

TEUTONS BEATEN BEFORE STARTING

Allies Knew Drive Plans, General Bell Tells Senators

WANTS TO SERVE ABROAD

No "Glutton for Glory," but Believes Experienced Officers Are Needed

Enemy Is Held at All Points, Cables Bliss

Washington, March 29.—"The enemy is being held at all points." Such was the dispatch from General Bliss read to the House Military Committee this morning by General March.

General Bliss's report, read before the weekly Joint War Department-House military conference, indicated the situation, although still grave, is gradually assuming favorable shape for the Allies.

Washington, March 29.—The Senate Military Committee today heard Major General J. Franklin Bell in a sweeping analysis of conditions in France from the great drive to the American expeditionary forces.

That the Allies, by reason of their knowledge of German plans and preparations to meet them, had whipped the Teutons before the west drive began was the declaration of General Bell.

The Allied withdrawal was based, he said, upon complete familiarity with every step of the German preparation for the offensive.

"I knew of the British plans in a general way before I left France," he added. "He told how each side is able not to locate enemy artillery by stationing observers who listen for the sound of guns. Six of these listeners report and their reports are combined with the result that an aerial observer is enabled to fix over a certain position and verify the fact that a gun or battery is located there."

"Then it is easy to force the enemy to move his guns," said General Bell.

Guns Seldom Destroyed "In spite of lavish fire on these positions, the guns themselves are seldom destroyed."

"I can assure you that General Pershing has established schools and is taking advantage of all the latest scientific methods of combating the enemy."

General Bell gave interesting information on the duties and proper ages for officers.

"The British colored in the line is almost as expert as the 'dude,'" he testified. "I have never seen one in the line, although they have been on the staff."

Frequent visits to the trenches and the ability to stand all varieties of weather preclude all but active men of good health from duty abroad, the general said.

"The brigade commander must frequently visit the trenches," he said. "The division commander must visit them from time to time and the supreme commander must see them at least once, although the wise commander-in-chief will frequently appear in the first line to cheer his men."

Wants to Serve in France General Bell then turned to discussion of American officers over sixty. Taking his own case as an example, he said that while he believes no Government can afford to overlook physical vigor in its field officers, he believes the experience of such men as he—has been in the Army forty-four years—would be valuable.

"I was given a searching physical examination this week," said Bell. "Some of my superiors don't agree with me that I am still a pretty good physical specimen. I haven't heard the verdict of the examining board yet. But if I am not permitted to serve in France, I shall continue to think that I might perhaps have rendered more valuable aid there than by serving in this country."

There are only a few of us left who have had actual experience in war. General Pershing ranks fourth in seniority among American generals, while I rank second, but I have started to him and to others that I firmly believe his selection as commander-in-chief was wiser than if I had been sent, and that selection, I believe, was made solely on the ground of age.

Explaining his desire to serve in France despite his sixty-two years, General Bell said: "I am no glutton for glory. But I don't want to spend the rest of my life explaining why I did not serve in France."

General Bell said the morale among American and Allied troops is the highest.

"The only pessimism I found was far to the rear, among non-combatants who didn't know front-line conditions," said Bell. "The most pessimistic of all were newspapermen. In their place I'd have been just the same way. The nearer you get to the front the higher the morale. Nobody, when I left, had the slightest fear of German progress."



GEN. FERDINAND FOCH Born 1851 at Tarbes, Hautes Pyrenees. Educated at Metz. Hero of the Marne, where he commanded the Seventh Army. Later given command of the French Army of the North. One of the great strategists developed by the war. Suggested as commander of the unified Allied forces in France.

Pershing Offers U.S. Army for Battle

Continued from Page One today, "I probably the first phase of the Allied operations. The French hit at a point along the Oise River near Nogent, where a rolling movement could best be launched. It remains to be seen whether this is to be the Allied strategy."

"The German penetration in the region of Montdidier will be of no advantage to them if the Allies attack along the southern edge of the wedge. Rather it will give the French a better opportunity to carry out a rolling process."

