GERMANS READY FOR FINAL SMASH

Great Teuton Attack Cannot Be Long Delayed, Allies Believe

SEEK EARLY DECISION

By WALTER DURANTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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With the French Armies in the Field, May 13.

It is the impression here that the great German attack cannot be long delayed. The general opinion which your correspondent has gathered in the course of conversations on the subject is that the main drive will come north of Amiens. It is believed that a secondary attack in considerable force will be made with the object of occupying the attention of the French troops and preventing them from moving to the support of their Allies.

It is worth noting that in the whole of this war the German policy has been to attack what is believed to be the weakest spot. In Rumania, Siberia and Russia—everywhere—Germany has followed this plan. Her commanders seem to have the idea that by overwhelming the weaker members of the alliance they can bring the rest to the point of seeking peace.

According to that great master of the art of war, Napoleon, such a policy is useless. It was the cardinal feature of his campaigns that he first attacked and defeated the strongest of his opponents, with the result that the others fell easy victims to his arms.

The Germans attack what they think is the weakest point, and, perhaps, as in the recent battle, favored by circumstances, they gain a certain advantage. What happens? The French come immediately to the aid of the British and re-establish the situation.

Enemy Has Little Chance

That was the case when Germans had the great initial advantage of surprise. Now that that factor is no longer possible, and now that, above all, Foch is supreme commander of all the Allied forces, with power to move French, British or American divisions about the war chess board as occasion demands, the enemy has little chance of again piercing the line and upsetting even a single one of the Allied armies.

Yet, despite the desperate odds against them, it is likely that the German leaders will make one more savage attempt to win a decisive victory. All available indications show that they are assembling their utmost possible strength for the coming effort. "He wants to end it" is the expression one hears daily. (A French soldier always speaks of the enemy in the singular: "le boche"—never "They" or "Les boches.")

Yesterday I visited the camp in which are confined the German prisoners captured in the most recent fighting. I talked with a German who had spent five years as a pastry cook in Brooklyn. He boasted that the war would end within three months with a German victory, and when asked the reason for his belief, replied, "Because the Kaiser, Hindenburg and Ludendorff say so."

I asked whether he shared this implicit faith in the German leaders. He shrugged his shoulders and answered: "Anyway, the German people, the army and civilians alike, believe it, and that is what counts after all."

Huge Assault Coming

The impression conveyed by this conversation and by other information I have received is the same—the German army is about to make a huge assault on a scale at least equal to that of March 21, by which it hopes to bring about the end of the war.

To one who views the situation dispassionately it seems that the trump cards, i. e., the absence of the surprise element, the failure of the previous effort, German inferiority in man-power and artillery, the Allies undoubted mastery of the air, and, last and greatest, the unity of command under Foch, are all in the hands of the Allies.

Yet Hindenburg and Ludendorff are about to take the chance. Why? There is only one answer: Because they cannot do otherwise. Despite their victories against the weaker Allies, they have failed to beat down the principal forces of their opponents. Now by dread of the future—which can be spelled in the one word "America"—and by difficulties at home, they are at last forced to make their final throw against odds for defeat or victory.

The French and British are more than ready for them, and at last, which should be the source of supreme satisfaction at home, American troops are in line prepared to take their part in the final battle for civilization and democracy.

U. S. Guns Hammer Germans In Picardy

Continued from Page One

Nieppe Forest," the War Office announced today.

(The Somme and Albert sectors are on the Picardy front, opposite Amiens, while the district between Locon and Nieppe Forest is about midway on the Flanders front.)

Belgian troops raided a German position north of Dixmude (Flanders), said an official statement issued by the Belgian War Office at Havre on Sunday night.

There is artillery activity of varying intensity along the Belgian front.

WITH ARMY IN FRANCE

Robert J. Fortune, twenty-one years old, of 5407 Christian street, who has been in active service with the American Army in France for the last five months. He enlisted in the motor mechanics division last December and went to France in January. He has recently been made a sergeant. He is the son of W. E. Fortune

GERMAN LINES THINNING OPPOSITE U. S. FRONTS

With the American Army in Lorraine, May 13.

