

FRENCH VICTORY ALARMS GERMAN PRESS—SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCHES FROM WAR FRONTS

THE HITS BACK WHO HELP RETREAT Must Hold Allies While Beaten Columns Are Extricated From Salient FRENCH GAIN GROUND Genius of Foch and Wisdom of United Command Shown in Victory

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Paris, July 24. Reports were received here yesterday afternoon to the effect that the Germans launched a violent counter-attack against the Allied armies fighting between Chateau-Thierry and Neully-St. Front.

This counter-attack is interpreted as fresh evidence of the enemy's defeat. It can only have been undertaken with a view to giving time for the columns which are being extricated from the northern banks of the Marne to get away toward the Vesle district.

Meanwhile Franco-American forces in ever-increasing numbers are pouring northward across the Marne in pursuit of the retreating enemy. The Marne was crossed at several fresh places Tuesday morning. De Goutte's men, who are coming on from the westward in spite of German counter-attack, took something like another thousand prisoners in the night.

Allies Coming in Three Directions The great German offensive that was to have brought the heath to Paris last Thursday has now resolved itself into a series of desperate rear-guard actions in the hope of giving the bulk of the enemy forces time to escape from the clutches of the Allies advancing on them from three points of the compass simultaneously.

The enemy's losses in the rear-guard actions, all accounts agree, are enormous, while the Allied casualties, thanks to the splendid support of our tanks are relatively light. Our aviators are harassing the retreating columns of the enemy every yard of the journey, and are able to inflict enormous damage with comparative impunity.

In the course of their rapid advance north of the Ourcq yesterday French infantrymen recaptured a factory of their own six-inch guns which the Germans had since been using against the Allies. The French guns were quickly turned once more against the Germans.

The retreating enemy has now some twenty-four miles of country to cross before he reaches comparative safety on the north bank of the Aisne, unless he is able to receive help before long from other parts of this line. This twenty-four miles of country includes the crossing of three more rivers—the Ourcq, the Vesle and the Aisne.

Allies Arrive at Fere The point which the Allies, advancing from the west, will make their greatest efforts to reach in order to cut off the retreating enemy will doubtless be Fere-en-Tardenois, which lies on the Ourcq, one of the most important knots of roads in the whole district. It is this key which Von Boehm's army now is deviously defending by its counter-attack between Chateau-Thierry and Neully-St. Front.

The next most important center further north is Fismes, on the Vesle, which was the scene of terrific fighting while the Germans were driving down from the Chemin-de-James to the Marne. Both Fere and Fismes are threatened from several directions by the Allies, but the Germans may be relied upon, in view of their vital importance, to defend both, cost what it may.

Considered expert opinion is inclined to be well satisfied if the Allies merely continue to hold the heights west and southwest of Soissons. It is pointed out that the capture of the city and a subsequent advance of the Allies eastward would pose out the way to a strong German counter-attack, a situation which it would be prudent to prevent arising in view of the situation on the rest of the battlefield.

Foch's Defense Line Well Chosen A question of interest is to know whether Von Boehm will be able to block our road northward from Chateau-Thierry. The line of defense chosen by the German commander for his emergency retreat is a very strong one, running from Bezu, a village about five miles due north of Chateau-Thierry to Mont St. Pere, opposite Mezy on the north bank of the Vesle. It is well supported with considerable elements of reserve. It runs along a road five miles long, which connects the two villages along the northern slopes of a plateau which would have to be climbed by the attacking Allies under full exposure to the enemy's fire. It is well supported on its right by woods and on its left by the Marne at a point where steep banks render the river nearly uncrossable. The line evidently will prove hard to force, but in any case it can afford the momentary respite, as the whole of his front from Soissons right around to Ehinne is strongly threatened at every point and must be hung on to desperately everywhere.

PARISIANS LAUD YANKEE SAVIORS No Longer Feel Danger of Loss of Capital Americans Protect

PRaise FROM A GERMAN Captured Colonel Ranks Them Nineteen in Scale of Twenty. Disregard Danger

By CHARLES H. GRASTY Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. London, July 24. Americans returning from France say that there has been a revolution of feeling there the last fortnight. The fall or destruction of Paris is now thought to be as far removed as it was after the first Marne battle. General enthusiasm for America is manifested.

An American official who has spent weeks in Paris said: "A French Cabinet Minister gave me an account of a visit to the battle. He talked with all sorts of officers, from General Foch down. All told the same story of the American units in that fight. The Minister remarked that they fought as well as the French did in the first six months of the war, when they were fresh, and higher praise could not be bestowed."

