Abandon Trench South of Gaurettes Woods, East of Hill 304

FOG HELPS GERMANS

Nivelle's Troops Retire to Chattancourt Station, but Regain Line

PARIS, May 31.-French troops were compelled to evacuate a first-line trench south of Caurettes woods, east of Hill 304 and to retire south of Cumieres village, in the direction of Chattancourt station, under most violent German attacks, the War Office announced today. By a counter-attack last night, General Nivelle's troops regained the lost ground south of Cumieres. Throughout yesterday the most violent battle yet fought on the northwestern front of Verdun continued without cessation. The

fall and was continuing early today.

Hetween the Meuse and Dead Man's Hillthe Germans launched attack after attack
on a two and one-half mile front. German divisions charged forward in powerful strokes against French works east of Dead Man's Hill and against the positions still held by the French in the southern part of

struggie grew more furious toward night

These attacks, for the most part, were completely repulsed, the French time and again heating back German assaults, until the front was literally covered with dead and wounded.

The Germans, meanwhile treated the French positions to a terrific artillery fire. A first line trench south of Caurettes woods was completely levelled by the German first and was of necessity abandoned.

South of Cumieres village, the German

attack became so violent that the French relinquished their hold on the works west of the Meuse and fell back along the railway leading to Chattaneourt station, half a mile east of Chattaneourt village. In the action around Chattaneourt the

German troops were able to advance with-out being seen by the French observers. Under the cover of thick atmosphere the Germans made their way along the Chat-toncourt-Avoccourt highway from its junc-tion with the road which parallels the left bank of the Meuse. French guns were kept playing upon the road and the Germans suf-fered heavily, but their numbers were reintorced and they were sent forward despite the toll taken by French shells. The German advance guard reached the

Chattaneourt station in the fog before their presence was known. The French forces immediately made a counter-assault. The fighting continued along the railway throughout the afternoon. In the evening a brillinta counter-attack drove the Germans back to their former positions near the village. One German detachment which had managed to reach the Meuse was completely annihilated by French fire.

The text of the official comunique fol

On the left bank of the Meuse a bloody conflict was fought yesterday and during the night between Dead Man's Hill and the Meuse. The enemy, following a bombagdment of unusual violence, which lasted two days, launch-ed concentrated and repeated attacks with very large forces against our trenches east of Dead Man's Hill and on both sides of the village of Cu-mieres. Our troops resisted bravely

who suffered very great losses.

However, in the region south of Caurettes wood we evacuated our first line trench, which had been destroyed by the bombardment. South of Cumertes German, attacks discreted on mieres, German attacks directed on both sides of the village succeeded at first in rolling us back in the direction of Chattancourt station, but a sharp counter-attack enabled us to drive the enemy back to the outskirts

of the village. Some German forces, which under cover of a fog had crept along the Meuse as far as the height of Chattancourt station, were completely annihi-lated by our fire.

On the right bank there was an

Intermittent artillery duel.

In upper Alsace the enemy, after an intense hombardment with artillery, attacked our positions for about 1200 metres east of Seppoys and gained a foothold in some trench elements. He was thrown back immediately by our countries track

Austria Raises \$1,500,000,000 BERLIN. May 31.—Subscriptions to the new Austro-Hungarian war loans total nearly 6,000,000,000 crowns (\$1,500,000.-