Information gleaned from German operations opposite the American fronts indicates a thinning of the enemy lines because of the drains on German resources from Picardy.

The American sectors are far enough apart to justify deductions regarding the German predicament through this scarcity of man-power.

American patrols found Ancerviller (in the Luneville sector, three miles northwest of Badonviller) deserted. It had been a former German outpost and the scene of much patrol fighting.

The Germans no longer attempt to hold their shell-hole outposts, retiring to safer positions to avoid fighting with the Americans. German prisoners indicate the lowest grade of German troops are here.

Northwest of Toul American activity holds a "traveling circus" of special German storm troops, organized for repeated hammer-like blows at our lines.

There are no German planes over the American positions any more. Although a special German squadron arrived to punish the American aviators, the enemy planes are chancing no combats, except far behind the boche lines.

On the Verdun front, the Americans have learned that the German lines are sparsely held. The boches are substituting frequent bombardments of high explosives and gas for German troops. This also is taken by American officers to indicate that the enemy is uneasy.

In all sectors the enemy's outer positions, tenders and gas projectors have been badly damaged by the American artillery without causing any reprisals from the Germans.

American patrols this morning penetrated the German wires in the Toul sector and found a number of German bodies in the enemy's advanced positions. These boches are believed to have been killed by the American bombardment.

The German machine guns are active against Seicheprey (in the Toul sector).

In the Lorraine and Verdun sectors American patrols penetrated the German wires easily and conducted extensive explorations without encountering any resistance.

Shells heaved over by the German gas projectors recently are of a new type, now popularly designated as "tin cans."

TEUTON GUNS ACTIVE ON MACEDONIAN LINE

Paris, May 13.

The artillery of the Teutonic allies on the Macedonian front has been violently shelling positions of the Italian troops at Hill 1050 (in the Monastir sector), the French War Office reported in a communique dealing with Balkan operations.

The Bulgar-German forces attempted a surprise attack near Vetrenik, but were repulsed.

Serbian and British airmen have bombed cantonments at Seres and the Angiste station.

There have been artillery duels on the Struma River, west of the Vardar, at the bend of the Tcherna River, and near Monastir.

ARTILLERY IS ACTIVE BOTH SIDES OF AVRE

Paris, May 13.

"Artillery firing on both sides was active at several points north and south of the Avre River (Picardy battle front)," the French War Office announced today.

"We penetrated the German lines north of Nomeny, capturing twenty prisoners.

"The enemy attempted a raid in the region of St. Die, but it broke down under our fire."

ATTACK AT OSTEND FORESEEN BY ENEMY

Harbor Was Brilliantly Illuminated When Vindictive Made Her Dash

SUNK IN THE FAIRWAY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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London, May 13.

More details of the exploits of the crew of the Vindictive and those of the craft accompanying her in her dash into Ostend harbor are available. The following narrative is that of a member of the expedition who had exceptional opportunities to observe all that happened.

"When the Vindictive, accompanied by the flotila, left Dover Harbor Thursday night for Ostend," he said, "the array of shipping made a fine sight as it extended out across the channel and the vessels skillfully took up the formation which had been allotted them. It was a calm, clear night when we went out, with the sea almost as smooth as glass and the sky just swept with fleecy clouds. The Vindictive, with her three tall funnels, was the feature of the raiding fleet, and showed every indication of rough handling in the Zeebrugge Mole fight; but she had been sandbagged and protected in various ways, to give the crew the best chance of safety.

"Accompanied by the flotilla, she went straight across to Dunkirk Roads, the vessels traveling at a comfortable rate of speed. When we got across the channel the weather became hazy, but this was an advantage to us. We steamed away from Dunkirk roadstead between midnight and 1 o'clock for the last stage of the great adventure. The Vindictive looked to be traveling quite slowly as she made her way along in the direction of her goal. As we steamed along the German searchlights seemed to be everywhere, sweeping around in arcs, but they seemed to miss our ships for the time. Ostend Harbor was brilliantly lighted by powerful searchlights. Artificial fog clouds were being used to assist our operations, and the fact that it was hazy materially assisted the success of these.

