

AMERICANS CLEAR BRIDGE RAILWAY

Victory Facilitates Maneuvering on Front South of Verdun

FOE MUST DEFEND METZ

Gen. Maurice Expects Hindenburg to Re-enforce Line U. S. Troops Attacked

By MAJ. GEN. SIR FREDERICK B. MAURICE

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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The scope and methods of the first stage of General Pershing's offensive are now becoming clear.

The main attack has been made on the southern face of the St. Mihiel salient.

A subsidiary American attack has been made from the western face of the salient.

These two attacks have been connected by a French attack on the point of the salient of St. Mihiel.

The famous Fort du Camp du Romarin, one of the original permanent defenses of the heights of the Meuse, captured by the Germans in September, 1917, and held by them until now.

The attack further to the north, the whole operation being directed by General Pershing.

Salient All But Gone

News of the progress made by our allies continues to be most satisfactory, and that of the main attack has been as rapid as we had any right to hope.

By continuing to advance from the southern front north and west of Thionville, Vionville and St. Benoit, the Germans have been driven back to Metz.

The salient has been protected by an accident of ground from destruction during four years.

The Americans are now advancing victoriously over ground which has not been trodden by Allied troops since the failure of Joffre's offensive into Lorraine in 1914.

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General Pershing has established a front across the base of the salient, and now has now to wait and see whether that is his final objective or whether he means to advance into the Woerze.

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BRITISH ARMY CAPTURES NEW PARTS OF OLD HINDENBURG LINE

By PHILIP GIBBS

Continued from Page One

Their rifle pits and they retreated during the night. A little while before the English troops had been fighting hard for possession of a spoil heap on one side of the Canal du Nord, which is ninety feet deep thereabouts, and had driven the enemy off its mound and across the canal, so making way for further progress toward Havrincourt village.

Roundabout Moeuvres two bodies of English troops, including several Lancashire battalions, were having hard fighting against desperate resistance, but they succeeded in capturing the village and later in the day broke up a strong and determined counter-attack, inflicting severe losses on the enemy.

Thursday morning the Sixty-second division of Yorkshire troops, on the left of the Rifles, who had New Zealanders on the right, assembled for an attack from Havrincourt to Gouzeaucourt. The rifle brigade and King's Royal Rifles changed their front and drew up before the battle on the east side of Havrincourt Wood, spending anxious hours there lest the enemy should soak them with gas. But when dawn came on a day of fog weather, they still breathed freely, and when our guns opened fire went ahead.

There was no preliminary bombardment beyond the usual shelling of the trenches, brought in, as I saw them to-day, by miracles of labor through miles of old battlefields now deep in mud. At the beginning of the battle they opened rapid fire and provided a creeping barrage behind which our men marched to meet their enemy.

No Surprise to Foe

It was no surprise to the Germans on the south of our new front of attack by Gouzeaucourt that they brought up their Jaeger division and opposed the Yorkshire men and rifles they had their 13th and Fifty-second divisions, both of which have suffered heavily in recent fighting and have not received any drafts to make up their wastage, a most remarkable state of affairs observed elsewhere.

During these battles of the month, which have important significance as revealing almost unexpected weakness in the German resources of manpower, the troops here had been ordered to head on to the Havrincourt, Trezeau and Gouzeaucourt line of defense at any price in blood, and on the whole, they did their best to fulfill this command.

There was a trench, one of our old trenches newly organized, heading backward from Trezeau on the outer boundary of our objective for about 400 yards, which was recognized by a battalion commander at the end of the day's fighting, and I found it held by a strong force of the enemy. His men then attacked it, and after a sharp encounter with the Germans, who resisted fiercely, captured it with 110 prisoners and eighteen machine guns.

Farm Taken Neatly

The strong point of Bihem Farm, from which I once saw our tanks going into action, was taken very neatly by an encircling movement of two small bodies of riflemen, who worked north and south of it and joined hands on the other side.

