U. S. BIG GUNS CUT GERMAN RAILWAY

Breaches at Montmedy and Conflans Hamper Foe Communications

BITTER FIGHT ON MEUSE

Pershing's Men Drive Ahead Despite Stiffening of Enemy Resistance

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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With the American Army in France, Nov. 5.

German resistance to the onward sweep of the American First Army has developed, and late yesterday it became apparent that the German command had effected a stand against our troops. In the afternoon bitter fighting developed along the Meuse, south of Stenay, where the German Fifth Army sent up heavy re-enforcements in order to prevent, at all costs, our crossing the river.

Despite stubborn resistance we pushed ahead on the center some five kilometers, reaching the southern edge of Beaumont. Further west we took Verrieres and pushed ahead for a good mile between Authe and Gesches. From the stubborn resistance on the Meuse and at Beaumont one may hazard a guess that the Germans intend to fer fe stop us on a line running from Stenay to Conflans.

East of the Meuse we attacked yesterday morning and found heavily organized resistance in the Bois-de-la-Grande Montagne and Bois-des-Caures. We took prisoners on both sides of the river.

Our progress has put us within some small-gun range of the German Longuyon-Sedan road at a distance of less than five miles. Our big guns in the vicinity of Verdun have cut the German highway at Montmedy and Conflans, and the Germans are using a thirty kilometer detour, going north to Carignan and coming back on the main line at Virton.

German Communications Hampered

The cutting of the line at Montmedy throws out of commission a twenty-five mile stretch of railways from Carignan to east of Montmedy and the cutting at Conflans seriously hampers German communication to the front of the American Second Army.

Near Halles our line moved forward between Beaufort and Beaudlair toward the Meuse, precipitating heavy fighting. Fighting of the most sensational character was reported from the vicinity of Wiseppe to below Dun, where we had the Germans between us and the river with the canal de l'Este, while beyond the Meuse and the canal the Germans had heavy forces, assisted by a new division rushed up.

We cleared a long stretch of the west bank of the river, and then to test the German strength sent across minor forces. North of Brieulles there was no bridge. The river, swollen by rains, was some ten feet deep at points, with fords where water ran about four feet. With machine guns peppering the surface of the river until it looked in spots as if there were a hail storm and with scores of 75s firing on them, while up guns and rifles worked on the enemy, the Americans crossed north of Stenay and met bitter hand-to-hand fighting on the east bank.

We got small bodies of troops across here three times, but had to retire. Four other small crossings of the stream developed such violent enemy resistance that we withdrew for the time being. We have a bridge across at Brieulles, but attempts by engineers to throw passageways over the stream further north Sunday night and yesterday were foiled.

The vigor and scale of the German resistance along the Meuse indicates that the enemy intends to try to make the stream his front line up to Stenay or perhaps further north, where the river bends at Pouilly. Thence he will try to hold a line running along the wooded heights northwest to the forest of Mazarin. Of course, our attack east of the Meuse may embarrass these plans.

Three Batteries Captured

Our break through on Friday morning has carried us fifteen miles through German positions. Yesterday afternoon three batteries of German guns drove at breakneck speed into our lines south of Beaumont and were captured. The artillerymen said they were on their way to re-enforce the German front line.

Heavy rain has begun which threatens to add greatly to our transport difficulties. Because of the long distance to the front from our headquarters, extraordinary traffic regulations are in force for the passage of ambulances. This, with the fact that the roads in this section are narrow, presents a great problem for our supply service and hinders the rapidity of our advance. However, rain falls on the just and the unjust.

It is as bad for the Boche as for us and worse. For we are moving by schedule and he is in disorder. Large numbers of guns have fallen into our hands because the enemy cannot get them away. Hundreds of his horses, playing out and being cut from the harness, are being left by the roadside.

Our casualties are almost unbelievably light, considering the gains being made. On many days during the fighting of the last month we have lost more men without a foot of advance than we have lost in the last three days' sweep forward. I passed through two field hospitals today which were working at about 10 per cent of capacity and with surgeons idling because there was no work to do.

German Organization Smashed

Additional reports coming in indicate that the Germans are making some sort of a big movement east of the Meuse. There is extraordinarily heavy traffic through Remoiville. It is believed the German actively indicates a withdrawal in front of an American thrust east of the river.

