



1—View of Soissons, at the northern end of the allied offensive in the Aisne-Marne region. 2—Depth bombs on the Harvard, formerly a yacht, now an American patrol boat in European waters. 3—Victor Vandermerck, an American soldier who killed a German with the butt of his rifle in battle in France.



NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

General Foch Is Squeezing the Crown Prince's Army Out of Soissons-Reims Salient.

HUNS IN PERILOUS POSITION

American Troops Are Highly Praised for Their Fine Work—British in Flanders Take Meteoric—Silly Exploit of U-Boat Off Cape Cod.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

"We've got 'em on the run" was the joyful cry of America as the news came in of the victorious progress of the allied troops in the Soissons-Reims salient.

In a measure this was true, for the Germans were being gradually squeezed out of the salient, and there was every reason for elation over the splendid fighting of the allies. But to hail the success as a great decisive victory was premature and foolish.

Such running as the Huns did was done only at the start of Foch's offensive, when they were taken by surprise. Their commanders quickly regained some measure of control, and thereafter the enforced retreat was conducted skillfully and slowly, every bit of ground being bitterly contested in order that as many guns and as much supplies as possible might be saved. Realizing that his entire army south of the Aisne was in grave danger, the crown prince sent in more and more of his reserves until 40 divisions were engaged, and desperate efforts were made to stabilize their lines of defense. However, nothing was allowed to stop the steady forward movement of the allies on three fronts of the salient, and the path of retreat was narrowed day by day. All of the territory yet held by the enemy was brought under the fire of the heavy guns, and the airmen in great numbers flew over the region day and night, working havoc with their bombs and machine guns.

At the beginning of the week there were highly successful operations on the west front of the salient, in both of which the Americans played an important part. At the tip of the German advance Chateau Thierry was taken by storm and a large section north and east of it was cleared of Huns. Here thousands of Germans were killed, other thousands captured, and great numbers of cannon and quantities of supplies were taken.

From this point northward to Soissons the Franco-Americans swept eastward until Neuilly St. Front was taken, Oulchy threatened, Soissons itself brought under gunfire and the very important railroad from there to Chateau Thierry crossed at so many places that it could no longer be used by the enemy. This drive, to be wholly successful, had to be carried to Fere-en-Tardenois, through which ran the only remaining railway which the Huns could rely upon to get their war supplies out of the way of Foch's pincers, and before the week closed the French and Yankees were moving steadily toward that town from the west and south. It must not be supposed that their progress was easy. The Germans counter-attacked repeatedly and fought brave and stubborn rear-guard battles. The village of Epieds, for instance, after being taken at the point of the bayonet by the Americans, was recaptured by the Huns, and again won by the Yankees, who then advanced their lines far beyond it.

Some of the fiercest fighting took place along the Marne east of Chateau Thierry. At first the Germans retreated across the river so hastily that the movement amounted almost to a rout. From the heights of Jaulgonne, Barzy and Passy, the American guns poured a deadly hail upon the fleeing foe, many of whom, throwing away their rifles, sought to swim the river, and were drowned.

When Foch was secretly preparing for his great strategic attack he called

a strong force of English and Scots troops down from the north, and they quietly slipped around south of the Marne toward Reims. At the appointed time these seasoned fighters hit the German lines southwest of the cathedral city a mighty blow. In the succeeding days, acting as the east arm of the pincers, they pushed forward into the salient from the Mountain of Reims toward Ville-en-Tardenois and Fismes. Their progress was slower than that of the Franco-Americans on the west, for the country in which they were fighting was much more difficult. East of Reims the French and Italian held their own and even made some advance, though the plan did not call for a drive by them.

When Foch's offensive was a week old it appeared probable that Ludendorff would attempt to make at least a temporary stand on the half-circle running from Soissons through the outskirts of Oulchy, below Fere-en-Tardenois and across toward the Mountain of Reims. Competent observers believed his troops were too disorganized to hold this line for long, and that he would be forced to fall back to the Vesle river, which runs almost due west from Reims, joining the Aisne near Soissons.

The main efforts of General von Boehm, the immediate commander of the Germans in the salient, were directed to keeping open the roads of retreat. He was given the assistance not only of most of the crown prince's reserves, but also of nine divisions from the army of Crown Prince Ruprecht of Bavaria. Already he was having great difficulty in feeding the men he had there, and the additions did little but stiffen his resistance and add to his commissary troubles.

