

AMERICANS PRESS RETREATING FOES

Weakened Defense Indicates German Right and Center Retiring

FORCED INTO POCKET

Meuse Sector Firm to Permit Last Stand in Kriemhilde Line

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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With the American Army in France, Oct. 3.

Last twenty-four hours has been marked on the front of the First American Army between the Meuse and the Argonne forest, both on our front lines and back areas.

There have been no counter-attacks and this fact, coupled with increased special activity by the Germans and the heavier shelling, may have been meant to cover a withdrawal along our center and left to the Kriemhilde line. There has been no infantry action today except clashes between patrols.

Our troops continue to consolidate their positions between the Argonne forest and the Meuse. In the Argonne our lines have been pushed slightly ahead without great opposition in the last twenty-four hours.

Between the Meuse and the Moselle the Germans are also giving signs of withdrawing. Patrols yesterday found Pagny-Moselle unoccupied by Germans.

Resistance Weakens

The First American Army is exerting renewed pressure against the German lines on the Aire-Meuse sector and is making progress in pushing toward the Kriemhilde line. Our advance guards report that the boche resistance is weakening in the Argonne forest and the Aire Valley.

Further east along the Meuse the German resistance remains firm. This is easy to explain. Our troops on the right have pushed up the Meuse Valley to Brielleux, which is only a mile from where the Kriemhilde trench line crosses the river. Over to the westward in the Aire Valley we are about five kilometers from the line and in the Argonne we are perhaps eight kilometers from where the Kriemhilde positions run just north of Grandpre.

What the boche evidently is doing, after being worn down by our unremitting pressure since Friday, is to get back to the Kriemhilde line, and to hold this line he must stand firm on his right while yielding on his left. We are an advance north of Exermont and the French advance west of the Argonne forest have placed the Germans in the woods in a pocket out of which they are now trying to get.

After three days of violent counter-attacks the Germans have essayed only one mediocre attempt of Exermont, which was easily broken up. This may have been to cover a withdrawal. The German artillery of smaller caliber is less active now, although they continue to send a large number of shells from big rifles stuck in behind the Kriemhilde line.

Most Complete Positions

The prediction made in these dispatches two days ago that the German resistance in the region of Montfaucou and Apremont was due to a desire to put the Kriemhilde position in better shape, seems to hold good. Captured orders show that the troops have been commanded to hold this region until the Grandpre positions are ready.

Captured documents show also the importance the higher command lays on holding his Kriemhilde line, for behind this line there is no organized German position on the side of the French border, and if they lose it the Germans must face a fight in the open with our troops, who like and excel at that sort of warfare, where the strongest backs and stout hearts play the biggest role.

Good weather did wonders for us in repairing the roads and reports are that traffic conditions have improved 100 per cent over two days ago, when, it may be stated, our service of supply was in a sorry plight through no fault of its own. Determination and shovels have dug us out of a hole.

See What Lies Ahead

On hill 215, lying just east of Montfaucou, is the observatory from which the German Crown Prince watched the fateful battle of Verdun. Turning about face one gets a most excellent view of what lies ahead of the First American army. A matter of ten kilometers to the right winds the Meuse River, the valley of which one cannot see for the woods. About two or three kilometers to the north lies Nantilly, which we hold, and down the road one may see the church steeple of Brielleux, which also is in our hands. To the north one makes out Hill 209, the key position to the Kriemhilde line. From Montfaucou hill one sees plainly to the northwest the village of Clercy. Over beyond Hill 217 lies Romagne, which is one kilometer this side of the German trenches.

To the west from the hill south of Exermont one may look up the Aire valley and see the stream turn west at St. Juvan, hiding itself in the Argonne forest, where it runs to Grandpre about a mile south of the Kriemhilde line.

The terrain hereabouts is very hilly, forming strong positions for our use in repulsing German counter-attacks. West of Exermont hill rise the dignified slopes of the Argonne forest, the fastness of which hide so many tales of heroism, not only of 1918, but of 1915 and 1916 as well.

Having had now three good hot meals since their supplies have gotten up, and with the rain halted and dry blankets distributed, our soldiers feel like new men and are ready for any sort of fighting. If their spirits become a bit dampened, it must be remembered that it was on Wednesday, the day before the attack, rained on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and has been dimly cold. Their chief consolation is that no matter how disagreeable it has been for them, it has been just as bad for the Germans.

