

GIGANTIC ARMIES LOCKED ON WESTERN FRONT IN DECISIVE BATTLE

GERMANS PRESS TOWARD CRIMEA

Perekop New Objective of Forces That Seized Kherson

BOLSHEVISM GROWING

Japanese, Returned From Harbin to Tokio, Say Tientsin Fear Its Influence

Copenhagen, March 22. German forces that seized the Ukrainian port city of Kherson, are moving in the direction of Perekop, according to an unconfirmed report received here today.

Perekop is on the border of Crimea. It was recently reported that the greater part of the Russian Black Sea fleet took refuge in the Crimean port of Sebastopol, when Odessa was occupied by the Germans.

Tokio, March 22.—That Bolshevism is gaining strength in Russia, but the very gain is likely to cause changes in the political leaders, was the word brought here today from Harbin by Japanese officials. The doctrine of the Bolsheviks, they said, is not being killed, but is inciting enemy prisoners of war who may carry the principles home when they leave Russia.

Germany fears the influence of the Bolsheviks, they declared, and therefore is not making an attempt to drive to the Far East. Germany has no intention of crushing Russia, but is relying on two main aims—the concentration of forces in the west, and the procuring of food in the Ukraine.

These returning officials urged Japanese sympathy for Russia. Reports of Japanese intervention, they declared, have caused ill feelings.

Unarmed prisoners of war were seen all along the Trans-Siberian Railway. A Crown Council to discuss the question of intervention probably will be held next week. It was learned today on good authority. The Mikado will return to Tokio on Monday from the Hayasawa winter palace. It is reported that members of the Cabinet have sent opinions on the matter, although none of them will discuss it for publication. The newspaper Nichinichi states that Great Britain and France have sent a joint note giving full consent to Japanese intervention in Siberia, but this news has received no official confirmation.

STATEMENT BY FRANCIS RENEWS OPTIMISM HERE

Washington, March 22. There is more optimism in Washington just now regarding Russia than for many weeks past. The fact that Ambassador Francis, at Volodga, has followed up President Wilson's telegram to the congress of Soviets with an address to the Russian people assuring them that the United States would be glad to lend its support to any government in Russia that will offer a sincere and organized resistance to the German invasion, indicates to the authorities here that there still must be many helpful signs in the situation.

The great regret of the Administration is that the United States is not in a position to render immediate and effective aid. The task of reconstructing Russia may not be disposed of for generations to come, but Francis said that he and other members of his Administration believe that words of sympathy and encouragement extended at this time may go far to make the task easier for those upon whom the burden is imposed at the moment.

Ambassador Francis' address to the Russian people was made without any consultation with Washington. It nevertheless expresses the views of the Administration, the text, as telegraphed here, being received with much satisfaction.

The War Department knew nothing of Trotsky's request that ten American army officers be detailed to assist him in organizing an army that would be the ever-advancing German forces, but they accepted the press dispatches on the subject.

With each day that Japan delays definite action there is hope in Washington that President Wilson's views opposing Japanese intervention in Siberia will gain sufficient ground possibly to bring some of the European Allies at least partly to his way of thinking. There are evidences of increasing sympathy to the President's attitude in England. France, of course, has comparatively little direct or personal interest in Russia, but would follow any lead suggested from Great Britain.

Arrival of James G. Bailey, a secretary of the American embassy in Petrograd, and thirty-three other Americans at Harbin was reported to the State Department by Ambassador Francis, who also reported the detention of four Americans at Norenburg. Finland, the ambassador said he was trying to obtain permission for them to proceed to Sweden.

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BRITISH HOLD ENTIRE FRONT LINE, DRIVE HUNS OUT OF MANY POINTS

Continued from Page One some points, the soldiers looking like figures from some other world as they wrestled and swayed in the smoke and turmoil, their faces hidden by grotesque gas masks.

There amid the futile glare of the shells and the white fire which spouted from numberless muzzles of machine guns and rifles the British soldiers fought like heroes, upholding the bravest traditions of their army.

