

AMERICANS FIGHT IN RAIN AND HAIL

Retake Hill 223 From Countering Germans, Killing More Than 1000

FOE DAMMING THE AIRE

Two Companies of Enemy Troops Wiped Out in Three Days' Battling

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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With the American Army in France.

In cold, torrential rains, varied by heavy hail, the Americans kept up the fight to wrest from the Germans that part of the Argonne forest remaining in their hands.

The severest fight of the day was for the possession of Hill 223, lying west of Chateau Cherey. We captured this position Monday. Yesterday the Germans attacked with strong forces, driving us from the crest.

With reinforcements the Americans swarmed up the hill again in a blinding rainstorm, and after two and a half hours of bloody fighting ousted the Germans. More than 1000 German dead were left on this position. The battle was largely hand-to-hand, neither side being able to use artillery effectively because of the closeness of the opposing troops.

Further south we made good progress against bitter resistance toward Lamoon on the Chateau Cherey road. To the northwest of Fieville we occupied positions commanding the junction of the only four roads running through the northern end of the Argonne forest. Thus slowly but surely we are wearing down the German determination to hold on in the north end of the Argonne.

Reports have come in that the enemy is hammering the Aire River in the vicinity of Maro. Because of heavy rains, this would probably cause the inundation of a considerable area, which would be a hindrance to our troops advancing toward the Kriemhild line in the vicinity.

From the Aire Valley to the Meuse is a comparatively quiet sector of the front. The German artillery here fires less than for days. Concentrations of German troops have been observed in the vicinity of Romagne and Clercy, and they are digging a new trench southeast of Romagne.

No German balloons were up yesterday and the few airplane activity was at a minimum. Our aerial activity was hindered by bad weather.

The German units facing our troops have suffered very heavy casualties in the last four days, information having been obtained that four companies were wiped out and many reduced to remnants. The Germans appear not to be throwing in so many fresh troops as last week, although those in line are putting up a game struggle.

The fighting for the last three days has been very trying to the men on both sides. Almost constant rains, with cold, have forced great suffering and tested the limit of the physical stamina of the men in the front lines. No houses are standing in most of the sector, and the Americans bivouacked in the back areas and the front line have small chance for any rest. This, of course, necessitates frequent reliefs.

The spirit of the American fighting men, despite all this remains iron. They believe that the foe is as sore on the weather as they are, and that helps.

A detachment of Prussians captured yesterday wore American overseas caps.

U. S. BATTALION RESCUED FROM TRAP GERMANS SET

Mark for German Guns for Three Days in Argonne Fastness, More Than Three-fourths of Men Are Brought Back After Repeated Efforts

By EDWIN L. JAMES

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With the American Army in France.

Surrounded in a fastness of the Argonne forest three days, a target all the while for German artillery and machine guns, without food for the last thirty-six hours, a battalion of American soldiers has been rescued in an attack led by Lieutenant Colonel Gene Houghton, of Racine.

The story of these men is one of the classics of the war. On Friday night, participating in an attack on German positions deep in the forest, they had to advance in single file. Pushing on against stern opposition, they gained their objectives, to find at dawn Saturday Germans not only in front of them but behind them and on both sides.

Their position was three kilometers northeast of Binerville, on the western edge of the Argonne forest. The Germans had found an opening on their left and, using a trench, filtered in fully a thousand men behind our battalion out there. In trenches on both sides, the enemy installed many machine guns and went about corralling what they regarded as their prize prey.

On Saturday morning other Americans discovered the plight of their comrades, who were from seven companies and numbered 463 men. The French on our left attacked at the same time in an effort to release the Americans. The attack failed, but, as it developed, probably saved the Americans, because it diverted the German attack on them from the south.

On Sunday three more attempts were made to reach them, and all failed. On that day fourteen airplane missions were undertaken in their behalf, dropping tons of food and considerable ammunition for the sequestered men. Pigeons were also dropped by parachute, so that messages could be sent back. Our avia-

tors could not see anything of the missing men.

Knowing Monday morning that the food of the soldiers was about gone, the Americans set about a fresh attempt to rescue them. Our attack on the forest from the east helped in a determined effort made from the south, and late Monday night the troops broke through and reached the exhausted but still determined band. More than three-fourths of them were safe.

Because of the nature of the terrain it was impossible that night to get back any wounded, but yesterday stretcher bearers brought out of the jungle the seriously wounded.

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IMPLICIT TRUST IN WILSON

French Statesman Says Terms Will Take Care of Small Nations

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

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Paris, Oct. 8.—The news of the request for an armistice by the Central Empires was received in political circles here with surprise as rumors of such a move had been rife all quarters long before the note was published in the morning. A well-known statesman, on being asked for his opinion upon the answer which the Allies should give, said:

"I have perfect and implicit trust in the judgment and statesmanship of President Wilson, who dominates the situation. The Allies may rest assured that his answer will take into account the aspirations of small nationalities. His terms will be such that if the Central Empires accept them they will not be able again to wage war on undefeated, peace-loving nations."

