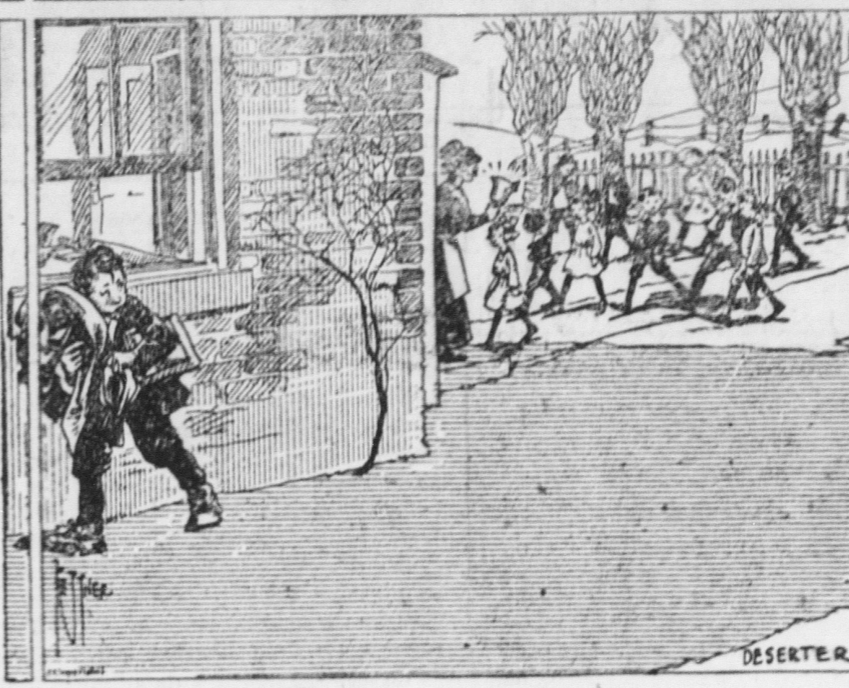
Tanks attached to the German divisions fighting below St. Quentin stood the test brilliantly, the statement says, and their mobility was universally praised. All the tanks which took part in the fighting are said to have returned undamaged.

SCOUT PATROL VESSEL LOST.

Converted Yacht Admiral On The Rocks Off Scituate.

Washington.—A naval patrol vessel, the Admiral, ran on the rocks off Scituate, Mass., and is a total loss. The Navy Department was advised. All officers and crew were saved and considerable small material was taken off. The Admiral was a converted yacht and was known in the naval service as scout patrol vessel No. 967. It formerly belonged to Gordon Dexter, of Boston.

Somewhere in the U. S. A.



FAVORABLE VIEW IN WASHINGTON

American and Allied Officers Think Germans Slowing Up.

SEE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

German Wedge Narrowing—Teutons Expected Now To Strike On Sides In Effort To Widen It.

Washington.—The German drive at the British lines appeared to be slowing under the policy of elastic defense pursued by Field Marshal Haig, according to the opinion of Allied and American army officers here, based on the official statements from London, Paris and Berlin. The greatest battle of the war thus far, they believe, is entering its second stage with the German forces facing an increasing stubborn resistance. The outcome of this stage may not be discernible for several days. The attitude of American military authorities was officially stated by Major General March, acting chief of staff. He said: "The War Department sees no cause for alarm on the part of the people of the United States. Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. The announcement is to be accepted."

Similar confidence of the ultimate defeat of the German effort was expressed by Major General Leonard Wood before the Senate Military Committee, and Major General McLaughlin, British military attaché, voiced the feeling of British officers here as to the work of their comrades in France in a statement noting that nothing resembling a break in the British lines yet had been achieved by the German push. There was much speculation here as to the purpose of the German leaders in pressing the main attack in the direction of Amiens. The capture of Nesle, admitted in London, indicates this to be the apex of the great wedge that is being forced into the British lines near the point where the British and French forces connect. The question raised was whether the German plan contemplated a swing to their right toward the coast, designed to hem up all British forces in a restricted field of operations, with the channel behind them, or a sweep toward Paris to their left front. As yet the developments reported do not indicate the ultimate objective of the assault.

One view expressed was that a blow elsewhere might follow the checking of the present drive or even accompany it. Advice from Italy has indicated enemy concentrations on that front for some time past. Attacks along the French lines do not appear to be more than feints at present, calculated to keep the French from weakening their lines too far in sending supporting divisions to their left flank. Officers here think the enormous forces concentrated in the drive at the British front precludes the possibility of a major offensive by the Germans elsewhere on the lines in France. In Italy, however, masses of Austrian troops formerly occupied in Russia, now are available to strengthen the Austro-German forces for a big movement. Captured Russian guns might be used to good effect, it was said. The only Austrian forces noted on the western front are artillery units. Mention of the Allied strategic reserves, not as yet engaged, caused some debate as to the probable developments if the British, as is expected, bring the German drive to a halt within a few days. A temporary lull while the Germans bring up artillery is to be expected at any time. If the front of the British proves too firm to be broken, however, and officers here have no doubt that it will, the Germans eventually will reach a point of exhaustion both of men and supplies which will bring them to a standstill.