In speculating where the Germans plan to make a stand on either side of the Meuse, one should bear in mind that their organization has gone to pieces in front of the American First Army. Units have forgotten their units and commands have been losing telephone connection and in absence of orders seem to be just moving north without system.

Two entire battalion staffs were captured yesterday after they had established headquarters and attempted to organize a counterattack. Our doughboys just walked in on two wagons, loaded them on a truck and sent them back. These officers were unable to give any information of value. They said they had lost communication with their colonel Sunday.

The advance of the last two days resembles in some respects the St. Mihiel picnic, only this time the easy going came as a bonard for the grueling fight since September 26. It is giving away no secret to say that our advance has not seriously taxed the power we had prepared to make the drive. We have lots of punch which has not yet been put into the push ahead.

Final Collapse in Argonne

The day brought the final collapse of the German stronghold formed in the Argonne forest, with the Bois de Boult to the north. It will be remembered as a bloody fight, in which the Seventy-seventh Division, assisted by the Eighty-second and Twenty-eighth, broke the Hindenburg line in the Argonne and, bite by bite, reached Grandpre.

We had cleared into the Bois de Bourgogne when the advance of the French, on one side, and the Americans on the other, in two days induced the enemy to give up and get out Sunday night. The Allied line now runs well north of the forest of Boult.

Our tanks have been unable to do much in the advance because it has gone faster than the tanks travel. They will be ready when needed.

Rain put a damper on aerial activities. We did a good bit of reconnaissance work in the rain and during a few clear hours. German machines appear to have gone on strike. One lone boche came over our lines, but ran home when seven Spads took the air after him.

Speaking broadly, it is hard luck for us if the rain continues, because we have got to slow down in that event.

Nov. 4—The American First Army in the Meuse region continues its advance with unabated speed. Not only does our drive press onward rapidly here but this morning it was extended east of the Meuse, where satisfactory progress was reported.

Jersey Troops in Victory

In this victory, which takes rank with the biggest successes of the whole war and may become the greatest, troops from all parts of the United States are participating. Among the States represented, not including the regular troops, coming, of course, from all parts of the United States, are Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and Virginia.

Our total of prisoners grows hourly, but the amount of material, guns and ammunition captured is mounting far faster, as the German troops go back in relative disorder. When I say disorder I speak advisedly, for prisoners tell of interrupted communication, of going for twenty-four hours without orders, and of not knowing where the posts of command were.

Indications grow that the vigor and timing of our attack threw all the German resistance plans out of gear. Despite orders to stand on successive lines in case of an American attack, as was shown on maps taken, we have reached those lines without finding the organized resistance that the German command had ordered.

Stenay Buildings Mined

Prisoners state that extensive plans are being made to defend Stenay, where machine guns and light artillery have been placed in every advantageous position. These prisoners stated that every building of moment in the town had been mined, ready for destruction, should the Germans have to leave it. Our advance west of the river, coupled with our attack east of the stream, imperils the German position here. Especially is this position threatened by our hold on the heights across the Meuse to the west, which offer excellent locations for 75s, which could be used for direct fire.

It is an absorbingly interesting trip through Grandpre up to Buzancy, which shows clearly the marks of the stubborn battle which preceded our immediately successful attack on Friday morning. At Grandpre one finds the beautiful old town in ruins newly made. This place changed hands five times before the line settled down, running through the town along the main street which splits it east and west. The Americans were on the south side and the Germans on the north side.

Dead Strew the Ground

North of the road is the old citadel on a hill where German dead and American dead lie in disarray. The Americans had charged this hill from the east, and in hand-to-hand fight vanquished the enemy. Perhaps 200 dead lie in the small area of the citadel. Broken rifles, dented helmets, broken bayonets, wrecked packs and dead strew the ground.

In the Bois des Loges, where the Germans and Americans fought for two and a half weeks, the dead lie unburied—hundreds of them. The debris of battle tells the story of how a labor regiment jumped in with rifles and picks and shovels to help the infantry clean out the Germans who had filtered back after we supposed they were gone. One dead labor soldier lay with pick in hand and four dead Germans about him.