At the time of writing, the full scope of General Foch's plans is not revealed. He has the initiative, and may elect to continue the offensive with all his strength in the effort to drive the Huns beyond the Aisne and as much farther as they can be forced; or he may find it prudent to hold them at the Vesle and await the arrival of more Americans. It is a noteworthy fact that 70 per cent of the allied troops engaged in the present battle are French. A considerable portion of the remainder are British and Italians. If so much can be done with so comparatively small a force of Americans taking part, ask observers, what will happen to the Huns when a million Americans are in the fighting line and another million at least waiting their turn for action? And this state of affairs will be reached by October, it is predicted.

Paris and London are loud in their praise of the quality and behavior of the Americans in the Aisne-Marne battle, and the newspapers there relate many instances of their bravery, coolness and determination. They are admittedly as fine troops as ever were seen, and even the least experienced of them have no idea of anything but winning every fight they go into. Their marksmanship, both with the rifle and with larger weapons, is remarkable; their doggedness is tempered with an unquenchable humor, and their stamina is such that at times bodies of them fought for many hours without food or drink, declining to halt their advance to let the commissary catch up with them. These splendid troops, with their gallant and competent officers, have done their full part in stopping the German offensive and converting it into an allied offensive, and if they are now called on to stop and await the arrival of more of their countrymen, America should rest satisfied, patient and proud. The American casualty lists will be longer and longer each day for a time, but the bereaved ones may well take example by the proud, unweeping grief with which Colonel Roosevelt received the news of the death of his gallant son, Quentin.

In Flanders the British carried out an important operation that resulted in the capture of Meteren. They have been devoting themselves to preparing for the new offensive which, according to the logic of the situation, Ludendorff must undertake and which, according to military experts, probably will be directed against some part of the line held by the British. Such an offensive would be largely to influence public opinion in Germany and direct

attention away from the crown prince's disastrous attempt on the Marne.

General Foch has not had to call into action the bulk of his reserves. In the midst of the biggest battle he found time to order a swift and fierce attack by the French along the Avre in the Montdidier sector. The positions aimed at were feebly held by tired troops that did not expect an attack, and the objectives were gained within a few hours, large numbers of prisoners being taken.

Rome received the information from some source that the Austrians were preparing a triple offensive against Italy. This, according to the story, is to consist of a great land attack on the Piave river line, a naval attack on Italy's Adriatic coast and an extensive counter-attack in Albania. The Italian commanders have no doubt of their ability to repulse any or all of these attacks. In Albania their forces, with the French, have kept moving forward and are now in very strong positions. The threat of a serious naval operation by Austria seems most foolish of all.

President Wilson completed his pronouncement of plans for the participation of the United States in the Russian expedition and was awaiting only the reply of Japan to the American proposals. It had been thought Japan had agreed to these, but dispatches from Tokyo told of an exciting controversy over them, two influential groups strongly opposing intervention. Moscow advises said general mobilization of the Russian army—meaning the bolshevik—had begun, but this did not worry the allied statesmen. The plans of the British, Americans and French for the protection of the Murman region against the Germans and Finns are believed to be all settled. The people will be fed and their internal affairs will not be interfered with by the expedition that will be sent.

General Horvath, provisional ruler of Siberia, is co-operating with the Czech-Slovaks, and matters look more promising in that country. Conditions in the Ukraine grow more unsettled daily, and now the Germans and Austrians are called on to face a great uprising in Roumania, where the people are disgusted with the peace with the central powers and with the treatment they are receiving. Probably half a million Teutonic troops are tied up in these two countries, which helps some.

The Atlantic seaboard was amazed rather than alarmed by the sudden appearance of a large German submarine close to Cape Cod. The vessel attacked a tug and sank the three stone-laden barges it was towing, using up two torpedoes and a lot of ammunition in this footless operation. Other U-boats bagged bigger game when they sank the British transport Justicia, 32,234 gross tons, off the Irish coast. The transport, which was westward bound after carrying 10,000 American soldiers to Europe, was attacked by a fleet of six or eight submarines and fought them for ten hours. Of her crew of some 600 only ten were killed.