Meanwhile, Yorkshiremen of the Sixty-second division had stormed the heights of Havrincourt, gaining the plateau and its grounds and a clear view over the enemy positions below and away to Bourlon Wood, and on the south New Zealanders were pushing forward to Gouzeaucourt Wood, which they took in the evening.

Gradually through the day the number of prisoners increased as their dugouts and hiding places were searched, until at night from all parts of this front more than 1500 had been taken back.

For a time it seemed likely that the enemy's railway communications on the western front have been better than our own, and when the March 21st offensive was launched the main lines running through Amiens out of action, they were immeasurably superior. One of the most satisfactory features of the campaign is that it is gradually restoring their position in this most important respect.

Priority for New Houses

Favored When They Relieve Congestion in Munition Centers

By the Associated Press

Washington, Sept. 14.—Private building enterprises undertaken to relieve housing congestion in centers of war industry where all other means of relief have been exhausted, will be given priority assistance by the United States Housing Corporation, (U. S. H. C.), president of the corporation, announced today.

The corporation's approval of these projects will be given, however, only in cases where communities have plans for the disposal of workers all available housing space, and have attempted to handle the situation by other means, including betterment of transportation facilities.

Prisoners Their Catch

Brooklyn M. Make Big Haul, Detroit Soldier Bags Six

With the American Army on the Lorraine front, Sept. 13, 1918, the German prisoners were brought in by Albert Hart, of Brooklyn, and two other men, who were captured by the Americans at the attack on the heights of the Meuse, near Metz.

Hamilton Colbridge, of Detroit, brought in a German soldier, including a little fellow who was so burdened with extra clothing and food that he begged Colbridge to carry one of the other Teutons to make up for him.

They Honored by France

Grand Officer of Legion of Honor

By the Associated Press

Sept. 14.—General Debeney was named to the dignity of grand officer of the Legion of Honor.

His services in stopping the German advance in the Vosges, and in the capture of the Meuse, were the basis of the honor.

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AMERICANS WIN FOE'S RIFLE AND MUNITION PLANTS

French Say Gains Remove Supply From Enemy

PRAISE FOR U. S. FORCES

Germans Cannot Offer Surprise as Excuse for Defeat Before Mihiel

By the Associated Press

Paris, Sept. 14.—It is evident that the Germans also were aware that something was in the wind, for their newspapers of the last few days stated that the Americans would attack the St. Mihiel salient. This fact is emphasized here as adding to the importance of the American victory, since it is considered the Germans cannot plead surprise in excuse for their defeat.

The fact that the Germans could not have been better chosen from the French point of view, for the northern part of the salient was extraordinarily rich in iron, and the Germans had their hand in the first days of the war and which is one of the essential resources for her munitions. In case of Germany, she failed to capture it, she had organized a bombing system to be used against it from one of her strongest lines of defense, known as the Metz-Thionville line, which borders on the east and which, while threatening the French metallurgical centers, at the same time covers the German centers.

Cute Munition Output

A large section of French opinion holds that the principal cause for the length of the war; that without the iron drawn from it Germany would have been unable to keep up her supply of munitions. There have been numerous bombardments of the Briey region by aircraft.

The entire press pays in praise of the American initiative and enterprise in the undertaking of the offensive on the St. Mihiel salient.

Dalle notizie giunte ieri dal fronte di battaglia, confermate da un comunicato ufficiale, si rileva che le truppe italiane hanno conseguito altri importanti successi locali in parecchi punti del fronte di battaglia, lungo il quale si sono avuti moderati combattimenti d'artiglieria.

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WOOD FOR AIRPLANE WINGS

German Machine Landing in Holland Shows Lack of Textiles

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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VICTORY OF U. S. ARMY GROWING

American Triumph in Lorraine Proves of Great Moment

MAY PRESS ON METZ

New Attack on Aisne Continues Foch's Big Offensives

By the Associated Press

The scope of the victory won by the American First Army in Lorraine in its initial offensive effort continues to grow. The number of prisoners taken is now said to number 20,000, which is exactly the equivalent of two enemy divisions.