Along Champagne-like marks of bitter fighting remain. Here the Germans held us all day Friday with machine guns, and the American dead show how twin charges were stopped south of the village. When darkness fell on Friday night, the Germans gave up the task and those who were left got out.

Going up the road to Buzancy one saw where there had been fighting south of that town. It was here that the Americans, after being stopped temporarily, brought up 75s on trucks, wheeled them into position by hand, and broke the German resistance.

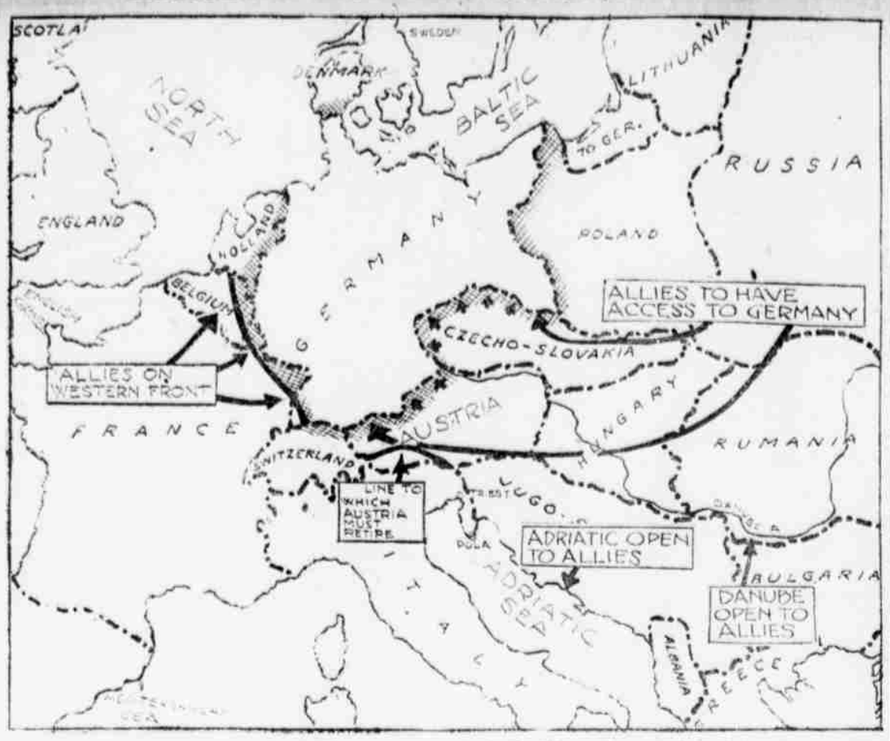
Before the war Buzancy had some 3000 inhabitants. They are all gone now and but sorry ruins are left of their once pretty town. What is left has been defiled beyond conception. All the streets have been renamed with German names and all shops bear Hun names. For four years the Germans cursed the place. Everything worth carrying away is gone, and what has not been taken away has been destroyed with true Hun vandalism.

Defile What They Leave

In the beautiful chateau the library was strewn around with leaves of priceless books. Human filth lay everywhere where boche officers of high degree had lived. What chinaware had not been carted away was ruthlessly broken. There were many signs that the last few hours the Germans were there had been devoted to defiling what they had left. In one dirty room were found church vestments which evidently the Germans had intended to take away.

The beautiful old church, which had been stripped and used for a barracks, contained the usual filth that German fighters leave behind. Empty wine bottles stood upon the altar. An overpowering stench hung over the whole place.

AUSTRIA OPENS NEW PATH TO GERMANY



The armistice terms accepted by Austria-Hungary open a path for the Allies to Germany through Austrian territory

OUTSTANDING POINTS IN FORECAST OF ARMISTICE TERMS WITH GERMANY

The hard points in the armistice terms which will be offered Germany are forecast in Washington as follows:

Alsace-Lorraine to be evacuated.

Rhine forts to be occupied by the Allies.

U-boats and large part of high seas fleet to be surrendered.

Land defenses of naval bases to be occupied.

Big guns, tanks and aircraft on west front to be surrendered.

Program of demobilization and disarmament to be carried out by Marshal Foch.

Austrian Truce Terms Put Her Out of War

Austrian surrender terms include:

Cessation of hostilities.

Demobilization of her army.

Delivery to Allies of half of the enemy artillery and equipment.

Use by Allies of road, rail and waterways in Austria-Hungary.

