

EXCLUSIVE CABLE DISPATCHES FROM WAR FRONTS AND DIPLOMATIC CENTERS OF EUROPE

FRENCH PLUG GAP IN BRITISH LINE

Serious Disaster Averted at Beginning of Great Drive

JUNCTION POINTS HELD

Gigantic German Offensive Was Most Stupendous Military Effort Ever Attempted

By G. H. PERRIS Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by the New York Times Co.

With all our mechanical aids and the hunger of the world for news, it remains very difficult until long afterwards to give, in a complete, but even a substantially true picture of the great battle. The main results may be made known almost immediately, the process by which they were reached, especially if it includes errors...

TOMMIES REST DURING A LULL IN THE BATTLE



The fiercest kind of fighting is reported on the Picardy battlefield and village-to-village skirmishes are frequent. According to reports, some towns have changed hand several times in the course of one day's fighting. This picture shows a regiment of British Tommies resting during a lull in the battle. These men have just evacuated a village somewhere in the Somme district and are taking things easy until they are again called into battle.

Close so as to prevent any breach toward Paris, a new army, the first under General De Bony, should gather in the region of Montdidier to block the south-west. At the same time a further step was taken on the road of re-ordination. General Rayolle being put in command of all the forces. French and British south of the Somme.

I need not recount the perilous steps by which the thin line was drawn back under constant threat and gradually strengthened, company by company, battalion by battalion, going piecemeal into battle against almost impossible odds. The worst had passed on the night of the 25th. On the 24th the first Wednesday French counter-attack was made. Artillery and infantry reinforcements were accumulating; the first army was able to detain and form as a whole, instead of in fragments, and the enemy was nearly stopped. The first phase of the offensive was over, and its aims had not been attained.

There are many lessons to be drawn from these events, and many responsibilities to examine, but one conclusion leaps to the eyes as of supreme importance. The main aim of the German grand staff was to destroy the British army as a preliminary to the destruction of the French.

While the armies have been fighting their information bureaus have no been idle. We know very much more about the first stage of the offensive, its aim, plan, and means of operation, than we did a month ago. In fact, there were brought my notebooks down from the front to a quiet place in order during this further pause to look at the affair as a whole and attempt to outline some of its features that were hardly apparent at the time of my earlier telegrams in this position.

The first of these features to demand appreciation is, of course, the remarkable accomplishment of the French army directed by General Petain under the commanding influence and after the aid of command of General Foch. It may be admitted now that there were in the first phase of the battle hours of most desperate anxiety for the French as well as the British commanders. No blow has been struck in this or, needless to say, in any previous war comparable for its speed and skill with that which was done in ten days of March. Up to March 29 the sector of attack had been held by two German divisions. By the night of the 21st thirty fresh divisions had been thrown in, and in the next nine days another thirty-six were added. Only the devil his due. Most soldiers would probably have said that the direction of a torrent of eighty-three divisions, or some 900,000 men, on a moving front, expanding from a thirty-mile front in ten days, would be impossible. It was a mercurial plan, but its will and power may all the more be readily appreciated, because this is the best measure of the heroism and success of the Allied armies.

BRIGANDS FREE AMERICAN

Chinese Government Agrees to Take Leaders Into Army Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by the New York Times Co.

CALLS IT BRITISH PROPAGANDA

Berlin Newspaper Comments on Gerard as Film Actor

FRENCH FLAG GAP

On the evening of the 21st, General De Bony's army of 200,000 men, which had fallen back to Ephe and behind the Canal. After telephonic communication with the British headquarters he gave orders at 11 p. m. for French divisions under General Foch to be sent to the region south of Montdidier.

The North and Tenth Infantry divisions and the 21st Division of Divisions Cavalry entrained at noon on the 22d and reached the ground in the morning of that night. They had no artillery with them, no machine guns, no trucks, no ambulances, only their machine-gun units, and they had to take their own supplies and ammunition.

The pressure increasing, more French troops were ordered north, and on the evening of the 23d night, the British and French commanders agreed that General Foch, commanding the Third French Army, should be the first to intervene—should have the first troops remaining in the hands of the Allies re-form them into their own units. For the most part, the British reported, the infantry was not reformed. It needed relief, and the artillery continued to render valiant service.

A WONDERFUL MAIN LINE HOME FOR RENT

One and One-Half Acres of Ground On Lancaster Avenue One-Half Mile Above Wynnewood Station, P. R. R. Contains 3 sleeping rooms, 2 baths, large reception hall, living room and den, garage, lawn, trees and flowers. See Mrs. L. S. BARRY, 421 Chestnut St.

GERMAN FARMERS MAKE FOOD CRISIS

Object to Ukrainians Being Paid Nearly Double for Grain

MAY DELAY SHIPMENTS

Austro-Hungary Cabinet Conditions Serious, Owing to Opposition of Tisza and Andrássy

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Another food crisis is developing in Germany. This is indicated by the press and the debates in the Reichstag. The Government has explained that this year's crisis can be averted only by the importation of food from the Ukraine and Rumania, and new opposition to the use of supplies from the former country has developed among German farmers.

According to the agreement between the German and Ukrainian Governments, Germany promised to pay 100 marks a ton for rye and 187 marks a ton for wheat, plus transportation charges, approximately 150 marks a ton. This makes the price for rye delivered in Berlin 456 marks (at normal exchange about \$132.50) a ton, and for wheat 637 marks (\$151.60), whereas Germany is paying German farmers only 270 marks a ton for rye and 230 marks a ton for wheat.