GERMANY TO GRANT POLITICAL AMNESTY

Liבקnecht, Dittman and Other Prisoners Will Be Pardoned

London, Oct. 8.—The German Government, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company, intends to grant pardons to a number of politicians imprisoned since the war began, including the Socialist Dr. Karl Liבקnecht and Wilhelm Dittman. A general amnesty, the dispatch adds, probably will be granted to political offenders.

Dr. Karl Liבקnecht, who, according to the Amsterdam report, is about to be released from prison, probably is the most striking figure in German socialism and one of the few Socialist leaders in that country who have consistently stood against the Government in its war policy.

Doctor Liבקnecht was arrested at Berlin May 1, 1916, on the charge of participating in riots that day in the German capital. In the following month he was tried on the charge of attempted high treason, gross insubordination and resistance to the authorities. The trial was held behind closed doors and resulted in the Socialist leader being sentenced to thirty months' penal servitude and dismissal from the army.

It has been alleged that Doctor Liבקnecht was in possession of important documents showing that Austria was forced into the war by the German military leaders against the wishes of Vienna and Budapest.

Deputy Wilhelm Dittman is an independent Socialist. His name was linked in October, 1917, with those of Deputies Haase and Vogther, other Socialists, with the outcry in the German Reichstag when he attempted to address a crowd in a Berlin suburb. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for inciting to high treason and was given two months' additional for resisting public authority.

FOE HAS NEW FLAME BOMB

Aviators Use New Device to Carry Death in Horrible Form

By the Associated Press

Paris, Oct. 8.—The Germans during the last few days have been using in their air work a new type of inflammable bomb, combining great effectiveness with light weight. A single airplane, it is said, can carry 200 of these bombs.

The only way of fighting the fire caused by this new form of destructive weapon appears to be the isolation of the blaze, as pouring water on it is literally adding fuel to the flames on account of the chemicals of which the bombs are composed.

NEGATIVE REPLY FORESEEN

Berlin Writer Says Germans Acted at Unripe Moment

Amsterdam, Oct. 8.—Walter Rathenau, in a special article in the Berlin Vossische Zeitung which bears the caption "A Dark Day," and which anticipates a negative and humiliating answer from President Wilson says:

"We allowed ourselves to be carried away at an unripe moment into an unripe decision. We shall be asked to abandon Lozanne and perhaps Alsace. France will be named as a Polish port. The restoration of Belgium and northern France may be run into a disguised war indemnity of fifty billion marks."

"Was that taken into account? Who ever has lost his nerve must be superseded. In the event of an unsatisfactory reply not a day must be lost. A ministry of defense must be created consisting of civilian powers and call every available man to the defense of the fatherland."

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TURKEY PLANNING SEPARATE PEACE

Collapse Is Indicated by Smyrna's Effort to Open Negotiations

BEIRUT'S FALL A FACTOR

Railway System Threatened and Ottoman Empire Likely to Follow Bulgaria's Example

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London, Oct. 8.

Turkey is seeking to escape from a sinking ship.

The immediate collapse of the Ottoman Empire is indicated by the action of the Government of the Province of Smyrna, the most important part of Anatolia, which is virtually identical with Asia Minor, in sending emissaries to secure peace with the Allies.

An Athens dispatch, filed September 26, but received in London only today, says:

"According to the Greek paper Hestia there have arrived at Mitylene, on behalf of Bahni, Governor of Smyrna, three parliamentarians to enter into peace negotiations. One of the emissaries is a Greek, one an Englishman and one a Turk."

Further information has been received by your correspondents to the effect that the Constantinian Government is likewise seeking to open separate negotiations with the Allies. Turkey's position must be considerably weakened by the capture of Beirut, which is an important base in the advance upon Aleppo.

The center of the great railway system is thus threatened on two fronts and Turkey can scarcely hesitate to follow the example of Bulgaria. That Austria should wish to withdraw within her own frontiers is the natural corollary of such a situation.

News that has reached London that the Montenegrins have risen against the Austrians is symptomatic of the weakening of the enemy's hold upon the Balkans. It is known that detached parties of Croats, Slovenes, Serbians and Austrian deserters are in the mountains ready to make common cause against the oppressor. Though possibly in a military sense their value is not very great, they are capable of endangering Austrian communications.

The invaders' tenure in Albania is also precarious, and probably such Albanian soldiery as has been in Austria's pay will become hostile the moment the country is closed.