Immediate return of all Allied prisoners.

Surrender of stipulated numbers of submarines and other war vessels.

Allied occupation of Danube forts and Pola naval base.

Concentration of aircraft at designated points.

Allied supervision of the rest of her fleet.

Opening of Adriatic and Danube to Allies.

Foch Will Give Berlin Allies' Truce Terms

Continued from Page One

given much thought to the ways of working out this plan. The Carnegie Endowment, headed by Mr. Scott, has been particularly active in promoting this idea.

Colonel House will have with him in Europe the organization which he formed a year ago for the study of the social and economic problems that will come before the peace conference.

Big Men on Committee

The executive committee of this information bureau is headed by Doctor Mezes, president of the College of the City of New York and brother-in-law of Colonel House. The research consultant of the executive committee is Professor James T. Shotwell, of Columbia University, who is assistant general editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica. The gathering of material on territorial questions is in charge of Dr. Isaiah Bowman, the well-known geographer. Professor A. A. Young, ex-director of research for the war trade board, is in charge of investigations into international economics. Questions of law are under consideration by D. H. Miller, a New York lawyer.

In Arthur Howden Smith's book, "The Real Colonel House," the Colonel is quoted as discussing his work as follows:

"The theory of this undertaking is that it is better to be in a position to view intelligently what you are trying to do than to be obliged to jump blindfolded. In any conference the people come off best who are most thoroughly equipped, who hold the highest cards in the way of knowledge of what they are about. It is our intention that the American delegation at the peace conference shall be so equipped. You might describe our attitude as the reverse of the old saying 'in time of peace prepare for war.' We are preparing in time of war for peace."

A report is current that Colonel House will act rather as an adviser to the American delegation at the peace conference and be as usual the President's personal representative on the scene rather than head of the American delegation. But this seems unlikely.

Even more unlikely is the report that the President will himself head the American delegation. The President would weaken himself by doing so. His main fight is already won. He is likely to leave to some one else, Colonel House probably, the working out of the details of peace.

Taft Likel yto Go

Other names mentioned as probable members of the American delegation are Ex-President Taft, who is practically certain to go; Chief Justice White or Justice Brandeis of the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Bernard M. Baruch may be a delegate because of the important role raw materials are to play in making peace.

In the peace conference that succeeded the war with Spain, the United States Senate was represented. And because Mr. Wilson must have spokesmen on the floor of the Senate when the treaties following this war come up for ratification he may send a Democratic and a Republican Senator to the conference as delegates.

The Democratic Senator would probably be Senator Hitchcock. The Republican Senator might be Senator Knox, who enjoys more favor with the Administration than does Senator Lodge, the ranking Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Hitchcock is chairman of that committee.

Selective Demobilization

Plans for the demobilization of the army are going forward. In general, it may be said that as there was a selective draft, so there will be selective demobilization. The men who are most needed in industry and who can be placed at once will be released from service first. The Administration will avoid dumping men at random on the country, without industrial positions open to them.

NORTH RUSSIA FORCES QUICKLY UNDER FIRE

Americans Receive Baptism of War Twenty-four Hours After Leaving Train

With the American Forces in Northern Russia, Oct. 6—Correspondence of the Associated Press.

Many of the American soldiers forming a contingent of the Russo-Allied forces received their baptism of fire twenty-four hours after they had left their train at this little village. Some of the boys were a little piqued when they first learned they were going to Russia instead of France, but those here soon learned they would get action much quicker in Russia than if they had waited their training period which precedes actual fighting on the western front.

One little command of Americans had scarcely walked into an outpost here, relieving a squad of Frenchmen, when the Bolshevikl gave the ma welcome of shrapnel bouquets.

Officers, both American and those of the British staff, are high in praise of the way these American lads are standing up to shrapnel and Bolshevik machine guns.

The Americans in this sector are generally housed in little peasant huts or in the log constructed stations that dot the railway every four or five versts.

Wood from the forests which has long been cut and piled in heaps for transportation to the cities for firewood gives the soldiers plenty of fuel and in addition, makes it possible to construct breastworks and trenches speedily.

In the villages, in peasant houses, the Americans are treated as guests, living in the best rooms and courteously offered the best shining samovars or tea urns by the housewives.