The German bombardment which preceded the first of the grand assaults covered slightly more than forty miles of front, but when the infantry rolled forward the fighting zone was lengthened to about fifty miles.

Huge Austrian-Hungarian Skoda guns were used by the Germans in their preliminary bombardment and so terrific was the gunfire that the detonations could be heard one hundred miles away.

This was the first time that Austro-Hungarian artillery had been used on the western front. It was reported that the Germans used tanks, also.

Picked German shock troops were used in the first waves of the assaulting forces, followed up by huge masses of reserves.

The attacks, spread all along the British salient lying between the Scarpe River and Vendeuille, but the strongest pressure was delivered south of Cambrai, where the Germans claim to have made their gains.

This is the extreme southern end of the British front.

England Calm as Wounded Came British wounded began arriving from the front today, but the whole nation remains calm. There is a feeling of the utmost confidence that the British lines will hold, and that the Germans will find themselves in vain against the rock-bound defense of the gallant soldiers of old England.

While the Germans were pounding the British front, they kept up powerful pressure against the French, and the violent bombardments between Rheims and the Meuse River indicated that a general offensive in Champagne was being planned. When the fighting forces are not at grips in their savage struggle the giant guns are thundering night and day.

The offensive did not come as any surprise. It found the British ready, as the French are ready to repay any drive against their lines. Not only had the German offensive been anticipated, but secret information had been received by the Allied War Council as to the very hour of the attack.

The Germans had timed their assault to begin on the first day of spring, and it was carried out according to schedule. The operation was the first formidable offensive movement that the Germans had made on the western front since their drive against Verdun, which opened in February, 1916. That offensive continued until late in the summer, and if the Teutons plan a drive on even a greater scale in the present instance, there is no telling how many weeks and even months this campaign will last.

Germany Has Staked All Germany is evidently staking all upon her western-front offensive, but if the results are no better than those of the first day's fighting it is foredoomed to failure.

Notwithstanding the intensity of the bombardment—the heaviest ever known in history—and the terrific nature of the infantry assaults, Field Marshal Haig reports that the Germans nowhere attained their objectives.

The field-gray hordes were flung forward with the utmost recklessness and with absolutely no regard for human life. They were favored by wind from the east, which carried off the fumes of their poisonous gas shells, and by a smoke screen, which had been projected from their trenches, but even so a storm of machine-gun bullets and shells that they were sent reeling back when they tried to break into the English lines.

There was bloody fighting west of St. Quentin, where the Germans tried to break the British grip on their positions along the Somme River. This struggle was duplicated further north all along the front west of Cambrai, especially on the Arras-Cambrai road. The German losses in these sectors were tremendous.

Hindenburg Commands in Person A dispatch from Amsterdam says that although the army group engaged in the attack against the British between the Scarpe River and Vendeuille, on the western front, is under command of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, it was reported from a German source today that the German operations were really being directed by Von Hindenburg and Von Ludendorff in person.

We have entered the decisive battle for a general peace, is the declaration of the Taeglebe Rundschau, a German newspaper, copies of which were received in Copenhagen today. This single combat between Germany and England will decide our future position in the world.

The scene of the struggle has widened to a general peace, is the declaration of the present war. It was upon this terrain that the British launched their great Somme offensive in the spring of 1916, when the English bombardings attained an intensity unknown up to that time.

It was also in that district that the German retreat occurred in 1917, when the Teutons evacuated more than 1200 square miles of French soil.

It was the scene also of the great Arras offensive and the battle of Cambrai last year, when the German drive forward in a surprise assault, all but capturing the German stronghold of Cambrai. Later the Germans succeeded in withdrawing the greater part of the ground they had lost.

Hindenburg wants to regain these positions, because he fears their menace to Cambrai. Cambrai's jeopardy would be a sufficient reason for a German advance in force. But such an advance would have no objective beyond a defensive one. If that were attained, the advance would stop before determined enemy resistance.

May Prove Hun Slaughterers While thus taking the initiative to defend Cambrai, Von Hindenburg might well desire for sentimental reasons and reasons of morale to win back at the same time the lost part of the Hindenburg line. This line lies but a short distance west of the Cambrai front. Its recovery by the Germans would add very much to Cambrai's defensive strength, besides flustering Von Hindenburg.