So foolish as scarcely to merit mention is the latest list of German peace terms, which it is said will be offered through Spain. They disown any desire for annexations or indemnities on the west front, but would leave Belgium, the Balkans and the self-determination of peoples for the peace conference to settle; the peace treaties with Roumania and Russia not to be questioned, and all Germany's colonies to be restored. Also the seas are to be free and Gibraltar and the Suez canal defenses dismantled.

The British government is having trouble with the pacifists, who have permeated all the war material factories, and last week caused strikes of thousands of munition workers. The cabinet, decided, it was reported, that if the strike continued the strikers of military age would be drafted immediately into the army.

Finally authentic word of the death of the former czar came out of Russia. He was ordered shot by a local bolshevik official because of counter-revolutionary plots, and his son is said to have died of exposure a few days later.

POLICIES OF THE WAR LABOR BOARD

RIGHT OF UNIONIZED WORKERS TO BARGAIN WITH EMPLOYERS IS UPHELD BY IT.

BETTER CONDITIONS SOUGHT

Great Storage Lumber Depot Opened at Gilmerton, Va.—Conservation of Kerosene Is Urged—Allies' Bombing Planes Now Work in Squadrons.

(From Committee on Public Information.) Washington.—The war labor policies board has made no rulings, it is announced, making it impossible to change rates of wages or working conditions in industry during the standardization of such pay and conditions for war work. The board does not seek to place restrictions on labor, but is striving to better conditions that will make for satisfaction and greater efficiency.

Enunciating its principles the war labor policies board is committed to the right of workers to organize into trade unions and to bargain collectively with their employers; continuation of existing union standards with the right of the workers to obtain better conditions, wages and hours under decisions of the national war labor board; equal pay for equal work, whether performed by men or by women; recognition of the basic eight-hour day where a law requires it but settlement of all questions of hours of work with due regard to government necessities and the welfare of the workers; maintenance of the maximum of production; due regard for labor standards, wages and other conditions in particular localities; the right of all workers to a living wage, insuring health and reasonable comforts.

Felix Frankfurter, chairman of the war labor policies board, makes this further explanation of the resolution of the board setting forth its principles: "Inasmuch as wage stability was recognized as the essential need by labor and by the government the purpose of the resolution was to prevent changes in the standards which had been created either through an adjustment board such as the labor wage adjustment board of the emergency fleet corporation, or the arsenal and navy yard standards, or the standards which govern the cantonment adjustment board, but under no circumstances was it intended to prevent the lifting of wage scales in specific instances up to the standards."

There were no aerial bombing organizations in the allied flying corps during the first year of the war. Practically all the work in the air was in the nature of observation. No pilots could be spared for anything else. Today probably 25 per cent of the aerial arms are bombing squadrons of 12 machines per squadron.

The first bombing was done by volunteer pilots who flew over the German lines and dropped three or four bombs, made from artillery shells, on concentration camps and cantonments. Showers of small steel arrows were spilled sometimes on convoys, troop trains and bodies of massed men. The Germans began day bombing of cities in 1915, and the allies bombarded Karlsruhe in reprisal later in the same year. Since then evolution in organized bombing developed rapidly and the French began night bombing, but this was not undertaken by the Germans until August, 1916.

At the present time large groups, including several squadrons of bombing machines, go over the lines from time to time and completely destroy their objective, be it a city or a camp, a column of troops or a trench system. Unfortunately the allies' air forces have to travel for many miles over hostile territory defended by anti-aircraft guns to attack German activities, while the enemy can attack French cities by flying only a short distance beyond the allied lines.

The allies are developing large bombing planes which carry sufficient fuel for long excursions and armament to protect them when they are attacked by fighting airplanes. Bombing squadrons are escorted usually over the lines by fast fighting squadrons of 18 planes to a squadron, and then left to their own devices, for the fighters seldom carry sufficient fuel to permit them to accompany the bombers on the round trip.

The dropping of the bomb is similar to shooting a rifle. First you set your sights and wind gauge, you hold the rifle properly, and finally you pull the trigger at the proper moment. If your ammunition is standard your sights correct, you hit the target. So with bombing, if you set your sights correctly, fly your plane correctly over the objective and drop the bomb at the proper time you will hit the target. If the ammunition manufacturers gave you good bombs the objective will be destroyed.

The United States will be short of potash next year. Estimates for 1918 show an available supply of about 500,000 tons of potash salts, or only about half of the normal imports before the war. Commercial fertilizer concerns must bear the brunt of the shortage.

