

FRENCH FORCED TO GIVE GROUND EAST OF MEUSE

Abandon Trench South of Caurettes 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.

These attacks, for the most part, were completely repulsed, the French time and again beating 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 leveled by the German fire 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 Chattancourt station, half a mile east of Chattancourt village.

In the action around Chattancourt the German troops were able to advance without being seen by the French observers.

Under the cover of thick atmosphere the Germans made their way along the Chattancourt-Avocourt highway from its junction with the road which parallels the left bank of the Meuse. French guns were kept playing upon the road and the Germans suffered heavily, but their numbers were re-estimated and they were sent forward despite the toll taken by French shells.

The German advance guard reached the Chattancourt station in the fog before their presence was known. The French forces immediately made a counter-attack. The fighting continued along the railway throughout the afternoon. In the evening a brilliant 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 communique follows: 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 bombardment of unusual violence, which lasted two days, launched a counter-attack against our trenches east of Dead Man's Hill and on both sides of the village of Cumieres. Our troops resisted bravely everywhere, and repulsed the enemy, 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 Cumieres, 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 annihilated by our fire.

On the right bank there was an intermittent artillery duel. In upper Alsace the enemy, after an intense bombardment with our tanks, attacked our positions for about 1200 metres east of Seppois and gained a foothold in some trench elements. He was thrown back immediately by our counter-attack.

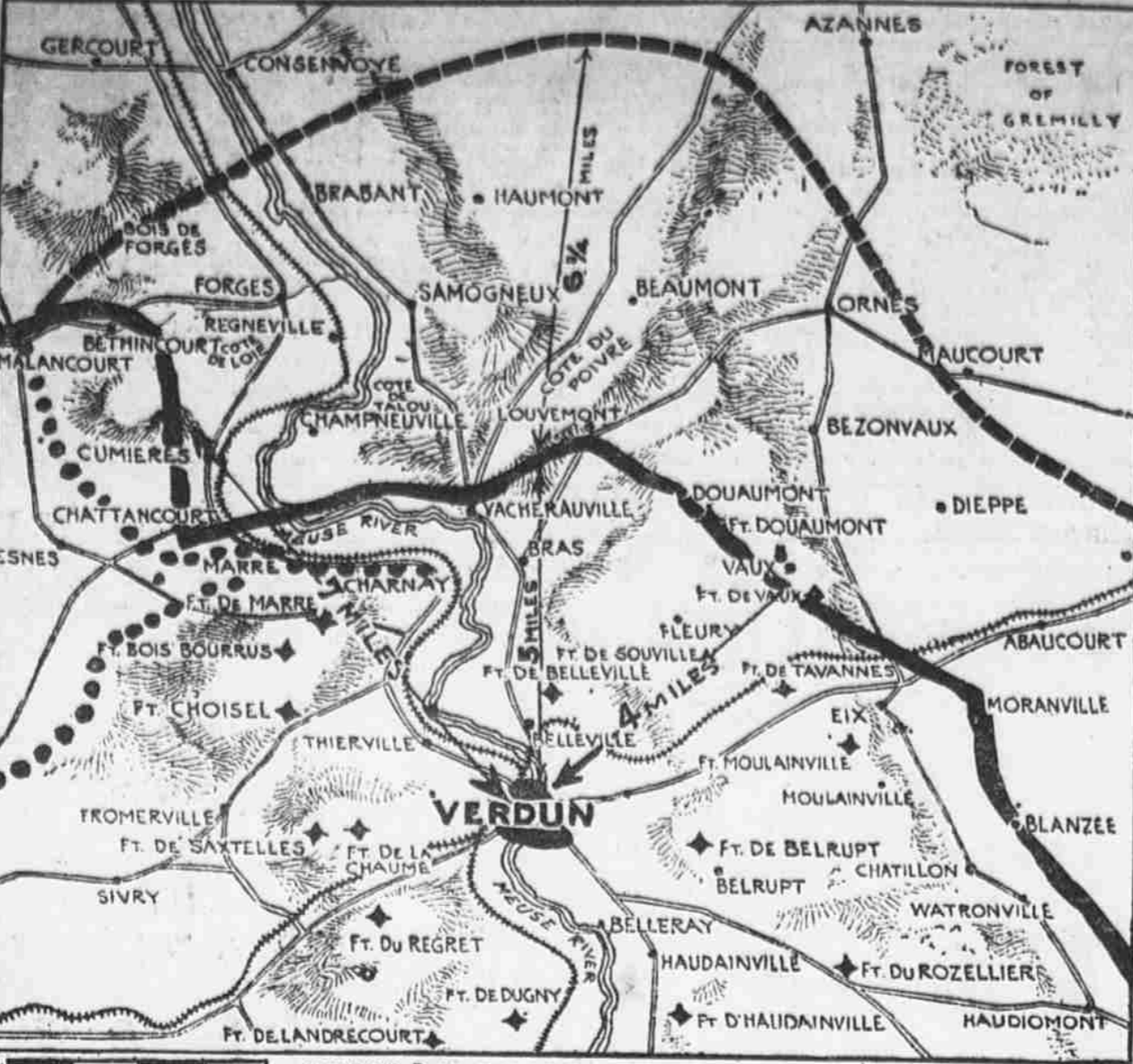
Austria Raises \$1,500,000,000 BERLIN, May 31.—Subscriptions to the new Austro-Hungarian war loans total nearly \$1,500,000,000 crowns (\$1,500,000,000).