Raiders Soon Discovered

"As the Vindictive neared Ostend it became apparent that the Germans had got wind of our presence, for suddenly there was a regular pyrotechnic display of star shells. The effect was brilliant but quite undesirable from our point of view. Immediately guns of all sizes opened fire on us, and there was a terrific din.

"The Vindictive and one or two other vessels received hits, and a few casualties were caused by this gunfire. The firing was heavily returned by our ships. Most of the crew of the Vindictive were taken off when the ship was at a little distance from the Ostend piers, only a few officers and men being left to navigate her between the piers and sink her there. A motor launch which was assisting in picking up the crew was hit several times by shell fire, and was in a sinking condition when it came alongside the Admiral's vessel, the destroyer Warwick, to which they were transferred. The motor launch had extensive damage in the forepart, and by order of the Admiral was sunk, as it was apparent that it could not get back to Dover. There was a heavy explosion when the Vindictive sank between the piers.

"It was splendid to see the Admiral during the operations. From the bridge of the Warwick he followed fully all operations with the greatest keenness and with courage that was absolutely infectious. As the men from the Vindictive were brought alongside in the motor launch he shouted inquiries to them as to the success they had had in sinking the vessel, and as to her position, and he received the reply: 'We have sunk her, all right. She is well up to the pierhead.'

"The Germans evidently anticipated our coming, as they had sunk fresh mines in the Channel and in the neighborhood of Ostend. The Zeebrugge expedition was a surprise; but this time they were undoubtedly expecting us. We succeeded, all the same. It was 4:30 this afternoon before the destroyer Warwick reached Dover Harbor."

Another naval man, who took part in the action, said that when the British were off Ostend they could hear the Germans on the warships in the harbor yelling out orders. Men from the Vindictive and other vessels, who were under fire for forty minutes in the vicinity, said: "It was a fine peace of seamanship to put her in the position she now keeps, which effectually blocks the entrance."

BRITAIN PRAISES U. S. FOR EFFECTIVE WORK

Members of Ministry and Other Representatives of Government Unite in Expressing Appreciation

London, May 13.

AT A time when America's participation, militarily as well as navally, financially and economically, has reached effective proportions, British appreciation is glowingly expressed in the following statements to the United Press:

LORD MILNER, Secretary of State for War.

America is rapidly filling up the gap in the strength of the Allies created by the failure of Russia. A war such as this can only be won decisively by superiority in man power and material, as well as in fighting spirit, and with America's aid, that superiority is certain.

In altering her own military plans to meet the urgent need of her allies in the west, America has shown not only a true perception of the meaning of "a single front," but the most generous spirit, sportsmanship and comradeship.

LORD RHONADA, British Food Controller.

Without the aid of the United States it would have been quite impossible for the Allies to feed their troops and civilian populations during the last six months.

The self-sacrifice displayed by the American people and the efficiency of Mr. Hoover's measures in providing necessary supplies have been, and are, not only an incalculable and immediate benefit to the Allies, but of permanent value in the struggle for the maintenance of civilization throughout the world.

ANDREW BONAR LAW, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I was certain the United States would assist the Allies financially to the full extent of her ability. I can gladly say this expectation has been fully realized.

The British budget shows how timely and necessary was the financial assistance of the United States which enabled us to borrow from her as much as we loaned to our Allies.

ADMIRAL LEWIS BAYLY, Commander-in-chief at Queenstown.

On the anniversary of the arrival of the first United States men-of-war at Queenstown I wish to express my deep gratitude to the United States officers and men of all ratings for the skill, energy and unfailing good nature they have consistently shown and which qualities have so materially assisted in the war by enabling the ships of the allied Powers to cross the ocean with comparative freedom.