TWO AMERICANS KAISER'S AIDES: MISTREAT BRITONS CAPTURED

Brothers—Captains Niemeier—Have Earned Unsavory Reputations Under General Hanisch in Hanover Army Prison Camp

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It WILL probably come as a revelation to most Americans to learn that, among the odious tools of the Kaiser employed in German prison camps, two brothers, who claim to have enjoyed American citizenship for many years, have earned unexampled notoriety for their infamous treatment of British officers and men.

The individuals in question reside in the name of Niemeier. Their ages lie between fifty and sixty. Both are officers of the reserve, speak excellent English and are decorated with the Iron Cross of the second class.

SAILORS PLAN BOYCOTT

British Seamen to Make Reprisal for German Piracy

London, May 1.—In a statement regarding the sacrifices of the merchant marine, Havelock Wilson, president of the British Seamen's and Firemen's Union, said that 15,000 British seamen have been murdered by German pirates during the war.

"Sea murders are growing because the enemy is more determined than ever that sailors in sunken ships should not live to tell the tale," he declared.

There is no doubt that the Niemeiers have lived for many years in the United States. They probably have considerable possessions there now, but no self-respecting American would care to acknowledge kinship with such vile creatures, who, in the uniform of German officers, sterner the practice of torturing and abuse of prisoners with the most cringing servility to their superiors.

On first making the acquaintance of either brother, prisoners are struck immediately by the familiarity with which they are greeted. A stout, prosperous-looking individual addresses some vulgar, insolent interrogation in English as to the prisoners' private affairs, but the Allied officers perceive at once beneath the flourish of veneer the real brutal nature of the man.

"In a minute, my dear fellow, you will have such a dinner as you never enjoyed at the Elitz," was the greeting to a worn-out traveler prior to receiving his wretched bowl of barley. One of the Niemeiers once said to some ordering working outside on a wet morning: "It is raining. You have no coats. You will get wet and catch cold. You will die and I am damned glad."

The correspondent could quote many instances which are unsuitable for publication. Hated by their own men even more, if possible, than by the captives, they have taken too big a risk, and a certain under-officer, who resented being treated like a dog, has found means to inform the Berlin authorities how "master" is making a fortune in butter by withholding the military supply and selling it elsewhere at exorbitant prices.

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RUSSIA HELD, ENEMY COULD WAR FOREVER, SAYS CECIL

Statesman Warns Coming Peace Drive Is Meant to Control German People Until Slav Domination Is Complete

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LORD ROBERT CECIL, discussed the expected German peace offensive and said that he looked for it as part of their regular war plan. "It will be meant mainly for internal consumption," he said. "Of course, it has proved futile to prophesy in this war, but I believe that the German general plan is—supposing that they can not win a decisive victory over the Allies—to go on fighting in the west until they have acquired complete commercial hold over the east. If they once really establish themselves in Russia there is no reason why they should not fight the whole world forever."

Asked if he included in the German peace offensive plan depended on many things; and the German Government's great object in launching a peace offensive at this time was to induce its own people to carry on from week to week and month to month, in the belief that peace was almost in sight, until its Russian plans were matured. He continued: "The peace offensive, I believe, will be directed very largely against England. They will put out offers which they think will be attractive to this country."

DECIES MAY RULE ERIN

Rumor Husband of Vivian Gould Will Accept Post

London, May 1.—A rumor is current that Lord Decies may accept the post of Lord Lieutenant for Ireland. Lord Decies married Miss Vivian Gould of New York.

Advertisement for Michelin tires. Features a large illustration of a tire being tested with a scale. Text includes: 'MICHELIN Twelve Tire Tests No. 1 WEIGHT', 'ONE of the best ways to judge a tire is to weigh it. Of course, weight might be due to many factors that do not improve quality. But once assured that only quality-giving materials are used, weight is an excellent guide to durability.', 'In selecting tires, therefore, have us weigh the different makes you are considering.', 'When you make this test you will find an astonishing difference in tires. For instance, five popular non-skids (34 x 4 size) weigh as follows: Michelin 26 lbs., Second Tire 25 lbs., Third Tire 22 1/2 lbs., Fourth Tire 22 lbs., Fifth Tire 21 1/2 lbs.', 'Considering all non-skids made, Michelin Universals weigh 12 to 15 per cent more than the average, the percentage varying with size of tire.', 'This extra weight means that you have a right to expect extra mileage from MICHELINS.', 'MICHELIN TIRES AND TUBES Are Sold By Good Dealers Everywhere Factory Branch—Wholesale Only 802 N. Broad Street'

Advertisement for Mrs. Wilson's bread-making demonstration. Text includes: 'Mrs. Wilson Will Show How to Make Bread Without Wheat', 'BEGINNING May 6 and continuing until May 11, Mrs. M. A. Wilson, the PUBLIC LEDGER food economist, will conduct a series of bread-making exhibitions in the Curtis Auditorium, Independence Square.', 'The Auditorium, with a seating capacity of 500, is being equipped with tables, stoves and all facilities for bread-making, arranged so that members of the audience will be permitted to take active part in the demonstration, making bread themselves under Mrs. Wilson's direction.', 'Slices of the bread also will be sent for inspection among members of the audience, and then another group of women will be taught to bake. From seven to ten kinds of bread will be baked without the use of any wheat flour.', 'These are to be round table conferences,' said Mrs. Wilson yesterday, 'at which bread troubles of housewives will be clarified. They will not be lectures, but actual demonstrations.'