"It is not impossible that General Foch will command the Allied army of maneuver. This does not mean, however, that General Foch would be made generalissimo, but that he would direct the movement of the mobile reserve as an executive appointed by the Versailles council."

There was little news here today of American participation in the battle of General March, the new acting chief of staff, has taken all possible steps to prevent any real military information from reaching the enemy. He is well pleased with the outlook and insisted again today that the German advance will be crushed and their forces thrown back on their own lines.

Some tidings, however, from General Pershing indicated that the enemy has drawn his reserve to the utmost and has now drawn upon the east front for further reinforcement. He is staking his all on the west line, but the British, French and American strategic reserve apparently is now getting rapidly into the struggle. The German strike driven out at Montdidier is renewed. The gallant French pounding at the flank apparently are developing a strong counter-offensive, which will menace the German communications. Meanwhile the British defense is solidifying. The German line has been sapped and his vitality is being sapped by death and injury.

AMERICAN FLIER BAGS TWO MORE AIRPLANES Device Putnam, Twice Attacked by Superior Force, Sweels His Total to Five

Paris, March 29.—Davies Putnam, of Brookline, Mass., a member of the Lafayette Escadrille, has brought down two more German airplanes, making a total of five, of which four are "official." While controlling German lines Putnam was attacked by three monoplane. After a sharp fight he brought one down and the other fled.

Later Putnam was attacked by two biplanes. He brought down one of them, but the other was decorated with the French War Cross and promoted to sergeant. He has not yet obtained his transfer to the American air force.

BRITISH WIPE OUT TURK FORCE IN MESOPOTAMIA Three Thousand Prisoners, Including Divisional Commander, Captured at Khan Badbadi

Washington, March 29.—Turkish forces at Khan Badbadi on the Euphrates have been virtually annihilated by British Mesopotamian troops, according to official dispatches here today. Capture of 3,000 prisoners, including a divisional commander, was reported.

Part of the few survivors continued beyond Hadifa, forty-five miles southwest of Hilla. Four casualties were very slight, said the dispatch.

BRITISH DELIVER POWERFUL COUNTER-THRUSTS

Continued from Page One but were everywhere thrown back, suffering great losses. Heavy execution was done in the German ranks by the fire of the British machine guns, cannon and rifles.

South of the Somme there was heavy and continuous fighting until late in the evening. After they had maintained their lines all day against repeated assaults the British withdrew a short distance from their advanced positions.

FRENCH COMMUNIQUE The French are holding firmly the territory recaptured from the enemy yesterday, in the Montdidier sector, according to their official announcement received here this afternoon. The communique says:

In the Montdidier region, despite counter-attacks, we held the villages recaptured yesterday. We stormed and captured Lemontchel and repulsed counter-attacks against Plessis-de-Roye.

North of Montdidier the Anglo-French forces are holding the enemy on the Avre River.

There was furious fighting in front of Plessis-de-Roye. Enemy assaults were hurled vainly against the indomitable resistance of our troops. Prisoners confirm the heavy German losses in this region.

North of Montdidier, the Franco-British are victoriously checking the enemy all along the line of the Avre, in front of Lauceville, Sire-Bernard, Mezieres, Marcleave and Lehelam.

On the road from Laon to Laferre German infantry columns and convoys were dispersed by French artillery.

Artillery is active on the rest of the front.

Lemontchel is about two miles southwest of Montdidier. The Avre River flows westward through Roye and passes about three miles north of Montdidier. Plessis-de-Roye is only a mile south of Lassigny, which is seven miles due west of Nogent. Laneuville is seven miles north of Montdidier. Sire-Bernard is half a mile south of Laneuville. Mezieres is five miles northeast of Laneuville in the direction of Rozières. Marcleave is five miles north of Mezieres. Lehelam is south of Sire-Bernard.

Important city about thirteen miles southeast of Laferre and seven miles behind the German lines. It is about ten miles northwest of the Chemin des Dames sector where American troops are "aiming."

