

DREAMS OF WORLD DOMINATION FADE—SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCHES FROM ABROAD

PAYS DEARLY IN FRENCH FRONT

German Corpses Strew Fields and Hang Thick on Wires

GOURAUD IN COMMAND

Will Put Militarism to Supreme Test and Make Tremendous Sacrifices

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

Tragic irony dogs the initiators of the art of bombarding noncombatants. It is no exaggeration to say that the enemy losses are enormous. On long stretches of the front the wide fields are littered with German corpses, a horrible spectacle.

In two days, though heavily outnumbered, the army of Champagne has broken as former an onslaught as any Allied army can have to meet, and it faces the future with the high confidence born of such a test.

It is largely because of the zone of defense has been promptly arrested. On Sunday night the French guns began their counter-fire, as I have reported, actually before the enemy started his preparatory bombardment. Chalons, twenty miles behind the French lines, has long been made unpleasant by visits of German airmen. Just after midnight Monday morning a large shell fell on the city, and as it this were the signal, the northern horizon was immediately lit up with flashes of many hundreds of guns and the air thrived with their muffled roar.

Advance Positions Suffered

The chief weight of the German cannonade was delivered upon the advance positions occupied by observers, machine gunners and the small groups of daring men whose duty it was to direct a heavy fire upon the enemy as he approached. After this made their escape. Heroically did they acquit themselves of a mission that in many cases called for the final sacrifice.

In safer days I examined their lines on the crest of the Moronvillers hills and the skillfully hidden machine-gun posts in the trees. It is difficult to meet this very emergency. Imagine a dugout thirty feet deep, large enough to accommodate half a dozen men with their provisions, and a staircase at one end, approached by a staircase at the rear and abutting upon a well, upon which a machine gun can be raised and aimed. It can be hidden by means of a simple lever. When it is withdrawn there is at a short distance no sign of a pit, and before an assailant can get near he has to cut his way through successive lines of barbed wire. The gunner, sitting upon a point at the top of the well, shows only his head and shoulders as he looks through the sights of his rifle. He would be invisible within the shadow of a clump of dwarf trees but for the stream of fire which pours from his rifle. The signs of lives may be lost before a single obstacle of this kind can be reached.

Stopped Germans for Two Hours

On Mont Cornillet and the Moronvillers there were several concrete blockhouses, each held by two or three machine gunners, and by this handful of men the successive waves of assault on the broad front were stopped for more than two hours. The fate of these outposts and of the small groups making the resistance which were inevitably surrounded on Monday morning is known only in a few cases.

One such group reported as late as 5 o'clock Monday evening that it was still holding out and hoped to survive till rescued by a counter-attack. Several groups had been made prisoners, and the bodies were kept them jealously. A number of heroes, caught between the French and German barrage lines and knowing that its task had been accomplished, destroyed the tunnel it had dug, loading and cut its way back at the point of the bayonet. Its chief, Lieutenant Franchant, was at once decorated with the Legion of Honor.

No less admirable was the devotion of the signallers, who from their outposts sent constant reports of the positions of the enemy. Such are Gouraud's men, and such the spirit and method of his splendid defense.

Documents taken on the battlefield and statements made by prisoners throw important light on the aim of this offensive. Clearly, as appears to be the case, the great wooded plateau called the Mountain of Helms, Epernay and probably Montmirail. This vast stretch of the front center, when occupied, would be a base to a further and final operation of the nature of which we can only guess. Helms is to be obtained by encircling. Although it is at the head of a narrow peninsula protruding into the enemy's lines, the ruined city would be a formidable position to attack frontally. If the French lines on either side should be broken, however, it must fall of itself.

Side thrusts which were to produce this happy result were directed toward Chalons on the east and Epernay on the southwest, and each was to be broadened, the first toward Reims, thirty miles southeast of Chalons, and the second toward Montmirail, to give room for the deployment of available forces and for subsequent development.

Turned Toward Epernay

So, while the whole Champagne front has been attacked with special force about Prunay and Proemes on the west and about Perthes and Souain at the center (that is to say, toward the two main roads from the north in Champagne), the German forces on both sides of the line have turned not westward toward Reims, but upstream toward Epernay and the Mountain of Helms.

PARIS SATISFIED WITH SITUATION

Content With Check of Offensive, but Not Announcing Victory

GERMAN CLAIMS SMALL

Prisoners Complain They Were "Betrayed" by Easy Victory Promises

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Paris is well satisfied this morning with the general situation at the beginning of the fourth day of the German offensive, and is reacting with the utmost appreciation one of the oracular utterances of the great Prussian militarist apostle Bernhardi to the effect that an offensive which is brought to a standstill is a conquered offensive. This exactly reflects the French view of the situation this morning.