The army needs straw, says the bureau of markets, department of agriculture. Farmers are urged to bale the straw immediately after thrashing, and the bureau of markets will help to market it if asked.

The need of platinum in war industries and in the sciences is explained by Dr. Charles L. Parsons, chief chemist, bureau of mines, department of the interior, in an argument for discontinuance of the use of platinum in jewelry.

"The war cannot be won without platinum," says Doctor Parsons, "and it is equally essential in times of peace if our country is to excel Germany in the development of chemical science and industry. With the aid of platinum from one ordinary wedding ring about 100 pounds of nitric acid can be made every 24 hours. This 100 pounds of nitric acid converted into high explosives will send a number of three-inch shells against the Germans and help to bring the boys back home.

"Platinum rings, pins, cigarette cases, and mesh bags are not factors in winning this war—explosives are. I wonder if the purchasers and wearers of platinum jewelry know that explosives cannot be manufactured without the use of sulphuric and nitric acids; that the manufacture of these acids requires the use of supplies of platinum; that airplanes must have platinum for important instruments they need; that platinum is absolutely necessary in the manufacture of special pyrometers; that pyrometers are necessary in all steel treatments; and that no guns can be made without the use of pyrometers.

"There is a shortage in the supply of platinum. Russia has a corner on the world's supply, and Germany is in Russia. Our domestic production of platinum is negligible, while our military requirements are increasing at a rapid rate."

Many housewives have learned from sad experiences in loss of perishable foods that next to the ice is not the coldest place in the home refrigerator. To the housewife who has not had this experience the food administration gives this advice:

"Many put their butter and milk right next to the ice because they think this is the coldest place, but as a matter of fact, the coldest place is at the bottom of the refrigerator. Hot air rises and air that is not being constantly purified by circulation around the blocks of ice soon is unfit to come into contact with the food. When the warm air in the refrigerator rises it carries with it impurities and moisture which are absorbed from the surface of the food and which if allowed to remain in the air spoil the food. The air which is warmed by passing over the food comes in contact with the ice, where the moisture is condensed upon the surface and the impurities are carried off by the melting ice. The air is thus dried, cooled and purified. The cooled air immediately descends to gather up more moisture and impurities and thus the process is repeated continually.

"It is advisable to allow heated food to cool off before placing it in the refrigerator. If put in when warm it raises the temperature of the refrigerator higher than it should go and melts ice unnecessarily. The trapdoor at the bottom of the refrigerator should be kept in place, because if it is broken or lost a constant stream of warm air is allowed to flow into the refrigerator."

The war department has opened a great storage lumber depot at Gilmerton, Va., to meet emergency demands of the army for lumber. Through its operation it is estimated that a yearly saving of approximately \$250,000 will be effected.

Whenever army constructors in the past were required to buy additional lumber the purchases were made at yards in the immediate vicinity. The average increase in price for this material over the lumber originally purchased for the job would run from \$9 to \$12 per 1,000 feet. By purchasing in large quantities and charging only for yard maintenance the greater part of this excess price is expected to be saved to the government.

A stock of from twelve to fifteen million feet of lumber will be carried, and it is estimated that the yearly turnover will amount to between fifty and sixty million feet. A fund of \$500,000 has been set aside by the war department for use by the construction division of the army as necessary working capital for the yard.

The supply of kerosene will run short next winter and the government is urging every user to do his part toward making every gallon to do full war duty by giving forth its full measure of light and heat. Saving can be accomplished, it is said, only if care is given lamps, lanterns, heaters and stoves.

The director of oil conservation of the United States fuel administration issues these rules for fuel-oil saving: Keep all lamps and lanterns clean. Let the light out; don't confine it behind smoked and dirty chimneys. See that burners and wicks of all oil-burning devices are clean. Clean burners require less oil and give better lights.

Don't allow a lamp, lantern, heater or stove to burn a minute longer than is necessary. Don't light one you can do without.

Don't use coal oil for cleaning purposes. Hot water will do the work.

Girls are helping in airplane production by splicing cables and in other ways, according to H. E. Miles, chairman of the section for industrial training for war emergency of the council of national defense.