THE WEATHER

Official Forecast WASHINGTON, May 31. For eastern Pennsylvania-Fair tonight,

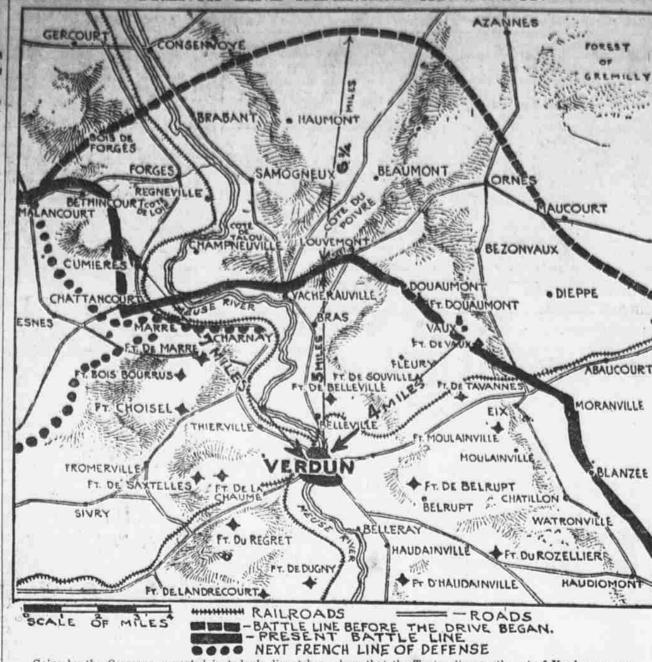
cooler in east portion; Thursday fair; mod-erate north and northeast winds. Showers covered the Atlantic States yes Showers covered the Atlantic States yes-terday, followed by clearing and cooler last night, and the disturbance is passing out of the field of observation this morning. Fair weather and generally clear skies are reported throughout the eastern half of the country. Unsettled weather with light showers and thunderstorms prevails in the Missouri basin, and the temperatures have rises slightly at most places in the Plains risen slightly at most places in the Plains States. There is a slight temperature de-ficiency in the Lake region and the Ohio basin and conditions are mostly season

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin



1 There are the Moon souther 11:30 a. m. DAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES. BAYERE AT BACH MOUR

FRENCH LINE IMPERILED AT VERDUN



Gains by the Germans, reported in today's dispatches, show that the Teuton line northwest of Verdun now extends from Bethincourt to Cumieres, the Germans having occupied the road between these two points. Should the French be driven entirely from Le Mort Homme (Dead Man's Hill) and Hill 304 to their Charnay Ridge positions, the extent of their next line of defense on the west bank of the Meuse would be as indicated by the dotted line. The retirement of the French would leave in the possession of the Germans the triangle roughly marked by Bethincourt, Esnes and Chattancourt, thus enabling the Kaiser to mount his heavy siege guns on the high elevations and pour a terrific shower of shells upon the forts below.

SITUATION AT VERDUN AS SEEN FROM NEWS OF LAST 24 HOURS

With the concentration of new Teuton forces at Verdun for what Paris military critics believe is to be the supreme attack on the French positions northwest of the stronghold, the situation is approaching a climax which may decide the greatest battle in the history of the world. Dispatches received Dispatches received from the Verdun front yesterday and today indicate the following:
The advance of the Germans between Dead Man's Hill and Cumieres

the admitted abandonment by the French of the Bethincourt-Cumieres road have greatly increased the prospects of the Crown Prince to outflank Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304 and push a drive down the Bethincourt-Chattan-

Despite the veil which the French consorship seems to have thrown for the time being around the operations on the west bank of the Meuse, it is becoming rapidly clear that the hold of the French on Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304 is extremely precarious.

Should the Germans finally succeed in gaining possession of the two heights, the French would be forced to retire to their Charnay Ridge positions, supported by a line of powerful forts, chief of which are Fort De Marre, Fort Bourrus and Fort Choisel. Here the French would find themselves on their most favorable line of defense, while the Germans would be con-fronted by barriers more formidable than those they have had to face on the Vaux-Douaumont line, three miles northeast of Verdun, where they have made virtually no advance since the fall of Fort Douaumont, its recent recapture by the French and subsequent regaining by the Teutons.

Military critics say that infantry attacks against the Charnay Ridge line of forts and positions would be nothing short of insanity. The guns which leveled Antwerp and Novo-Georgievsk may or may not disprove this

CARRANZA DEMANDS ARMY WITHDRAWAL

border have notified their people there will be hostilities within the next few weeks.

The report grows out of the demand that all Mexicans in the United States register at the consulates. In El Paso and other border towns those who failed to comply with the proclamation have been listed and are being visited by representatives of the Carranza Government. They are being told. t is declared, war is unavoidable and it is their duty to register.