SALUTE, OR BE HANGED.

Mob in Lima, O., Dragging People From Bed.

Lima, O.—A mob at Delphos, near here, is making a house-to-house canvass, dragging every suspected pro-German from his bed, taking him down town and forcing him to salute the American flag under the pain of being hanged to a tree. Barney Lindemann, wealthy merchant, to whose shoe store a flag was nailed, has been notified that if the flag, which he was forced to salute, is taken down, he will be thrown into the canal and drowned.

CUT WHEAT USE BY HALF.

Latest Restrictions Allow Only One Pound And A Half A Week.

Washington.—Further reduction in the consumption of wheat was asked of the public by the Food Administration, that the scant supplies available before the next harvest may be stretched to meet the needs of the army, domestic consumers and the Allies. Every American is asked to cut his average ration of wheat by 50 per cent, which would reduce the total normal consumption of 42,000,000 bushels a month to 21,000,000.

BAKER IN LONDON.

U. S. Secretary Of War Stops With Ambassador Page.

London.—Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, visited King Albert of Belgium and the Belgian front Saturday and Sunday arrived at a British port.

FIGHTING HARD BRITISH WITHDRAW

To Stronger Positions and Wear Out Enemy.

GERMAN LOSSES HEAVY

Peronne And Ham Have Fallen, Ac- cording To The Berlin Report, And Germans Claim To Have Defeated The British Third And Fourth Armies And To Have 30,000 Prison- ers And 600 Guns.

The withdrawal of the British forces along the battlefront in France was long ago planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the British front and is described as a masterly withdrawal, made possible by gallant shock troops in the front lines, who checked the advance of the Germans, while artillery, machine gun and rifle fire worked appalling slaughter among the masses of German infantry as they were sent forward, thus enabling the main body of the British to fall back deliberately and without confusion. "This army, it is declared, has been conserved, and up to the present very few counter-attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the Germans' newly acquired position they have driven them back. "But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to the German artillery and infantry more and more difficult, and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, so far as he may, wear himself out against a powerful defense. Both British and French forces, where their lines meet, south of St. Quentin, are watching events with optimistic eyes. The town of Chauny, southwest of St. Quentin, situated on the road to Compiègne, the gateway to Paris, has been occupied by the Germans, and according to the Berlin official communications everywhere between the Somme and the Oise River the Germans are pressing their advance. In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of both Peronne and Ham and to have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 30,000, in addition to 600 guns and large stores of war materials.

Explosions followed by fire destroyed big warehouse. New York.—Fire following a series of unexplained explosions destroyed the six-story building of the Jarvis Warehouse Company, Inc., near the Erie Railroad terminal in Jersey City and badly damaged the Erie repair shops. The material damage was estimated by Jersey City police and fire companies at close to \$1,500,000. The goods stored in the warehouse, said to have included a quantity of chemicals, were a total loss. The cause of the explosions has not been determined, although a rigid investigation was begun at once by Federal, State and city authorities. The first of the terrific detonations, which occurred shortly after 3 o'clock, shook windows in downtown Manhattan and caused considerable alarm. Visions of another Black Tom disaster or a bombardment by the Germans were in many minds. Burning cinders, which arose in the heavy cloud of black smoke, were carried by the wind across the North River and fell along the waterfront.

200 AMERICANS IN HUN PRISONS.

Names Of Many Captives Are Made Public.

Washington.—An official list of 206 Americans now prisoners in German camps, made public by the State Department, records the death of Charles Hemphill, shot while attempting to escape in September, 1917, and the death of Andrew Campbell Murray, an aviator, brought down near Pargny September 30, 1917. The only American officer in the list is Lieut. Harold Willis, of Newton, Mass., an aviator, captured at Verdun on August 18, 1917. He is interned at Camp Gutersloh. Evidently Willis was an officer in a French escadrille.

HAIG CONGRATULATED.

President Wilson Cables The British General.

Washington.—President Wilson cabled Field Marshal Haig congratulating him on the British stand against the German offensive and predicting a final Allied victory. The President's message read: "May I not express to you my warm admiration of the splendid steadfastness and valor with which your troops have withstood the German onset and the perfect confidence all Americans feel that you will win a secure and final victory."

GOMPERS NAILS HUN RUMOR.

Didn't Advocate Partition Of Belgium, He Declares.

Washington.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, made an emphatic denial of reports published in Germany that he had proposed the partition of Belgium as the best means of ending the war. In a letter to Belgian Minister de Cartier, made public at the legation, Mr. Gompers said: "I am proud of being enlisted in the cause which shall make for the complete restoration of your outraged country and people."

ITALIANS BAG FIVE PLANES.

French Also Bring Down One Enemy Machine.

Washington.—Usual artillery fire and moderate activity all along the front are recorded in the official statement from the Italian headquarters, received by the Italian Embassy here. The statement adds: "Five enemy airplanes were brought down by our aviators at Val Dobbilieri, Moriago, San Pietro and Biadene. Another plane was brought down by the French aviators at Montebelluna."