New Yorkers Heroic

Despite the bad weather, our air service reports more than 100 enemy planes brought down since the attack started and twenty-one balloons.

New York city will be proud to learn that it was the boys the metropolis sent to Camp Upton last year who have been fighting a battle against the Germans and the natural obstacles in the Argonne forest and breaking up positions that the Germans believed could not be broken.

To the lot of these youngsters fell perhaps the toughest slice of the toughest job the American troops in France have yet tackled. They have gone through constant and steel and wood defenses and uncounted lines of barbed wire, strung from many thousands of trees, in the two-mile zone of these defenses which the Germans thought could never be cut.

Their advance has been simply one of shuffling. It was a case of cutting through one fence and then through another, and adding another working layer as they went, until they were working through a thick, impenetrable forest.

UNITE TO BREAK TEUTONIC YOKE

Oppressed Peoples of Europe Discuss Organization for Political Freedom

WILL AID ALLIES' CAUSE

Eight Nationalities Represented in Conference—Purpose of League Outlined

By the United Press

Washington, Oct. 3.

Representatives of oppressed nationalities met here today to form a mid-European federation, to include subject peoples now living under the shadow of Teutonic domination.

Those represented included Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Ukrainians, Jugos-Slavs, Lithuanians, Finns, Rumanians and Italian irredentist—65,000,000 people, now largely without self-government and political freedom.

Resolutions demanding the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and formation of a mid-European federation were to be adopted. The representatives also plan to offer the entire moral and physical resources of their countrymen in Europe to the cause of the Allies.

Creation of a barrier across the heart of Europe to serve as a wall against German aggression is the immediate aim of the mid-European federation. It will seek to organize a political, military and economic wall along the eastern frontier of Germany. Forces in America and Europe are to be co-ordinated to this end. It is declared.

The purpose of the federation was outlined at the opening of the conference by Prof. H. A. Miller, delegated by the American government to undertake its organization.

"Never before in history have the national leaders of the eight nationalities here represented been gathered together for the unanimous purpose of working out a constructive political program for 65,000,000 people living in territory extending from the Arctic Ocean to the Black and Adriatic Seas," Professor Miller said.

"It is the birth of the federation of States, without which there can be no permanent peace. For many centuries the problems for the solution of which this organization was established have been dealt with by methods in which justice played no part, and in recent years it has been the definite purpose of Austria-Hungary to stimulate dissension among them.

"Today the union has been begun and the strength generated by these centuries of oppression is turning with its full force to its own defense. It is based on the democratic principles which President Wilson has so often proclaimed.

"The strategic position is an absolute check against German aggression in the east. This federation makes the Austrian Empire not only unnecessary, but impossible. It means revolutions against German domination."

French Ambassador Jusserand, unable to attend, wrote:

"I need not say that I sincerely share your sentiment for the nations still in bondage and whose day of liberation is at hand. There is no son of France that does not think as you do."

Buy Potatoes Now, Says Food Board

Order potatoes now and store them for winter, advises the State food administration. Farmers at curb markets are now taking orders for potatoes which will be delivered within a reasonable distance of the markets within the next few weeks. Householders were warned not to keep their potatoes too warm or too cold, for they will either sprout or freeze.

Altar Vases for Washington Memorial

In memorial to the first President, the National Society of United States Daughters of 1812 today dedicated a set of altar vases at the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, Pa.

CAMBRAI NOT FIRED

Flames Believed Caused by Burning Munitions

By the Associated Press

British Army Headquarters, Oct. 3.—The enemy for some time past has been employing liquid air as a substitute for high explosives which is an indication that the beginning of the new year losses he has sustained in war material.

The report that the Germans have set fire to Cambrai does not appear to be confirmed. It is believed that the fire was caused by the burning of ammunition dumps.

CAPTURED 123,036 IN MONTH

Allies' September Catch on West Front Runs High

By the United Press

Paris, Oct. 3.

The Allies took 123,036 German prisoners in France and Belgium during September. It was officially announced today.

The captives included 120,193 men and 2,843 officers. During the same period the Allies captured 1600 cannon and more than 10,000 machine guns.

From July 15 to September 30 the Allies took prisoner 248,494 men and 5218 officers and captured 2659 cannon and 23,000 machine guns.