THE WEATHER

Official Forecast WASHINGTON, May 31. For eastern Pennsylvania—Fair tonight, cooler in east portion; Thursday fair; moderate north and northeast winds.

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin Observations taken at 8 a. m., Eastern time.

FRENCH LINE IMPERILED AT VERDUN



SCALE OF MILES. RAILROADS, ROADS, BATTLE LINE BEFORE THE DRIVE BEGAN, PRESENT BATTLE LINE, NEXT FRENCH LINE OF DEFENSE.

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.

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.

The advance of the Germans between Dead Man's Hill and Cumieres and 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-Chattancourt highway.

Despite the veil which the French censorship 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 confronted by barriers more formidable than those they have had to face on the Vaux-Doaumont line, three miles northeast of Verdun, where they have made virtually no advance since the fall of Douaumont, its recent recapture by the French and subsequent retaking 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 statement.

CARRANZA DEMANDS ARMY WITHDRAWAL

Continued from Page One 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 consulate. In El Paso another border town 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, it is declared, war is unavoidable and it is their duty to register.

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 Nami-quipa, Corporal Joe Peters was taken to a camp of Carranza troops a week ago, but escaped, according to his own story to General Bell today. Peters was found by guards at Santa Fe bridge shortly after he had crossed from Mexico. He said he escaped from a detachment of Carranza troops at Villa Ahumada, 75 miles below Juarez, and made his way to Juarez.

The trooper 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 a waking and finding that his feet and hands had been tied and that he was surrounded by Mexicans. He was then taken to the camp of Carranza 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 Juarez 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 asleep when made a prisoner.

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AUSTRIANS GAIN HEIGHTS IN DRIVE AGAINST ARSIERO

Vienna Claims Capture of Armored Work and Hill on Posina

DEFENDERS THREATENED

VIENNA, May 31. 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 Arsiero forced 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 Corchin 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 violent Italian attacks against our positions south of Bistacce were repulsed.

ROME ANNOUNCES AUSTRIAN ATTACKS REPULSED ON POSINA

ROME, May 31.—The Austrians have resumed the offensive in the Posina zone and along the upper Astico in the southern Tyrol. They attack at 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.

On the Asiago plateau and in the Sugana Valley, reconnoitering detachments have been active. Enemy artillery 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.