Official War Reports

FRENCH

Paris, Nov. 5.

Repeated successes of our troops have forced the enemy to a new withdrawal in several parts of the front.

Unceasingly pursuing his rearguards, which are charged to protect his retreat and delay our advance, our troops, with everlasting ardor, are tightly maintaining contact.

In the region northeast of Guise we occupied Bergues-sur-Sambre, liberating 200 civilians.

On the whole front of the First Army we renewed our attacks this morning and made progress.

Between the Peron and the Serre we have taken Boleslo-Pargny.

In the region north of Blesme we have reached a line passing through the Prouilmont sugar factory, west of Autremencourt, Clairieux, Gondalancourt and Maucourt. Our outposts are progressing, with the help of our artillery.

Between Sissonne and Chateau-Porcien we penetrated all parts of the Hunding position, where the enemy still held, forcing his detachments to withdraw.

Our advance is general between a point east of St. Quentin-le-Petit and the outskirts of Herpy.

BRITISH

London, Nov. 5.

The walled town of Le Quesnoy, being completely surrounded, fell into our hands yesterday afternoon with the entire garrison of over 1000 men.

In the sector south and north of Le Quesnoy the Thirty-seventh and Sixty-seventh Divisions in hard fighting yesterday took many prisoners. Overcoming strong resistance about Louvignies and Orsinval at the outset of their attack, those divisions pushed rapidly on the banks of the New Zealanders east of Le Quesnoy, advancing with them to a depth of between three and four miles and capturing the villages of Jolimetz, Lerond Quesne, Frasnoy and Le Petit Marais.

Yesterday evening we progressed further in the Mormal forest, and east of Valenciennes we captured the village of Eth.

AMERICAN

Headquarters American Expeditionary Force, Nov. 5 (delayed).

On the entire front from the Meuse to the Bar the First Army continues its advance. On the extreme right, breaking down the last efforts of the enemy to hold the high ground, our troops drove south into the valley of the Meuse and, forcing their way through the forest of Dieulet, occupied Lamouilly opposite the important crossing of the Meuse at Stenay. The Beaumont-Stenay road is in our possession, and our troops are on the heights overlooking Beaumont. On the left our line has advanced, in spite of heavy machine-gun and artillery opposition, to Grandes Armoises. The enemy's main resistance threw in fresh troops in an effort to arrest the penetration of his place by our victorious attack.

Our vigorous advance compelled the enemy to abandon large stores of undamaged munitions, food and engineer material.

In the course of the day improving weather conditions permitted our planes to carry out very successfully their missions of reconnaissance and infantry liaison.

At dawn with a force consisting of forty-six day-bombardment and 100 pursuit planes was made against Montmedy and obtained excellent results on the crowded enemy traffic at that place. More than five tons of bombs were dropped. Determined attacks by enemy pursuit planes gave us added opportunities to destroy his airplanes. During the day's fighting thirty enemy planes were destroyed or driven down out of control and three balloons were burned. Seven of our planes are missing.

Allies Crushing Foe on 200-Mile Front

Continued from Page One

attack this morning and is making progress.

Between Sissone and Chateau Porcien (Aisne front), a front of more than fifteen miles, the French have penetrated the Hunding line of the Germans. The French are making a general advance from east of St. Quentin Let Petit to the outskirts of Herpy.

French troops continue successfully to pursue the Germans in the region of Guise, northeast of which they have taken the village of Bergues-sur-Sambre.

By the Associated Press

London, Nov. 5.

British troops in their offensive southeast of Valenciennes have captured the fortified town of Le Quesnoy, after having surrounded it, Field Marshal Haig announced today. The entire garrison of more than 1000 men was taken with the citadel.

Rapid progress has been made by British divisions east of Le Quesnoy, where an advance of between three and four miles has been scored. The villages of Jolimetz, Lerond Quesne, Frasnoy and Le Petit Marais have been captured.

(Le Quesnoy was one of the chief outer defenses of Maubeuge. The British are now within ten miles of the latter stronghold.)

Further ground has been gained in Mormal forest. The village of Eth, five miles southeast of Valenciennes, has been taken.

The official report issued last night announced the capture of 10,000 prisoners and 200 guns in the advance on a thirty mile front.