Secretary Daniels has commended H. E. Allen, chief machinist's mate, and Harry Koppel and William H. Kane, seamen, United States naval reserve forces, for rescuing from drowning Assistant Lighthouse Keeper Austin Foss on June 16.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ITEMS

Pottsville.—Emanuel Lillenthal, a business man of this city, was jerked from the platform of a trolley car at Newkirk and as the car was on a bridge, he fell a distance of sixty-five feet, breaking his neck. The accident was caused by a jolt of the car. Lillenthal is in a dying condition at the local hospital.

Altoona.—Unable to get a sufficient number of unmarried women to fill all vacancies, Blair county school boards are abrogating the old rule which forbids the employment of married women as teachers. Many pedagogues have become railroad clerks at better pay and work all the year round.

Elysburg.—Wesley E. Cook, tax collector and band leader here, left for camp Lee, Va., having been drafted for service. Cook is the second tax collector in Northumberland county to have been included in the draft. Thomas Howells, of Coal township, having been called into service weeks ago.

Harrisburg.—Seward E. Button, state chief of mines, left for Pittsburgh, and will spend the next week in the bituminous mining region, where he will discuss the situation with operators and miners.

New Castle.—Sergeant Nathaniel McConahy, of Ellwood City, who had the distinction of being Lawrence county's first enlisted man following the declaration of war upon Germany, is dead in France, according to official notice by his brother Kenneth.

Indiana.—Mrs. Nellie Mihloski, aged thirty, of Lucinsboro, is in the county jail on a charge of murder, following the death of her six-weeks-old daughter. It is alleged that while in an intoxicated condition the woman beat the child to keep it quiet.

Manch Chunk.—The Lehigh Valley Railroad company has made the announcement that the trainmen will get their back wages for February probably on July 30, when they will be given their regular wages for the first two weeks in July. It is expected that the other employes will get their January bonus also on July 30.

Lehighton.—Mrs. Wendell D. Schwartz, whose husband is a member of the firm of Komerer & Schwartz, and who joined the United States army, has taken her husband's place with the firm. Besides, she is also serving as stenographer and bookkeeper and expects to remain until his return.

New Castle.—H. J. Cavill, formerly of this city, and a close relative to Edith Cavill, martyred English nurse, has enlisted in the Canadian army. He served three years in the American army. Mrs. George E. Leiberger, of this sister, is a sister.

New Castle.—Three merchants here paid \$50 each to the Red Cross as a result of selling sugar at ten cents per pound after the price was fixed at nine cents. The county food administrator, John A. McKee, hunted down the violators.

New Castle.—Albert, ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Casper Lee, of Newport, near this city, was drowned in the Beaver river. Companions flagged a freight train and secured assistance, but when the body was recovered life was extinct.

Johnstown.—Earl Duke, of Portage, son of a minister of that town, was killed when he fell into a steel hopper while coal was being emptied into a car from a large chute. He was crushed.

Monongahela.—John Marrooney, aged ten, was shot and probably fatally wounded at a carnival in Ellsworth. He was taken to Mercy hospital, Pittsburgh. A carnival employee known as "Bill," was handling a revolver when it was accidentally discharged, the bullet lodging in the boy's breast.

Washington.—Frank Longo, aged forty-five, and Michael Oschner, aged forty, employed at the Montour mine No. 4 of the Pittsburgh Coal company, were killed by a fall of slate.

Burgettstown.—Ennis Crawford, wanted for the murder of William Hawkins at a dance, here on April 16 last, has been arrested in East St. Louis, Ill. Corporal A. F. Vautrechy, of the state police, is arranging for extradition papers to bring Crawford back to this county.

Greensburg.—John Check, of Wilpen, a mining town near Ligonier, was committed to jail charged with disloyalty and disorderly conduct. He is said to have made remarks of an unpatriotic character to Mike Perosky, a naturalized Austrian, who is a draftsman.

New Castle.—Insects known as aphids are attacking the potato crop in this section and doing immense damage. Many plants are already killed. It is the first time this pest has ever made its appearance in Lawrence county.

Bowmansburg.—The Bowman Silk mill here is being remodeled and enlarged and additional machinery installed.

Sellersville.—Jonas Daub shot an eight-and-a-half-pound ground hog several miles from his home.

Springtown.—Charged with failing to report a measles case, Dr. S. Stoumen has been arrested on information furnished by Health Officer Cyrus Nagel, of Quakertown.

Perkasie.—Deer have become so tame in the Rock Hill section that they approach within a few feet of passing trains.