At the same time Paris is too level-headed not to realize that it is too soon to speak of victory. Opinion here, however, insists that it may already be said with assurance that the enemy has received a colossal check which must have a widespread influence on the morale of the people throughout the Central Empire. The high hopes held out by the military party to the people at home that this tremendous offensive would insure speedy and decisive victory have also proved so utterly unfounded that the eager longings of the hungry people must be crumbling today like a pack of cards.

Prisoners taken at the Marne yesterday in many cases complained bitterly that they had been "betrayed" by the German commanders, who had assured them that the French were a beaten army without morale or material, and that this last great offensive would be nothing more than an easy march forward behind the tremendous power of the German guns. Naturally, the facts of the negative results of the offensive will be disguised as much as possible, but the poverty of the German official communiques alone speaks eloquently of the enemy's failure.

When Ludendorff is driven on the second day of an offensive along a front of fifty miles to the fact that at one point "we succeeded in penetrating a portion of the French front" and is compelled in another instance to satisfy himself by announcing the capture of individual trenches such as Kerberg, Poebberg and Fichtelberg, it is evident that the German people are being taught to be satisfied with very little. These three trenches, as a matter of fact are merely advance lines which the French evacuated in advance of the attack in order to meet the enemy in their real fighting positions behind. From these fighting positions they have never budged, despite repeated German onslaughts.

Nothing could mark more strongly the absolute difference between the present and former offensives than comparison between the results announced by Ludendorff and those achieved by the Crown Prince on May 27 when the famous Champagne Plateau on the Chemin des Dames fell at one stroke and twenty German divisions triumphantly advanced twenty-two miles in a single day.

Germans in China Involved in Pact Amsterdam, July 18.—(By Central News.) An official statement given out in Berlin says that Germany's ratification of the agreement with Great Britain on the exchange of prisoners depends upon a satisfactory solution through mediation with Great Britain of the question of Germans in China.

WHAT THE EYES OF THE ARMY REVEAL



This remarkable airplane photograph, taken from a great height, well illustrates how indispensable are the airplanes in modern warfare. The string of dots in the center of the photograph are mules on their way to the front laden with machine gun ammunition. The city through which they are passing is Saint-Pol, in France.

FRENCH OUTPOST HELD GERMAN DRIVE BACK OVER TWO HOURS

Then They Blew Up Defenses and Cut Way Back, Taking Guns and Prisoners—Shell on Chalons Signaled Coming of Attack

By WALTER DURANTY Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

Yesterday's attacks by the Germans were limited and abortive. They give the impression of pure pique, as if the German high command were saying, "We know you'll break our faces, but we must do it just to teach you what it means not to carry out our plans."

As an example of the conduct of the outpost units, one of the largest battalions strongly held an advanced position all day, sending priceless information every few minutes. They not only retarded the whole enemy operation in that region for two hours, but repelled assaults with great slaughter. In the late afternoon they blew up their defenses and actually cut their way back, though reduced, bringing their machine-guns, wounded and some prisoners. The division general wanted to decorate the major commanding them with the Legion of Honor on the battlefield; but the officer insisted on returning to his front line.

The retirement of the main forces from the outpost zone was executed so well that the enemy did not suspect it and wasted a deluge of projectiles. The bombardment began at 12:10 o'clock. The exact moment that had been anticipated was signaled by a twelve-inch shell on Chalons, thirty kilometers back. The attack was delivered by some twenty-five divisions, fifteen forward and ten supporting—more than three times the number of defenders in the line. Everywhere it was shattered with appalling losses.

At one point fifty German dead were counted in a hundred-yard bayou and wire entanglement. Many places were festooned with bodies. Our losses were incredibly low. Naturally in every Allied unit the morale became enormously high and the men were in better fighting trim than before the battle. The enemy was correspondingly depressed by the wreck of his ambitious plans.

A map was found on an officer prisoner showing that the day's objectives of this division, which started from Nauroy, was the Marne at Reilly. The indicated line of march curved westward, showing that the German intention was to swing in that direction and join hands at Epernay with the force advancing eastward along the Marne. Further on the right the objective was certainly Chalons, which the Germans expected to reach before noon Tuesday. It was a fine strategic conception, as it would have given them the whole line of the Marne as a base. Subsequent operations failed dismally.

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SCOUTS VAIN HOPE IN MITTELEUROPA

German Economist Declares Overseas Colonies Are Necessary to Progress

PLAN ONLY TEMPORARY

Cannot Suffice to Supply Teuton Countries With Foodstuffs and Raw Material

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

The Hague, July 18.—Weltwirtschaft, Übergangswirtschaft, Mitteleuropa, and last but not least, raw materials are positive obligations in the German press. Philip Heineken, director of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company and prominent member of the Hansaatic economic movement, publishes an article in the Weser Zeitung on the German and Austro-Hungarian league-in-arms based on the catchword, Mitteleuropa and its economic possibilities, and that the nonrealization of hope may bring deep disappointment.