CENTERS OF FIGHTING The principal fighting is in three distinct centers—one against the north flank, toward Arras; the second stride the Somme, against the center; the third against the south flank, between Montdidier and Nogent. Severe fighting is under way in all three.

Not alone does the Allied front hold under the sledge-hammer blows of the massed Teuton hordes, but the French, by a sudden lunge forward, have pressed the Germans back two miles in the sector between Lassigny and Nogent.

Fighting of a fierce description continues raging over a front between eighty and ninety miles long—from a point near Lens, north of the Scarpe River, to the south of the Oise River.

According to an unofficial dispatch received this afternoon from the front, while von Below gained some

ALLIES MAY NIP ENEMY IN "PINCERS MOVEMENT"

Marshal Hindenburg and Quartermaster General Ludendorff have not increased their prospects of winning the great political gamble, which is the real character of the German super-offensive. Military experts point out that every effort thus far made to draw in the Allies' reserves has failed, and that meanwhile the German line has been compelled to take an increasingly precarious shape. Simultaneously, the German command has been forced to drain its own reserves past the point of highest effectiveness. The time undoubtedly is approaching when the Allies' reserves, still intact, will be able to strike where they please.

With the British counter-thrusting and gaining ground north of the Somme and the French pushing ahead south of the river, the Allies' strategy may develop into a "pincers movement."

ground in the north the British held von Hofaker to petty advances in the region of Albert.

The enemy dead are littering the ground south of the Somme, the dispatch said. After repeated assaults all day the Germans bent back the British line to Hamel-sur-Somme, Warfussee-Abancourt and Marcelcave.

(Hamel-sur-Somme is seven miles south and west of Albert on the south bank of the Somme. It is directly opposite Saily-le-Sec, Warfussee-Abancourt is two miles directly south and Marcelcave is two miles south of Warfussee-Abancourt.)

Below this the French brilliantly held the roads to the southward, driving back the German Crown Prince's hordes with the bayonet at places.

New battles are: The combat is now in its ninth day.

The original German offensive opened on almost a straight front, extending from Arras southward and slightly eastward to La Fere, a distance of about fifty miles.

The area comprised in the enemy advance now consists of an irregular triangle, with Arleux as its northern point, Montdidier as its southwestern point and the southern edge of St. Gobain forest as its southeastern point. Each of its sides are roughly fifty miles long in an air line, while the base is thirty-five miles across.

On the Picardy battle line the fighting has extended northward from Arras to Arleux, a distance of about five miles, and southward from La Fere to St. Gobain forest, a distance of about seven miles.

But all sides of this huge triangle

are extremely irregular, especially the western side. The British and French lines apparently converge at Warvillers, about ten miles south of the Somme.

At several points, notably in the regions of Albert and Montdidier, the Germans have advanced beyond the point where their retreat began in 1918. The farthest German penetration is at Montdidier, which represents an advance of thirty-seven miles west and south from St. Quentin.

GERMAN FRONT ENTANGLED IN DANGEROUS FORMATIONS

Written for the United Press New York, March 29.—So far as can be foreseen, the "snail in the west" has definitely turned in favor of the Allies with the Germans beginning to engage in soldier defensive tactics at important strategic points.

The German front is now entangled in dangerous formations, due to Von Hindenburg's failure to keep his forward movements advancing at a common speed. The precarious situation of having certain Germany's ability to provide a sufficiently large permanent army to protect the new battlefront is being to face Von Hindenburg. Even if the Allies do not develop a major counter-attack, a retirement of the Germans may be forced by a series of local assaults giving Von Hindenburg no rest at any part of his lengthy front.

When the present drive began the German line from Arras to Craonne measured about eighty-five miles. The battlefront between the same points is now about 120 miles. Each additional mile means Von Hindenburg must find probably more soldiers for defensive purposes. If, therefore, the Germans attempt to retain their present positions permanently, they must increase their trench garrisons by about 200,000 men and find the reserves to make good the constant loss to which this force will be subjected.