To command you is an honor; to work with you is a pleasure, and to know you is to know the best traits of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Geddes and Daniels Pleased

Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, testifying to America's naval aid, offered hitherto unpublished letters exchanged between Josephus Daniels, American Secretary of the Navy and him. Daniels wrote:

Your reference to the splendid spirit of co-operation between the navies of our two countries and your warm praise of the officers and men of the navy who have gone abroad are extremely grateful to me, the men in the navy and all Americans.

The brightest spot in the tragedy of this war is the mutual appreciation of the men in naval service.

Our officers who have returned confirm the statements of Admiral Sims regarding the courtesies and kindness shown in every way by the Admiralty and the officers of the British fleet, and we have reciprocated by receiving cordially the able and efficient officers who have come from your country to work, elbow to elbow, with our officers in the difficult work which this war imposes upon the naval service of all countries allied in the war against the submarine menace.

I had hoped to have the pleasure of visiting Great Britain and personally expressing this feeling of mutually working together and exchanging views, but the task here of making ready more units for the fleet is a very serious one, and my duty chains me here.

The order throughout the navy is "Full speed ahead" in the construction of destroyers and other craft, and the whole service is keyed up to press the program forward as rapidly as possible.

Geddes replied:

I am exceedingly grateful for your letter, in which you thank me for public references made to the very cordial relations existing between the navies of the two countries.

As you know, all of us here have great admiration for your officers and man and for the splendid help they have given in European waters, and furthermore we find Admiral Sims invaluable in counsel and co-operation.

I fully appreciate how onerous your office must be at the present time and much though I regret that you cannot see your way to visiting this country in the near future, I hope we may some day have the pleasure of welcoming you here.

TRENCHARD SENT TO FRANCE

Former British Air Chief Given Place at Front

London, May 13.—"Sir Hugh Trenchard, former chief of staff of the British air forces, has accepted an important post with the British air forces in France," Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons this afternoon.

Trenchard's removal last month is popularly believed to have been one of the chief factors in the subsequent retirement of Lord Rothermere as Secretary of State for Air Forces.

THREE AMERICANS ATTACK 13

Kill Five Germans and Get Valuable Information

With the American Army in France, May 13.—Three Americans at a certain point in the Luneville sector crossed "No Man's Land" with the object of pointing out an enemy snipers' nest from which several Americans had been killed.

They encountered a German officer and twelve men and, despite the odds, attacked, killing the officer and four of the men. They took the officers' papers and retired as German re-enforcements was coming up. The papers contained the enemy's code and other valuable information.

Upon the return of the three a patrol of twenty-five men crossed "No Man's Land" to engage the Germans. The result is not yet known.

CANADA HAS MODEL SHIP

First Standardized Wooden Vessel, War Mohawk, Finished

Quebec, Que., May 13.—An army of workers today started to put the finishing touches on the War Mohawk, first standardized wooden vessel ever built in eastern Canada and one of the largest ever built in the Dominion.

The War Mohawk was launched yesterday and is one of the fleet of forty-six vessels of standard design modelled to the general requirements of the British ministry of shipping. The ships are being built in all available yards from Liverpool, N. S., in the east, to Vancouver, B. C., in the west.

TEUTON KAISERS IN ACCORD

Conference Results in Satisfactory Discussions

Berlin, May 13.—Kaiser Wilhelm, Emperor Karl and members of their respective staffs, conferred at Grand Headquarters yesterday, it was officially announced today.

"They discused political, economic and military questions satisfactorily," the statement said, "and were in complete accord on the present and future relations of the two monarchies."

French Limit Meat Purchases

Paris, May 13.—In order to prevent the buying of quantities of meat in advance of meatless days a new decree has just been issued prohibiting the purchase of more than 200 grammes (about seven ounces) of meat on Tuesdays.