The American military authorities are greatly exercised over the activities of the Carranga Consuls, which they call political

U. S. NEGRO TROOPER TELLS TALE OF CAPTURE IN MEXICO

EL PASO, May 31 .- Hands and feet tied while he was asleep about 500 yards from the camp of the 10th Cavalry, below the base of the punitive expedition at Namibase of the punitive expedition at Nami-quipa, Corporal Joe Peters was taken to a camp of Carranza troops a week ago, but excaped, according to his own story to Gen-eral Bell today. Peters was found by guards at Santa Fe bridge shortly after he had crossed from Mexico. He said he es-caped from a detachment of Carranza troops at Villa Ahumada, 75 miles below Juarez, and made his way to Juarez.

The troper was attired in a pair of blue

The troper was attired in a pair of blue overalls and a huge Mexican sombrero. He had been allowed by the Mexicans to keep his Government shoes and through these he was identified.

Peters told General Bell that he was captured about a week ago by the Mexicans and was held a prisoner during that length of time. His first intimation of capture was on awaking and finding that his feet and hands had been tied and that he feet and hands had been tied and that he was surrounded by Mexicans. He was then taken to the camp of Carranza troops,

taken to the camp of Carrana troops, he did not know where until he arrived at Villa Ahumada, where due to the laxity of his guards, he escaped.

He arrived in Juarsa Tuesday morning and managed to make his way to the American side of the river.

The negro trooper said he had been in swimming and had come out to rest on the bank and was salden when made a pris-

He said he had \$400 on his person when taken prisoner. He had \$200 when he gave himself up on this side of the

Until his story is thoroughly investigated o credit his story or to believe that he is

GAVIRA OFF FOR CONFERENCE

WITH PERSHING IN MEXICO EL PASO, Tex., May \$1.—General Ga-briel Gavira, commander of the Mexican troops in Chibushua, left today for Casas Grandes to hold a conference with Brigadier General John J. Pershing, commander of the United States soldlers in Mexico, relative to the disposition of patrols on the

Members of General Gavira's staff in Juarez said that the conference was solely for the purpose of working out a plan to prevent misunderstanding between the two

More complete plans for the running down of Francisco Villa and his bandits grow out of the conference, it was

Precautions were taken to safeguard the aves of the Gavira party and to prevent their capture by bandits. A special train was sent ahead of the train bearing Gavira

o test the railroad. General Pershing is reported to be on his way from Namaquipa to Casas Grandes, but it is not positive whether the confer ence will take place in Casas Grandes or in Colonia Dublan.

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IRISH TRUCE ARRANGED BY DAVID LLOYD-GEORGE

Continued from Page One

Hardinge, chairman of the Royal Commission investigating the Irish revolution, stated that the War Office abstained from sending troops to Ireland on advice of Augustine Birrell, former Secretary for Ireand in the English Cabinet.

This declaration is a contradiction of the statement made upon the witness stand by Mr. Birrell. The ex-Secretary of Ireland had stated that he sought to have troops sent to Dublin, fearing trouble from the Sinn Feiners, but that the War Office disregarded his plea.
Viscount French's letter was read when

he inquiry into the Sinn Fein revolt was resumed today. Testimony was also given by Lord Wimborne, former Lord Lieuten-ant of Ireland, who was called to the stand, After Lord Wimborne had testified the in-quiry adjourned sine die. Viscount French's letter, dated May 30.

viscount French's letter, dated May 30, stated that early in February the writer had discussed the Irish situation with General Friend, commander-in-chief of the British troops in Ireland previous to the revolt. At that time, said Viscount French, Mr. Birrell said he did not fear an outbreak on the part of the Irish people, but was apprehensive that there might be out-rages with dynamite or other means. After interview, the letter continued, Mr. Birrell wrote to the War Office stating tha there was no immediate necessity for send-ing troops to Ireland. The War Office

agreed with this view. On March 23, Viscount French said, Mr. Birrell advised that, in order to stimulate recruiting throughout Ireland, camps should be established which would be visited by Lord Wimborne and possibly by King George. At that time Mr. Birrell suggested that it might help the recruiting situation if more troops were sent to Ireland. He nought that the sight of the troops in toe streets would possibly arouse Irish enthus-

After the reading of the French letter Lord Wimborne was recalled. He had previously testified that he was a mere figurehead, having no real authority. He amplified this statement by saying that this condition of affairs was largely the result of precedent.

