FREE FRANCE lenburg at Last Meets latch in Terrific Drive of Allies

JTON STRATEGY FAILED

of Crippling Entente Of-**Iensive** by Retreat Proved Futile

By HENRY WOOD

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE

FIELD, April 18. Il of Germany's hold on France is men today by the world's most titanic

It is a struggle between von Hindenburg the master strategists of the Francoah staffs on a battle scale undreamed before

France's part in this greatest of all rives was preceded by the greatest bomdment in its history. The artillery roar man Friday. Millions of hhells are hurled er the lines daily. The French marksship is so deadly that the first German oners caught in the anfantry sweep word declared that of their companies of French Tearing Foe's men the average that survived was only

sudden Franco-British drive shatlared Germany's hopes to avoid a spring sive by retreat.

The French onslaught now gathering its reatest momentum, combined with adances begun by the British, makes a conbattle line from Dixmude to The battle is on a front 100 miles

Today the French advance between Rheims and Solssons menaces the entire German line, coupled with the British atack on St. Quentin and the advance of faig's troops toward Cambral and Lens, France's onslaught is on too gigantic a le over this hundred-mile front to per-any one to visualize the titanic struggle

in its entirety. But from the crest of one hill one could But from the crest of one hill one could be during one stage of the great struggle an incident that strikingly reveals the French strategy no less than the reasons for the Germans' tremendous losses. This one in-cident was France's feat in wreating one of the Germans' strongest defensive posi-tions

position consisted of a village surmounting a precipitous ravine. The bank of this ravine was honeycombed with caves hewn out of solid stone; in treacherously dug quarry excavations and shafts. The ans had stationed their machine guns there—strongly fortified in the rock that Prench artillery could not pierce. From the impregnable quarries below the village the German infantry awaited confidently the expected frontal attack from the

Two columns of French infantry sud-denly began an encircling movement from the right and from the left. Every movement of these forces was visible to the naled eye. The soldiers advanced at al-most a strolling pace along the summit of two converging ridges. Their bodies were clearly silhous.'ed against the sky. Neither a veritable cloud of shraphel, which hung low over their heads, nor high

explosive barrages nor gas shells hindered the slow, measured advance of these forces for a single instant.

Not until these columns simultaneously approached the outskirts of the village did the Germans huden in the quarry—still awaying that frontal attack—realize they

awaiting that frontal attack—realize they had been "out-Hindenburged." Instantly they rushed out their marsine guine in a desperate attempt to cover ' re-ireat. But they were too late. The Frunch converging columns met behind the vil-lage. They cut off all retreat. The Ger-mane did not relish an attempt to cut their way through. They hurriedly returned to the protection of the rock caves. And the French columns, isnoring their existence and leaving their ultimate capture to other troops, swept on to the east from the vil-lage penetrating at every step deeper into

SUL FRONTE ITALIANO Continued from Page One Forse l'Inizio dell'Offensiva del Generale Cadorna non E' As-

Driven Back to Laon

fronte italiana come ora si ha sulla fronte francese. Nel rapporto del generale Ca-dorna pubblicato ieri sera dai Ministero della Guerra e' detto di intensa azione di artiglieria che si e' avuta su parecchi punti della fronte di battaglia. Ecco il testo dei ranporto:

Grip From France

Two hundred and fifty additional prison-

At three separate points the Teutons tried to roll back the French from their

newly won ground, but at no point did they

have captured between 14,000 and 15,000

defeat by the French, is commanded by th Crown Prince, who directed the ill-starred German enterprise at Verdun. It is estimated that the entire losses of the Germans unday on both sides of the Aisne and in Champagne total nearly the strength of an army corps, 40,000 men.

Four million men ate probably engaged in the great Allied offensive. It is the biggest battle for France since the Marne.