"A German colonel who was captured and asked what estimate he placed on the American troops now in the fighting. He answered that in a scale of twenty he marked them nineteen. Our divisions have the honor of occupying the line nearest Paris, and they feel the responsibility as defenders of the capital. The recent action brought together the greatest body of troops that ever fought under the Stars and Stripes."

General de Goutte Man's Man An officer who arrived yesterday from the front told me of a visit to General de Goutte at his headquarters. He said that the best word to apply to the French general was "dependable." He made an impression similar to that made by the best type of American man of affairs. He talked quietly and confidently. Nothing could be overlooked by General de Goutte. He was the kind of man Americans would like to see in command of a large body of Americans.

The same officer gave a striking description of the Allied troops on the way to the Foch offensive. My informant, who knows horses expertly, says he never saw finer mounts than those of the French cavalry. The whole picture of those beautifully trained and equipped men riding to the great battle, when they were to perform great feats, was one never to be forgotten.

A few minutes later my informant's car pulled up at the side of the road to allow a regiment of American marines to pass. They swung by singing, "From the Halls of Montezuma." They were in top condition, despite recent exertions. It is not to be supposed that the Americans are doing shock duty in the hottest battles of the world without paying the price of their aggressive courage. You know the extent of their losses better in America than we do here. If there is any criticism at all of our soldiers, it is on account of their contentment with their lot.

LONDON CRITICS WARY OF BATTLE Military "Experts" Still Reserve Judgment on Soissons-Rheims Fighting TOO EVENLY BALANCED

Consider "Pocket" Is Yet Tenable Though Very Uncomfortable for Enemy Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. London, July 24. The military critics are still reserving their judgment as to the probable outcome of the contest on the Marne front. The newspaper "experts" treat the retreat of the Germans as almost a foregone conclusion, but it is too early yet to prophesy. The Franco-American gains in the last twenty-four hours, though very helpful, are not decisive, and the German counter-attacks can have two interpretations: They may be meant to stave off the Franco-American advance until the heavy guns and other forces are moved out of the salient or they may be a serious attempt to recover the lost ground. So far, unmistakable signs of the German retreat are lacking.

Correspondents at the front have made much of the burning villages and big fires behind the enemy lines, but these conflagrations may merely be the result of fierce Allied bombardment and the explosion of dumps.

Of course, the experts do not for a moment deny a general German retreat to the line of the Vesle or of the Aisne may be an actual progress, but they say the fighting at present is far too evenly balanced to make it certain, and it is quite possible the German high command has not yet made up its own mind. The salient, though uncomfortable and very badly off for communications, is still tenable, and the boches may decide it is worth while holding quite as much to avoid the depressing effect its loss would have at home as for its absolute military value.

So far, fifty-four German divisions have been identified in the fighting lines. It is thought that sixty is a low estimate of the number actually employed. Accounts of the American dash and determination in the advance received in London are wonderful.

MAKES WILSON SPEECH PLEA TO FREE IRELAND John Dillon Quotes President as Basis for Motion in Commons

London, July 24. John Dillon, Irish nationalist leader, gave notice in the House of Commons today for a day for the discussion of the following motion: "The policy pursued toward Ireland by the Government is inconsistent with the great principles for the vindication of which the Allied Powers are carrying on the war. This policy has greatly alienated and exasperated the Irish people, and if persevered in will further alienate and exasperate them, and will steadily increase the difficulty of reaching a settlement of the Irish question on the basis of friendship between the British and Irish nations."

CZAREVITCH REPORTED DEAD Former Heir to Russian Throne Victim of Exposure

Amsterdam, July 24.—Alexis Romanoff, the former heir apparent to the Russian throne, died from exposure to the elements, it is reported, on the night of his execution. The former Emperor was executed, says a dispatch from Moscow to the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger.



AMERICANS CAMOUFLAGE A ROAD



All the tricks of the war trade are being mastered by the Yankee soldiers. The squad in the photograph are covering the road with foliage in order to deceive the Teuton observers.

FOCH'S GREAT SUCCESS AIDS BRITISH ARMIES Teuton Plans for Double Drive Against Paris and Calais Spoiled—English Aiding French at Marfaux

By PHILIP GIBBS War Correspondent's Headquarters on the Western Front, July 24. Between the Marne and the Aisne the enemy is fighting desperately, and the French and American troops are forcing in the sides of the salient and crushing him into its narrowing space. British troops slipped quietly away from their own front just before Foch was ready to deliver his counter-blow.