AUSTRIANS GAIN HEIGHTS IN DRIVE AGAINST ARSIERO

Vienna Claims Capture of Armored Work and Hill on Posina

DEFENDERS THREATENED

Austro-Hungarian troops are surrounding the Italian city of Arsiero, it is indicated by an official statement issued by the War Office today. According to this report the Austro-Hungarians to the west of Arstero orced a passage of Posina River, occupying heights on the southern side of the stream. Italian counter-attacks were repulsed.

Following is the text of the official report Southwest front-An Italian work in the region of Punta Cordin was conquered by us on Tuesday. West of Arsiero our troops forced a passage of the Posina torrent and took the heights on the southern bank, Four

riolent Italian attacks against our po

ROME ANNOUNCES AUSTRIAN ATTACKS REPULSED ON POSINA

ROME, May \$1.—The Austrians have resumed the offensive in the Posina zone and along the upper Astico in the southern Tyrol. They attacked the Italian positions south of the Posina after violent artillery preparation, but according to last night's official statement from the War Office were unable to dislodge the defenders. The text

of the official statement is as follows:

The situation is generally unchanged along the whole front with the exception of the Posina zone and the upper Astico, where there has been a renewal of the enemy offensive.

In the Lagarina Valley and in the

Pasubio sector there has been an in-tense artillery duel and great activity. Enemy convoys were disturbed by our

South of Posina the enemy, following a violent artillery preparation, attacked in the direction of Soglia di Campiglia and Mount Priafora. After desperate struggle our troops retain

hese positions.
On the Asiago plateau and in the Sugana Valley, reconnoitring detach-ments have been active. Enemy ar-tillery has begun the bombardment of Ospedaletto, in the Sugana Valley.
In the Tofana zone we repulsed a small infantry attack.

On the northern slopes of Monte San Michele we exploded a powerful mine, breaching a considerable extent of enemy trenches.

DEMANDS HUGHES TELL STAND ON U.S. DEFENSE

George von L. Meyer Says Republicans Cannot Accept Candidate on Faith

NEW YORK, May \$1. - Former officertary of the Navy George von L. Meyer, chairman of the Republican Roosevell Committee, before leaving for Chicago issued a statement calling upon Justice Hughes' supporters to say how their candidate stood on the preparedness lagr and the rights of this country on the high seas and the Mexican border.

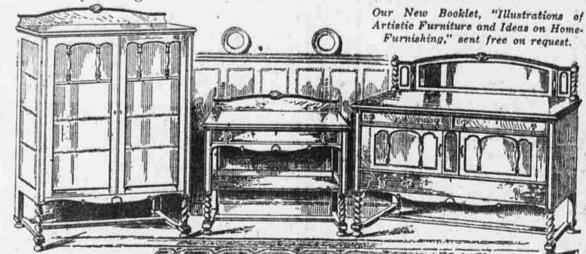
"Those of us who feel deeply on the question of a firm assertion of our Americanism both at home and abroad de not feel that any candidate can be taken en faith at such a time." he said,

Mr. Meyer referred to Chairman Tannar, of the New York Republican State Committee,, as the real leader of the Hughes boom, and asserted that upon the issues of the campaign he "apparently is as slient as his candidate."

Mr. Meyer declared he had been comb at. Aleyer declared he had been coming to the "conclusion that Justice Hugher candidacy without his consent has been espoused by some Republicans who do not favor a strong position either by the party or by the country on the issue of preparedness and our rights on the high seas and on our border."

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