All signs point to the early evacuation by Austria of the Balkans. This may be with a view to a more concentrated defense of her own territory, but it is more probably preliminary to Austria throwing up the sponge and making unconditional surrender. Prince Max of Baden's inclusion of a discussion of a federation of Austria-Hungary in his peace offers is taken to indicate unmistakably to what depths of despair international conditions have reached. The Government of the Monarchy, Baron Buriann's reference to changed conditions which would be created by the constitution of a new Polish state afforded a significant commentary on the German Chancellor's treatment of the Polish question in his speech, and Vienna previous to the request for an armistice. Austria wanted to go much further than the German Chancellor offered to go by his speech.

Predictions that Turkey would be the first to follow Bulgaria's example and Austria second seem to be in process of verification.

EX-RUSSIAN PREMIER SHOT

Stockholm Reports Assassination of Alexander F. Trepoff

Stockholm, Oct. 8.—Alexander Fedorovich Trepoff, former Russian premier, has been shot, according to advices from Petrograd.

Alexander Trepoff was born fifty-six years ago. From his childhood he was destined for the army and in this profession he remained until he had reached the age of twenty-seven, when he resigned to take a place in the ministry of the interior. In 1897 he became connected with the state chancellery and two years later was appointed assistant secretary of the Imperial Council.

When the Duma was formed in 1905, M. Trepoff was a member of a social committee selected for the purpose of laying the foundation for that body. In 1907 he was appointed senator. Emperor Nicholas appointed him to the Imperial Council in 1914 and on November 24, 1916, he became premier. From this office he resigned on January 9, 1917.

M. Trepoff was responsible for the great railroad building program which was begun three years ago and interrupted by the revolution.

"PEACE KAISER OFFERS JUST ONE MORE LIE"

Baron Constant Says No Armistice Is Possible With Germans in France

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Paris, Oct. 8.—Baron d'Estournelles de Constant of the French Senate, a friend of President Wilson and Colonel House and for many years prior to 1914 one of the most ardent advocates of peace, declares that no armistice is possible so long as one German soldier remains on French soil.

It was in the course of an interview at his home in Paris that the Senator said to me, concerning the present German peace maneuver:

"I cannot trust, we must not trust,

the declarations of this military German government. They have been lying for four years, violating every engagement they have made. Peace as offered by them is of no value. More than that, it is a menace. The offer means that they are beginning to understand not the great wrong they have done, but their own weakness in opposition to all civilization. I have given all my life to the defense of peace, but their peace is no peace. It is only one lie more, and a new trick for the prosecution of their war. Peace with the Hohenzollerns and their military caste is no longer conceivable."

RUSSIAN FOOD DEARTH IS BECOMING GRAVER

Cities Using Potatoes Needed for Winter—Fuel Shortage Severe

Stockholm, Oct. 6 (delayed).

Russia's food situation is rapidly growing worse, especially in Petrograd and Moscow, where the people are subsisting chiefly on the potatoes which should be saved for the winter.

Henry A. Lachar, an American engineer and manufacturer, who has lived for many years in Moscow, arrived in Stockholm today with his family, having made the trip by way of Finland in ten days. Mr. Lachar says that in Petrograd the food situation is far worse than in Moscow. The Soviet in Petrograd has closed all markets and shops, and will not allow any food to be sold privately. It is trying, according to Mr. Lachar, to put in effect its long-discussed plan of compelling all persons to eat in Government restaurants.

Petrograd and Moscow are becoming more deserted daily. All the Russians who are able to leave are proceeding to the Crimea and the Ukraine. Travelers are not permitted to take baggage from Soviet Russia.

Mr. Lachar says arrests of Russians charged with attempts at counter-revolution continue to be made in both Petrograd and Moscow.

The Soviet is taking over the better houses and apartments, together with all their furniture and the clothing of the people.

Without oil and coal, and with little wood on hand, Moscow and Petrograd, Mr. Lachar says, are facing a desperate winter.

Three hundred more citizens from Entente countries are reported to be on their way to Sweden from Moscow and Petrograd, but no official advices have yet been received that they have crossed into Finland. Litvinoff, former Bolshevik representative in London and his party, are still at Christmas waiting for the exchange of French and British officials who still were under arrest in Moscow ten days ago.

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Business men and the war THE only real business we have now is "winning the war." There is no such thing as private business; all business is the nation's business. Clothes-buying and selling may seem to have nothing to do with war; but men must have them; they take materials and labor and they cost money. Therefore, clothes that save, help. You can save by not buying more clothes than you need. When you need clothes, you can save by buying good ones, that last long, and don't have to be replaced soon. We make that kind of clothes. Hart Schaffner & Marx clothes are all wool. Hart Schaffner & Marx Clothes that save



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