TANKS PROVE CONFLICT A WAR OF SPECIALISTS

French "Artillery of Assault" Works Only in Complete Co-operation With Infantry

By WALTER DURANTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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With the French Armies, May 13.

Your correspondent yesterday visited a detachment of French tanks which have taken an active part in the operations which led to the retaking of Senecat Wood on April 18.

Properly speaking, the tanks are known in the French army as artillery of assault. Like the artillery, they are divided into squadrons and batteries. At present they do not form a separate branch of service, and the personnel is recruited from the artillery, infantry, cavalry, and even the navy, but their crews wear a special badge in the form of crossed cannon surmounted by an artillery helmet.

The officers in charge emphasized particularly the great need for thorough advance training in co-operation between tanks and infantry. In this respect every day of the six weeks I have now spent with the French armies confirms me more strongly in a belief which is not without interest to America, namely, that from A to Z this now is a war of specialists.

The enormous advances that have been made in the development of mechanical aids to warfare have had the paradoxical effect of putting a premium on the efficiency of individuals. Only units that have been brought to highest point of fitness as regards their own training and teamwork in combination with other forces of branches of the service can hope to survive the shock of modern war.

If there has been any tendency in America to wonder why our troops required such a lengthy period of preparation, here is an answer whose correctness has been dearly proved by the expenditure of French, British and German blood. Artillery, infantry, aviation, it's everywhere the same story—success goes not to the bravest or even to the best-equipped, but to those whose training and discipline are most complete and whose teamwork and mutual interassistance is most thorough and effective.

A story told me of the Senecat battle proved this theory to the hilt, if further proof were needed. In the sector of attack where tanks and infantry were able to keep in touch, access was rapid and complete. The tanks destroyed machine gun nests which might have held up the infantry, and the infantry prevented hostile grenadiers and special troops armed with "anti-tank" bullets of unusual penetrative force from interfering with the advance of the tanks.

The officers spoke enthusiastically of the keenness and quickness to learn of four young officers of the American army attached to their unit for instruction.

"Right at the outset they surprised us by their almost instinctive grasp of the mechanical problems involved," said the commander. "In that vitally important respect they hardly needed any teaching. But that they should so soon comprehend the system of maneuvering and co-operation with the infantry was hardly to be expected from men who had not had long previous military training. We are delighted with their progress, and I am certain that America will before long give the boche a startling lesson in the use of assault artillery.

"In courage and elan, which are perhaps the most needed qualities for an assault artillery commander, your boys are magnificent. They were bitterly disappointed that I was unable to permit them to take part in the Senecat affair, although they had been with us only a few days when it took place."

GERMANY A[illegible] BLOW AGAINS[illegible]

"Bullying" Demands Not Hurt Allies' but C[illegible] Switzerland's Indus[illegible]

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public[illegible]

Copyright, 1918, by New York Ti[illegible]

With the American Army in [illegible] May 13.

Major Hugh H. Young, director [illegible] work of dealing with comm[illegible] blood diseases in the army, to[illegible] today that the success of his d[illegible]ment is exceeding any estimates [illegible]

In making plans for his depa[illegible] of medical work in France it ha[illegible] calculated by the medical authori[illegible] Washington to have ten 1000-bed [illegible]pitals, in which a million men co[illegible]ceive treatment, but with 500,000 A[illegible]cans in France there is not one [illegible] five expected Americans in any [illegible] hospitals now running, and only [illegible] cases of this type of disease [illegible] hospital treatment, instead of th[illegible]pected 5000.

In other words, instead of hav[illegible] percent of our soldiers in hospitals [illegible] social diseases, as had been ex[illegible] the actual number is only one-te[illegible] 1 per cent. here is no reason to [illegible] that this record will be maintained [illegible] along. The hospitals prepared for [illegible] special treatment are to be used [illegible] other cases.

This means that the American [illegible] is the cleanest army in the world. [illegible] results, according to Major Young, [illegible] been achieved by preventive steps [illegible] by the American medical direc[illegible] coupled with the co-operation of [illegible] men.

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