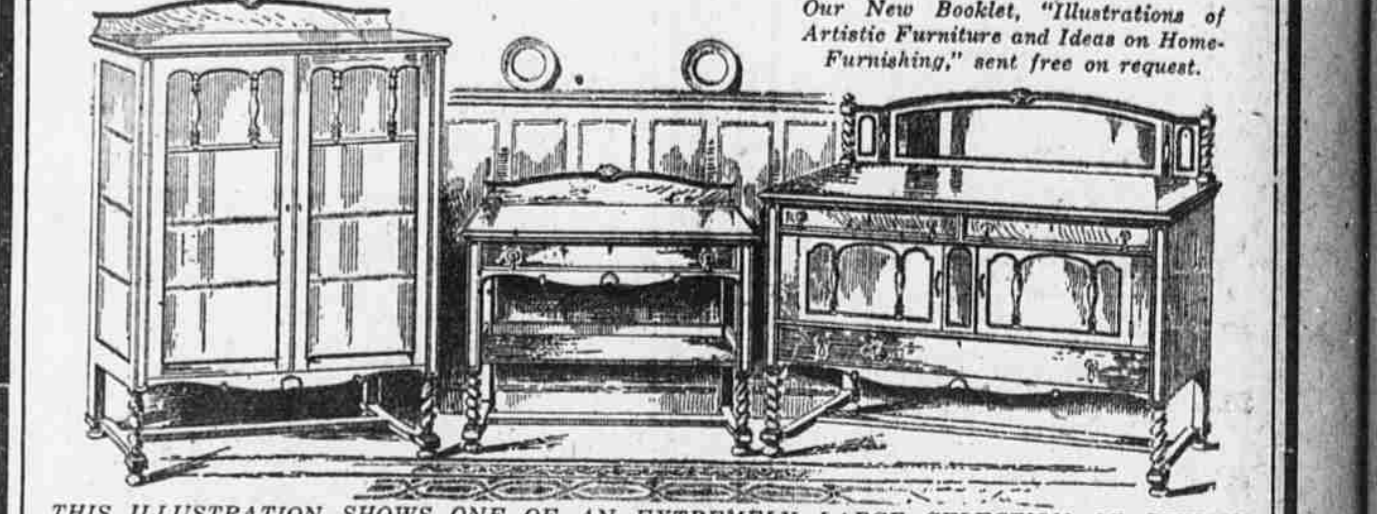
DEMANDS HUGHES TELL STAND ON U. S. DEFENSE

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

NEW YORK, May 31.—Former secretary of the Navy George von L. Meyer, chairman of the Republican Roosevelt Committee, before leaving for Chicago issued a statement calling upon Justice Hughes' supporters to say how their candidate stood on the preparedness issue and the rights of this country on the high seas and the Mexican border.

Mr. Meyer declared he had been coming to the "conclusion that Justice Hughes' 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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OLATHA PRAIRIE GRASS RUGS. The Shaliki—plain color shaliki ground, Jacquard border in chintz and pastel colorings. The Bills Colonial in the hit and miss effect, and the Old Tyme Colonial of cretonne; also in plain colors.

EMPIRE CAR Breaks World's Record

On Tuesday, May 23, 1916, an Empire Stock Car, selling for \$960, reached the City Hall, in New York City, from San Francisco, Cal., without deducting 19 hours spent by the driver in sleep and 11 hours lost by three accidents and one arrest for speeding, the actual time for the trip of 3484 miles was

6 Days-10 Hours-59 Minutes

No other car at any price has ever equaled this sensational Empire feat. Over mountain ranges, thru desert sands and on the treacherous rain-swept roads the Empire maintained a remarkable average, beating the best previous transcontinental record nearly 25 hours, with never a stop for repairs except due to collision.

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The car that made this wonderful record and an interesting set of photographs of the car at various points en route are on exhibition at our showrooms.

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