It was this same problem that compelled the Germans to move back to the Hindenburg line last March, and thus

heavier. Out of every one hundred wounded it is estimated that from sixty to seventy received slight injuries.

"On the Lorraine front artillery battles increased in violence. Captain Baron von Richtofen has achieved his seventy-first and seventy-second aerial victories.

Thursday's early official report said the "Crown Prince's" troops in their push which resulted in the taking of Montdidier advanced their lines as far as Pierrepont on the Avre, four miles northwest of Montdidier. The text of yesterday's report follows:

"On the battlefront of Flanders, the English again brought up divisions which they had brought up from other fronts. To the northwest of Bapaume we drove the enemy back to the old river positions in the direction of Bueques and Hebuterne.

"The enemy fought frantically with special obstinacy to retake Albert. Strong attacks accompanied by tanks broke down with sanguinary losses on the slopes of the hills to the west of the town.

"To the south of the Somme our divisions at many points broke their way through the old enemy positions and drove the British and French back into regions of France which have remained untouched to war since 1914.

"The victorious troops of the German Crown Prince have penetrated into the enemy positions to a depth of sixty kilometers (about thirty-seven miles) in an uninterrupted attack from St. Quentin across the Somme. They pushed forward as far as Pierrepont and took possession of Montdidier.

"The losses have been generally kept within normal limits, although at some of the most vital points they were

BRITISH ARMY SHAKEN, ASSERTS GERMAN RULER

Amsterdam, March 29.—A message from the Kaiser to the Reichstag says: "The deeds performed by the army in the last few days are worthy to rank with the most brilliant feats of the war. We have grievously shaken England's army, by God's help. We are advancing daily, notwithstanding tenacious resistance. The number of prisoners is great, the booty in war material immeasurable."

"May the German people, and especially their chosen representatives, derive confidence and courage from the greatness of these achievements, that the German sword will win us peace. May it be recognized that what is now needed is that the people at home, too, shall manifest, by their fortitude, their will to victory. The coming world peace will then, through the German sword, be more assured than hitherto, so help us God."

PRESIDENT MAY SPEAK ON WAR AT BALTIMORE

Washington, March 29.—That President Wilson is preparing to drive home again the war purposes of America to the battling Allies—and do it soon—was held certain here today.

It is believed likely Wilson will select his opportunity a great Liberty Loan demonstration in Baltimore, April 6, strong pressure is being brought to bear on the President to speak at that time.

Three Vital Points Mark Ninth Day of Great Battle

The ninth day of the German drive found the world's attention directed toward three vital points on the battle front. They are:

The Arras sector, where apparently fresh battles have developed, with British counter-thrusts under way.

The Albert-Somme sector, where the British compelled the Germans to halt.

The Montdidier sector, where the French began counter-attacking in great force against the southern flank of the German salient.

FOUR SHIPS LAUNCHED IN A SINGLE DAY

One Establishes Record by Taking Water 61 Days After Laying of First Keel Plate

A Pacific Port, March 29.—Shipbuilders here today are congratulating themselves over the launching of four ships in a single day, one of which established what is believed to be a world's record.

The banner ship of all was the Westgrover, which slid from the ways of a big local yard exactly sixty-one days after her first keel plate was laid.

In addition to the Westgrover, another steel ship slid from the ways of another local yard, going into the water ahead of time because of an accident, but successfully.

The Point Baratta, a 2,500-ton vessel, took to the water as did the wooden steamship, Bell Brook, being built for Government use.

Wilson Will Accept Degree

London, March 29.—President Wilson, the Press Association says, has expressed his willingness to accept the honorary degree of doctor of laws from Cambridge University.

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Happy pictures in glowing colors. Happy stories and verses by the best authors for children. Happy thoughts. Happy inspirations.

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"This young officer to his men just as the massacre started—'Brand White' to the April!"

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