PEACE OR WAR NOW DEPENDS ON BERLIN

By the Associated Press

Washington, Nov. 5.

The issue of peace or war rests with Germany.

Armistice terms upon which hostilities may be brought to an immediate end were unanimously agreed upon and signed yesterday at Paris by representatives of the Allied and the United States Governments and are expected to be in Berlin before tomorrow.

Official announcement of the signing of the armistice terms to be offered to Germany was made last night by Secretary Lansing, who added only that "diplomatic unity has been achieved under conditions of utmost harmony."

If Germany accepts the conditions laid down by the Versailles conferees, she is expected to make known her decision without delay.

While confident that the conditions to be proposed to Germany mean nothing short of unconditional surrender, many military and diplomatic observers here believe they will be accepted. With her last and principal ally out of the war and her armies crumbling under the constant hammering of Marshal Foch, Germany, they say, must realize the futility of continuing the unequal struggle.

Final adjustments, territorial or otherwise, are all deferred to the peace conference for which the cessation of hostilities paves the way. The German appeal for an armistice was submitted on the basis of acceptance of the peace terms already outlined by President Wilson, and when the discussion starts the Allies and the United States will be in a position to dictate its results. In fact, the real peace conference has been sitting at Versailles.

MASTERLY DIRECTION WON ITALIAN TRIUMPH

By the United Press

Washington, Nov. 5.

Choice of the right moment, efficient direction of the attacks and rapidity in execution were three big military factors that contributed to the crushing Austrian defeat, Major General Enoche Guglielmotti, military attache at the Italian Embassy, explained today.

"The happy successes of the Allies on the French front, the withdrawal of Bulgaria and Turkey from the war, left Austria for the first time, although with forces greatly superior in numbers, alone against us," he said.

"Bad weather had begun to make provisioning of the armies in the mountain zone difficult and sudden storms produced the same situation along the Piave. Such conditions narrowed the Italian front of attack and made counter-attacks by the enemy on our flank impossible.

"From the opening of the offensive, the chief aim of General Diaz was to divide the Austrian armies in the plains from those in the mountains. Hence the rapid, vigorous and successful push toward Vittorio Vaneto, Ponte Nelle Alpi and Longarone. Dislocation of troops in the district sectors was effected with ease.

"The rapidity of the offensive is unequaled in history. The initial bombardment began October 24, and on November 4 the Italian flag floated over Trento and Trieste.

"At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the final triumph of the Italian arms over the Austrians has been determined. It is a triumph which ten days ago seemed far distant, but in which Italy and her soldiers have always had unshakable faith, even in the saddest moments last year.

"All Italy is ablaze with celebrations," dispatches to the Italian embassy report.

Allies Crushing Foe on 200-Mile Front

Continued from Page One

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FOE STRENGTHENS LINE ALONG MEUSE

By the Associated Press

With the American Army on the Sedan Front, Nov. 5.—While the Americans are advancing toward Sedan German forces are strengthening the Meuse line north of the American front. There are indications that this work was resumed during the last few days and that soldiers are laboring on it day and night. Reports agree that this strengthening operation extends along the line running from Mesieres to Montmedy, Longuyon and Diedenhofen.

In various places in front of this line, where the Germans have expected to make a last stand in France, tank traps are already completed. These traps are 100 yards long, ten yards wide and ten yards deep. They are covered with boards hidden by earth an sod.

TOWNS IN FLANDERS TAKEN BY ALLIES

By the Associated Press

With the Allied Forces in Flanders, Nov. 5.—In the Ghent sector, the French and American forces now hold Seevergheem, Zwynaerde, St. Denis-Westrem, Afsne and Tronchiennes. Thence the line runs to Mariakerkeburg.

In the last few days, the advance has been comparatively easy owing to the enemy's withdrawal to the Scheldt, but the advance cost the Germans dear, especially in the Eleghem area. The enemy fought strongly for the high positions north of Eleghem, but the British attacked successfully and with the help of French tanks forced the enemy to retire.

The boche has been throwing gas and high explosives indiscriminately into hamlets and farms, causing the death of many civilians. A most distressing feature of this unqualified warfare was seen Monday, when German machine-gunners turned rapid firers against civilians with household belongings seeking refuge behind the Allied lines.

The big cheese

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