No previous conflict has ever seen this rec-

orthis any conflict been marked by such a

"Success achieved by French troops has been more important than the initial an-nouncements indicate." declared the Echo de Paris today, concluding an analysis of the front situation. "The German Crown

Prince has been expecting an offensive. The French had postponed it a number of times because of unfavorable weather. In the

neantime the Crown Prince massed gigan-

meantime the Crown Prince massed gigan-tic reserves to meet the expected blow." Paris believed today a victory overshad-owing that achieved on the Marne is in sight. One of the first fruits of the success so far is of sentimental interest here. Bat-

tle-front dispatches declare the Germans have now been driven from heights about Rheims from which they have been wont

uns. The German army, being beaten

ain. The Germans suffered heavy losses In the past forty-eight hours the French

In the fighting in Champagne around

Continued from Page On

War Office says.

rs were taken

"brilliant.

gain.

prisoners

esto del rapporto: Nella val Lagarina (valle dell'Adige) la nostra artiglieria ha di nuovo bom-bardato la stazione ferroviaria di Col-liano, danneggiandone j'edifizio, met-tendo in fuga treni ed autocarri e disbetween the two towns.

Crown Prince's Army AUMENTATA ATTIVITA'

tendo in fuga treni ed autocarri e dis-perdendo truppe nemiche. Si sono avuti parecchi scontri tra piccoli gruppi di fanteria. I nostri reparti hanno respinto il nemico dap-pertutto e gli hanno preso prigionieri. fucili e munizioni. Nell'alta valle del Travignolo, du-rante un violento temporale, un reparto nemico opero un attacco di sorpresa e riusci'a penetrare in una delle nostre posizioni avanzate ad ovest del Lago Boceto. Esso ne fu pero' prontamente respinto e fu costretto a ritornare alle une inne. The drive which enveloped Villers Guis-lain was from the direction of Epeby. Haig reported, indicating apparently a definite plan to parallel the Cambrai-St. Quentin line by British forces which may at any time strike somewhere along this twenty-two-mile stretch and sever the artery. In the meantime Haig's laconic report. tte linee. Pure con la protezione di una densa "the Lagnicourt position was improved." means a blow struck at the key to the de-fenses of Cambrai from the west.

nebbla un tentativo simile fu fatto connebola un tentativo simile fu fatto con-tro le nostre posizioni al Passe di Son-dogna, ma il nemico fu respinto e sof-ferse perdite gravissime. Sulla fronte Giulia l'attivita' delle artiglierie e' stata plu' intensa del so-lito nella zona di Gorizia. Un aero-

solutamente Lontano

L'attivita' delle forse italiane va aumen-tando in modo da far prevedere non lon-tano l'inisio della vera guerra anche sulla

* ROMA, 18 Aprile.

plano nemico e' stato abbattuto durante un combattimento fra squadriglie al di sopra di Terneva.

Telegrammi da Londra dicono che questa nattina il maresciallo Haig, che comanda Strong German counter-attacks were made in Champagne. All were repulsed, the le forze inglesi in Francia ha attaccato le inee tedesche verso Cambrai ed ha occu-In the region of Ville-au-Bols, says the pato altri due villaggi a circa nove miglia communique, the French captured several fortified positions from the Germans and also a wood. Four hundred German prisona sud del suo oblettivo

Intanto le forze francesi, che hanno ini-ziato una grande offensiva nella regione tra Rheims e Soissons ed hanno sfondato le linee tedesche conquistando importanti posiers were captured in the Braye-en-Laon-nois sector, where the French carried out a i enterprise described by the War Office zioni, continuano a premere fortemente il nemico che fa sforzi disperati ma inutili per arrestare le forze attaccanti. Negli ultimi due giorni i francesi hanno preso 13.500 Farther north, in region of St. Quentin and La Fere, the French made trench raids. Near Laffaux twenty Germans were taken prigionieri, e si dice che intere divisioni di riserva tedesche, che erano state mandate in appoggio a quelle di prima linea, sono

tate distrutte. Tutti sono d'accordo nel ritenere che la battaglia che si combatte orastra i franco inglesi e von Hindenburg e' la più grande battaglia che si sia mai combattuta. Si dice che von Hindenburg aveva ammassato ella regione Solssons-Rheims, in previsione dell'attacco francese, ben diaciannove di-visioni. Ma l'artiglieria francese ha fatto Auberve on Tuesday the French captured upward of twelve cannon, three of heavy caliber; many trench mortars and machine miracoll, ha lanciato milioni e milioni di granate e di shrapnels sulle linee nemiche radendole al suco, sconvolgendole. Alcuni

prigionieri hanne detto che di intere com-pagnie con effettivi di 250 uomini appena ottanta rimanovano iliesi. L'offensiva francese al collega stretta-mente a quella ingless nella sona tra Arras e St. Quentin, ma l'attacco piu' vio-iento el aviluppa ora sulle due ali della linea tedesca tra Lilia e Rheims. In molti punti le posizioni tedesche furono aggirate prima che i tedeschi che attendevano un attacco frontale, se ne accorgessero. E questo fatto spiega le perdite enormi subite alie forze di von Hindenburg, perdite che si fanno ascendere a quasi un centinalo di migliata di uomini.