It may well turn out, therefore, that considerations of strategy and Von Hindenburg's vanity are forcing the Germans into an engagement that already is proving a slaughter trap for them.

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More Than 600,000 Men Now Locked in Gigantic Struggle

More than half a million men and 10,000 pieces of artillery are engaged in the mighty battle in France, where the Germans launched their offensive against the British over a fifty-mile front, it was estimated today.

These figures, of course, include reserve troops and artillery, as well as those engaged in actual fighting. Counting the active and reserve artilleryists and the aviators, the total number of men taking part is between 600,000 and 700,000.

Since the collapse of Russia and the removal of vast bodies of troops from the eastern to the western front, it has been estimated that the German army in the west now contains probably 3,000,000 men.

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GERMANS TAKE FIRST LINES, SAYS BERLIN

Berlin, (via London), March 22. German troops captured the first line of the Hindenburg line, and everywhere captured their trench lines, in the event of an announced today.

An "intense firing duel" is proceeding between Lafere and Soissons, astride Hielms, in the Champagne region. In Flanders there is strong artillery action.

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AMERICANS AGAIN GO OVER THE TOP

Raid German Trenches and Find Them Deserted by Enemy

COOL UNDER HOT FIRE With the American Army in France, American troops yesterday went over the top in a wooded and fog-shrouded sector for the second time within twelve hours, entering the German second-line trenches. They were accompanied by French units. They found no enemy troops and returned to their lines in twenty-five minutes, after cleaning up the German trenches.

The troops who participated in the raid had withstood the hardest artillery bombardment of any Americans in the west front lines.

They swept forward behind a perfect barrage, passing the first line of German trenches and entering the second. As in several previous raids it was discovered the enemy had found their positions untenable and had withdrawn. The German wire entanglements, trenches and dugouts were completely shattered.

Wednesday night's spectacular artillery following a night raid by the Americans and French. Volunteers were called for and even cooks and teamsters asked to go.

The raiders waited coolly in the trenches while their artillery roared its overture. Then they went over the top and cleaned up the deserted enemy trenches.

An American lieutenant traversed the zone of shell fire for some distance, and picking up a wounded Frenchman brought him in.

A heavy German counter-barrage, including gas, followed the raiders' return. Their machine-guns whipped the American lines. A counter-attack apparently was planned, but it was stopped by our artillery and machine-gun fire.

REICHSTAG COMMITTEE APPROVES PEACE PACT Calls on Government to Get Russian Guarantee for German Financial Terms

Berlin, March 22.—The Reichstag main committee yesterday approved the German-Russian peace and commercial treaties. A resolution calling upon the Government to obtain a guarantee for German financial claims in return for reciprocal action on the part of Germany was adopted.

The committee voted 12 to 10 against a motion of the independent Social Democrats to evacuate the Aaland Islands.

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Children's Shoes, \$1.49 Patent and Dull Leather. Sizes 5 to 8. Sizes 8 1/2 to 11, \$1.79 Sizes 11 1/2 to 2, \$1.98

Children's Snow White Nubuck Shoes Sizes 4 to 8. Sizes 8 1/2 to 11, \$2.45 Sizes 11 1/2 to 2, \$2.69

Children's High Cut White Linen Shoes With white soles and heels. Sizes 5 1/2 to 11. Sizes 11 1/2 to 2, \$2.69

Boys' Kreider Shoes, \$1.69 Sizes 9 to 13 1/2. Sizes 1 to 5 1/2, \$1.98

Boys' Endicott-Jonson Shoes Sizes 9 to 5 1/2, \$2.45

Boys' Co-Co Tan Call Shoes Weited Soles, Sizes 10 to 13 1/2. Sizes 1 to 5, \$3.45

Men's Easter Shoes \$2.45 to \$2.95

Examples and special lots of well-known makers. Over 20 of the most-wanted styles to choose from. Dark Call, Genuine, Patent, etc.

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