General Pershing's forces in two days drove in to a maximum of thirteen miles, which is approximately the distance from the tip of the salient below St. Mihiel, to Hattonville, a mile and a half north of Vionville, through which the American line was last reported as running.

The Germans are reported re-adjusting their lines on the eastern of the former salient, the probabilities being, however, that they are not being allowed to do this in peace by the American forces on the French on the flank.

Next Move Velled

What further development the offensive may have, however, the ultimate effect of the drive which completely wiped out the St. Mihiel salient with a rapidity almost unexampled for such a large operation is bound to be important.

The French in this front seems to be opening up the way for a subsequent drive against Metz and possibly the important Briey iron fields, now in German hands, it has already achieved a large measure of success in the capture of the town of Alençon and Nancy. Their advance here threatens the right flank of the Chemin-de-Dames.

This movement also represents a further closing in on the St. Gobain massif, which is accentuated by progress north of the Ailette, where the French are working into the upper forest of Coucy, beyond the former German line.

Progress on Aisne

On the Aisne front, the general progress likewise was reported as satisfactory.

On the British front, Field Marshal Haig's forces appear to have been particularly successful in beating off renewed German attacks on the important ground recently won from the enemy.

All these attempts, which were particularly successful in the towns of Alençon and Nancy. Their advance here threatens the right flank of the Chemin-de-Dames.

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'AMERICA VICTRIX' BRITAIN'S HALL

London Press Congratulates U. S. First Army on St. Mihiel Battle

FINE FIGHTING QUALITY

Accomplishment Justifies High Hopes in Pershing and His Troops

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

London, Sept. 14.—British congratulations to America's first army are conveyed in warmest tones by the press this morning.

The Daily News says that the vanguard of the American army has brilliantly signalled its entry into the war as an independent force, and adds:

"What has happened is that the enemy had prepared to retire at his leisure, and was given no time to carry out his project. What was to have been an orderly withdrawal was converted by the Americans into a precipitate flight in which 15,000 prisoners, to say nothing of the dead and wounded, were left behind. The Americans at Pagny are separated by little more than the breadth of the Moselle from German territory. It is probable, indeed, that they are already across the river and on the sacred soil of the fatherland at a distance not more than twelve miles from Metz. Mention of the great frontier fortress must raise no premature expectations, for it is by no means probable that an immediate assault on the city is intended."

"General Pershing and his brave troops," says the Daily Chronicle, "deserve congratulations on their very skillful and efficient piece of work. Its accomplishment justifies the high hopes formed of the American troops. They had already given proof of their fine fighting qualities in hard-fought battles when they were incorporated with the French and British armies. Now in Lorraine they have supplied a striking illustration of their capacity to carry through successfully an independent operation on a considerable scale. The United States may well be proud of the manner in which its young army has completed itself in its first offensive on its own initiative."

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UNA GRANDE ARMATA AMERICANA IN ITALIA?

Wilson Premurato Perche' Trecentomila Americani Vadano in Italia

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Washington, Dec. 13 settembre. Mr. Tillman, rappresentante di Arkansas al Congresso di Washington, ha fatto presente al Presidente Wilson la necessità che una grande armata di truppe americane, da 200,000 a 300,000 uomini, sia destinata in Italia. Egli ha predetto che se le armate italiane avranno l'assistenza di una tale forza, potranno mettere l'Austria fuori della guerra.

Mr. Tillman, recentemente tornato dalla zona di guerra, riferisce che il generale Diaz, comandante supremo delle truppe italiane al fronte di battaglia, gli ha dichiarato che con detto contingente di truppe egli sarebbe in grado di effettuare un'offensiva lungo il Piave, in nove giorni, ed invadere il territorio austriaco.

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