Heineken adds that his article, which is entitled "World Economic and Central Europe," does not mean that one signifies the other, but that one is the complement of the other. A central European economic league, he asserts, if each member of the league has world connections, and world economics must likewise bring communication with such an important factor as this league would be.

The completion of this league, wonderful as its realization would be, will not suffice, he proceeds, although the central European idea, with its multitudinous connections, especially when Turkey and part of the Balkans are included, and the road to India via the Persian Gulf, is enormous. He argues that the idea that central European economic districts will replace everything which Germany has lost in the war is an exaggeration.

Economic League Only Temporary

Reference is made to the last meeting of the German-Austro-Hungarian economic league June 1, when it was resolved that the league would either guarantee further economic relations with the world or would be strong enough to resist if the enemy refused to resume economic relations. Heineken continues that it is perfectly clear that this can only be a temporary defensive league and cannot replace the former exchange of goods with the world. Quoting Professor Manes, he says:

"We understand today that the closest league of the Central Powers and the closest connections cannot possibly suffice to supply Germany and Austria with the raw materials, as well as foodstuffs and fodder that these countries require unless they are willing to fall behind the standing of pre-war days and content themselves with the role of a third-rate power."

A glance at pre-war import statistics, the writer observes, will suffice to show that it is an impossibility to pretend that raw materials and other necessities needed by Germany can be supplied permanently by the European continent. The aim of the league, Heineken argues, should not be to shut out communication with the world or to encourage the idea that it is to substitute for lost markets, as a few years would suffice to destroy Germany's power as a world importer and exporter.

The Berliner Tageblatt recently quoted an article from the New York Times in order to show how much attention the American commercial world is giving to these questions.

Question of Naval Bases The Cologne Volkszeitung brings up the question of naval bases and their importance in connection with Von Herting's speech and the upbuilding of Germany's colonial empire. This question, of which the masses of the German people understand but little, has been left in abeyance of late, but the paper says that it deserves more attention than it receives.

History has shown that naval bases are motors of colonial policy, it continues, and Great Britain is a classical example. The paper then points to the Australian desire to be "supreme" in the Pacific, and, indeed, the South Sea Islands, and says that with all these world political questions that of naval bases becomes ever more important. Germany must have good ports and island connections, it asserts, and successes on the continent do not suffice.

Germany needs bases on the west African coast, the article maintains, and must have a complete agreement with Portugal for the ports of Tiger Bay and the islands Principe and Sao Thome; and must also have bases on the east African coast. Zanzibar, it says, must be returned. The paper enumerates various other places which would certainly be of great advantage to Germany's ambitious overseas plan.

British Banks Amalgamate By the Associated Press London, July 18.—The Times understands the Government has sanctioned the amalgamation of Lloyd's Bank and the Capital and Counties' Bank and the National Bank of Scotland and the London and River Plate Bank.

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BRITISH GAIN ON ASIAGO

Inflict Heavy Losses on the Austrians in Italy By the Associated Press Rome, July 18.—The official communication from Italian headquarters says: "On Monday evening a British detachment penetrated the enemy's lines southeast of Asiago. Heavy losses were inflicted on the garrison and twenty-four prisoners were taken."

"Repeated enemy attacks yesterday resulted in lively activity between the southeastern slopes of Siusi, Tossio and the Brenta. North of Grappa the enemy heavily stormed our advanced lines south of Col Tossio but was driven back. Two hostile airplanes were brought down."

TURKS LOSE IN PALESTINE

Moslems Report That British Battalion Was Wiped Out By the Associated Press London, July 18.—According to a dispatch from Amsterdam, an official statement has been issued at Constantinople relative to the fighting in Palestine on July 13 and 14. The statement says that east of the Jordan a Turkish assault provoked a British counter-attack, which was supported by a cavalry division and armored cars. The Turkish War Office claims that this division was almost annihilated, only some stragglers succeeding in escaping.

Reuter's correspondent in Palestine says the Turkish attack early on Sunday morning proved costly and failed to gain an inch of ground. The enemy lost 600 prisoners, it is stated, of whom more than one-half were Germans.

AMERICANS DOWN 13 PLANES

French Observers Make Report of Fighting Tuesday By the Associated Press With the American Army on the Marne, July 18.—French observers report that thirteen enemy airplanes fell in the region over which an American pursuit squadron was patrolling and fighting Tuesday. Within the American lines it had been considered sure that the Americans had downed eight, and possibly nine, enemy planes.

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