nigliata di uomini

migliala di uomini. In questi circoli politici si discute viva-camente la proposta di pace separata che Austria e forse anche Germania farebbero alla Russia, pace che dovrebbe essere basata sullo "statu quo ante bellum." sulla atessa situazione territoriale che esisteva prima della guerra. Pero e' opinione gene-rale qui che i tentativi dell'Austria e della Germania di indurre la Russia ad accettare Germania di indurre la Russia ad accessi separatamente la pace non riusciranno ma proveranno anzi la crescente debolezza degli imperi centrali. Le notizie che si hanno da Petrograd sono concordi nell'affermare che coloro che sono alla testa del governo russo non sognano nemmeno iontanamente di tradire gli alieati o di acconsento Ed a questo riguardo i socialisti riformisti italiani hanno ricevuto ample assicurazioni da parte dei loro compagni di Russia.

D. A. R. GREATLY STIRRED BY ROOSEVELT PLEA

Patriotic Response Given to Colonel's Call for Assistance to France

WASHINGTON, April 18.

Patriotism ran high in the congress o the Daughters of the American Revolution here this afternoon in response to an ap peal from Colonel Theodore Roosevelt that "every American woman do her part in paying our debt of honor to France."

"France made possible our victory the war in which our fathers won liberty. Colonel Roosevelt wrote to the congress "They left with us a debt of honor which every American has felt must be repair when the opportunity arose. France it fighting for her existence, and she mus have quick aid ; she needs our help. trust you noble women will rally and d your share."

Long applause greeted the appeal from Colonel Roosevelt, and the congress, by a unanimous vote, offered its co-operation to the American Society for French Relief. the avenue suggested by Colonel Roosevelt as the best way for the D. A. R. to direct their services through. In quick succession there followed reso-lutions commending President Wilson for

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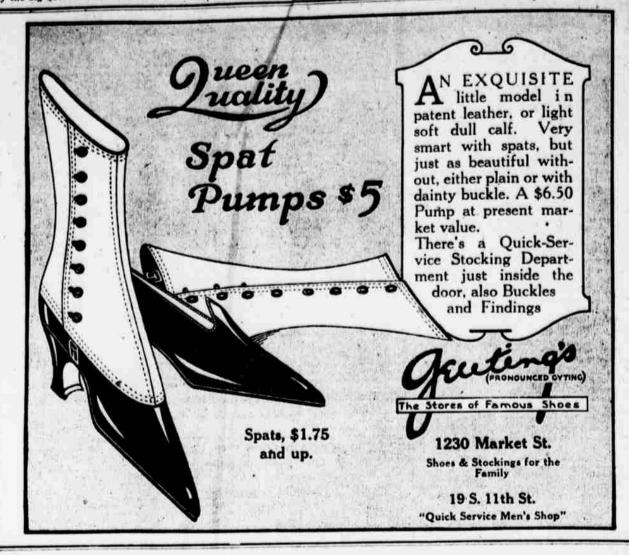
An exquisite piece is a platinum flexible bracelet of tapering effect-two rows of diamonds in square settings, which surround a row of a calibra cut sapphires-\$1500.

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his stillude in the present war crisis and expressing regret that he was unable to attend the congress, as has been his cus-tom. There then followed a resolution in which the body voted to use all its power to secure greater respect to the national anthem, "The Star Spangied Banner." Patriotism was puried for the time being by the big question of the day—the election

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has the administration Miller Horizan whereby the administration votes will be turned over to Mrs. Horton in the even of a deadlock. Balloting began late in the day and pres-Balloting began late in the day and present prospects are that the results of the first vote will not be made known until we into the night.



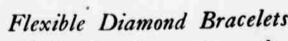
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in the past in pure revenge to deluge that city with shells. Rheims was the revenge spot. If the Germans suffered a defeat anythe German line. step deeper into where, they started a bombardmen Rheims and its Cathedral in reprisal.

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