BOLSHEVIKI CHARGE SPY PLOT

Friends of Former U. S. Consul at Moscow Arrested

Amsterdam, Oct. 3.—According to a dispatch to the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger from Moscow, the Investigative Committee announces the arrest of a number of persons accused of spying on behalf of De Witt C. Poole, the former American consul general in Moscow.

Those arrested, says the dispatch, include M. Kolmatzoff, who is said to be a naturalized American citizen and chief of the American espionage agency in Russia.

The dispatch adds that a large quantity of documents was seized.

Americans Hit Foe Stronghold

Continued from Page One

became an active factor in the war. It was strengthened from time to time, trenches being laid out and dugouts finally added to the work. So far as known, no new wire has been placed recently along this line, but certain strategic sections have been strengthened. The system is not so strong as the famous Hindenburg line, but nevertheless has extremely strong positions.

Violent artillery firing developed along the center of the American line between the Meuse and the Aire yesterday. The Germans also bombarded the American positions on the right near the Meuse, to a limited extent, but on the extreme left there was a significant silence for the greater part of the day.

Along this sector of the front, the positions held by the Americans follow a zigzag line. The number of Germans near the Argonne forest is less than that fighting on the eastern side. General Gouraud's drive west of the forest, together with the advance of the American army, has forced the Germans to cut off the enemy units still clinging to the wooded hills south of Grandpre.

Patrol Action Only

No general offensive was undertaken by the Americans yesterday. All along the line, fighting was restricted to patrol actions. It has been learned that the enemy expected a heavy attack yesterday and to that fact is attributed his heavy artillery fire. This fire was particularly heavy, gas and high explosives and shrapnel shells being used. They were fired both in front of

BULGARIA PROCLAIMS HOPE OF EARLY PEACE

Populace Urged to Maintain Order—Ferdinand Changed Attitude Over Night

By the Associated Press

Amsterdam, Oct. 3.

Dispatches from Sofia state that the Bulgarian Government in announcing officially that an armistice had been signed and orders given to suspend military operations, declared that it will be only a short time until peace is made.

The official statement says: "At this moment the Bulgarian nation and army are asked, once hostilities have been suspended, to maintain calm and order so that the Government may be able to complete the work of peace. Only a short time separates us from the day of definite peace. The nation must allow itself to be guided only by sentiments of ardent love for Bulgaria."

After representing the Bulgarian army as in a state of mutiny and confusion, a Vienna telegram to the Rotterdam Nieuwe Courant concludes:

"This state of affairs has forced the Central Powers to leave in the capital (Sofia) sufficient forces to preserve order, and especially to guard the legations, and the stores of food and war material."

The Bulgarian peace delegates who went to Salonica and signed the armistice agreement with the Allies have returned to Sofia.

King Ferdinand and Crown Prince

RECORD FOR CIVILIAN FLIER

Dayton to Washington, 430 Miles, in 2 Hours 50 Minutes

Washington, Oct. 3.—A nonstop flight from Dayton, O., to Washington, approximately 430 miles, in a De Havilland 9, equipped with a Liberty motor, is the record made yesterday by a civilian pilot of the Bureau of Aircraft Production.

The time of actual flight from a point over Dayton to a point over the national capital was two hours and fifty minutes, or at a rate of about 143 miles an hour. It requires the fastest train on the Pennsylvania Railroad about sixteen and one-half hours to make the same trip.

Caleb Bragg was the pilot who flew the plane. An engineer officer accompanied him. He traveled at a high altitude all the way, holding his course entirely by compass.

"We are betrayed," is a sentence that frequently appears in the newspaper articles. The Frankfort Gazette is the first to admit that the surrenders is a direct consequence of the development on the western front, and it described King Ferdinand's reported messages of loyalty to the German and Austrian Emperors and constituting "a psychological riddle."

The Cologne Volks Zeitung is deeply pessimistic regarding the future. It would be unwise, it says, to place any hopes on a counter-movement.

Chicago Buys \$30,000,000

Chicago, Oct. 3.—Thirty million dollars worth of the fourth Liberty Bonds had been bought in Chicago last night to a quota of \$22,000,000. It is estimated that subscriptions in Michigan so far aggregate \$70,000,000.

Indiana, reported steady progress toward the quota goal.

Seashore Excursions TO ATLANTIC CITY

Ocean City, Wildwood, Cape May EVERY SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 1918

2:30 A. M. from Chestnut or South Streets Ferry. Returns leave Seaside Points 8:00 P. M.

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