They are men who have fought in many great battles and won the highest honors of war. It is too soon yet to name them, for the enemy desires to know whom he has against him, but these English and Scottish battalions have already shattered some of his best divisions and made many prisoners.

I saw some of them just before they left this front. I saw them marching and maneuvering like fine and gallant men, saw Scottish boys in their camps and billets and tramping down along roads between bronzing wheat fields with pipers leading them. I passed their brothers the other day near Metzerey, and their officers told me that the lads would make good soldiers in attack. There was no need to be told, because they had the look of it.

Three days ago they went into battle on ground unknown to them in that rugged country below Rheims, and these boys have beaten back the strongest German troops.

Hard Task for Britons They had a hard task, English and Scottish battalions advanced on the attack on the eastern side of the salient below Rheims, where the enemy had massed a strong concentration of men and guns for a break through to Epernay, and where at the time he was expecting French counter-attacks. The Germans there were on high ground on each side of the valley of the Ardre, very rugged and wild, so that they were in strong defensive positions in dense woods in full foliage.

Rheims Wood, north of the river, and Coulton Wood and King's Wood, south of the river, screened their movements and their guns to the southwest of Rheims. They had strong artillery well hidden in the towers of Marfaux, Bouilly, and St. Euphraste and other villages, behind.

After several hours of bombardment of the German positions, the English battalions advanced on the enemy. They were handicapped by complete ignorance of the ground, except by a hurried study of the maps, but the officers' their fighting was an object, and they went forward with short, sharp rushes, with good discipline and high courage.

GERMAN CRITICS ADMIT SUCCESS OF ALLIES Hindenburg's Plans Gone Wrong, Says Karl Rosner. War in Decisive Phase, Writes Dr. Weither

Amsterdam, July 24. Paris and it gives its readers further cold comfort by assuring them that the German army is face to face with only part of those reserves.

Doctor Weither, of the Cologne Gazette, writing from headquarters Friday night, says that the world-war appears to have entered its most vast and decisive phase and he laments that Germany has to fight alone against the weight of England and France, reinforced by the American and Italian troops. He adds: "Those who live out here feel their nerves strained to the utmost while those two great forces, two of the greatest which the world has ever gathered together, are placed in a face-to-face struggle with the most frightful energy of brain and heart and muscle. Now there is no more time for talk of moral impression. Here with vital things, our last, our all, are at stake. That we have to do with opponents whose strength demands our highest from us if we are to be their masters is clear from their latest achievements."

He refers to the great tank, airplane and artillery strength of the Entente armies and to the unequaled bitterness of the fighting. He admits the superiority of the Allied air service.

AIR OBSERVER KILLED Death of Lieutenant F. K. Hirth in Battle Announced

By the Associated Press With the American Army in France, July 24.—The death was announced today of Lieutenant F. K. Hirth, who was killed in an aerial battle on July 15. Lieutenant Hirth, as an observer, was flying with a pilot who was wounded while fighting two German machines.

ALBANIA DRIVE STOPS AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE Preparations of Vienna Staff Shattered by Franco-Italian Gains

Rome, July 24. Austrian military and political circles are insisting upon a double offensive against the Allies in Italy and in Albania (Balkan front) in co-operation with a naval drive, according to dispatches from a Swiss source today.

It was rumored that German aid had been promised.

By the Associated Press Paris, July 24.—(Havas Agency).—Austrian preparations for an offensive in Albania have been shattered by the drive of the French and Italian troops during the last fortnight, according to the correspondent of the Petit Parisien on the Albanian front.

Enemy munitions depots, stores of food and war materials have been destroyed or captured. The Franco-Italians have straightened out at certain points over a front of twenty miles, and their light columns continue to advance along the banks of the Devoll River, the correspondent adds.

Rome, July 24.—The Italians are continuing their advance in Albania. The War Office announced that Italian troops pushing along the crest of Mailsloves captured Hill 900.

Paris, July 24.—The French War Office has issued the following: "In Albania our troops have continued their attacks, and after heavy hand-to-hand fighting drove the Austrians from all their positions south of the River Holta. In the course of two days we captured 500 prisoners, including six officers, and twelve machine guns."

Largest American Producers of Dyes for Army and Navy Uniforms Army Khaki, for Cotton and Wool Blues, for Navy Cloth Coal-Tar Intermediates for Explosives Diphenylamine Dimethylaniline Monochlorobenzol Dinitrophenol Aniline Oil National Aniline & Chemical Company Incorporated Works: Marcus Hook, Pa. Brooklyn, Buffalo, and Wappinger's Falls, N. Y. Main Sales Office: 21 Burling Slip, New York