

AMERICANS FOUR MILES FROM BASE

HEAVY FIGHTING MARKS ALLIED APPROACH TO FERRE-TARDENOIS.

OFFENSIVE ALONG ENTIRE REIMS SOISSONS SALIENT

Village of De Massiges Is Captured And Most Of Territory Lost To Enemy In Counter Attacks Is Regained—Exchanges Of Positions Show Heavy Fighting.

PARIS, July 26.—(By United Press)—The Franco-Americans have turned the enemy completely back at Fere Forest, and are now within less than four miles of the great German base at Fere-en-Tardenois.

On both sides of the Mezy-Fere-en-Tardenois highway, the Americans repulsed violent enemy counter attacks and pressed northward turning the enemy back from the objectives he had in view when he undertook the counter attack.

COMBINED OFFENSIVE ON

Pincers Are Closing In On Germans In Fere-en-Tardenois Pocket.

WITH THE FRENCH IN THE FIELD, July 26.—(By United Press)—The Franco-Americans, at four o'clock this afternoon, were successfully conducting an offensive along the entire front of the Soissons-Reims salient.

In addition to closing in on Fere-en-Tardenois, the allies were also gaining in the Champagne sector south of Rheims, having recovered most of the position which they had lost to the Germans yesterday, including the village of De Massiges.

BRITISH REPULSE GERMANS.

Strong Attacks Are Launched On British Lines At Hebuterne.

LONDON, July 26.—(By United Press)—The British have repulsed strong attacks in the Hebuterne and Meteren sectors last night and this morning, reports Field-Marshal Haig. He declares the Germans suffered severe losses.

APPROVES IRISH RECRUITING.

Alternative For Conscription Is Declared Operative.

LONDON, July 26.—(By United Press)—The War Cabinet has signified its approval of the Irish recruiting scheme, declaring it to be operative.

This plan of obtaining soldiers from Ireland was adopted after it was definitely ascertained that the proposed conscription law could not be enforced, owing to the general hostility of the Irish people.

The method now adopted is by publicity and through the medium of uniformed agents, who have opened recruiting offices in the various centers.

REPORT IS FAVORABLE

Childs' Welfare Committee Pleased With Work Done.

The Child Welfare Committee reports a large number of children weighed and measured at the school houses yesterday, and a splendid interest shown in regard to the health and care of the children of the community. Plenty of helpers at each place did the work well and systematically.

There are yet many more children who have not been weighed and measured. Also the need to locate and find some means of interesting the families who are really neglecting their children's welfare, along lines of food, sanitation and general health rules.

The excellent showing made is evidence that La Grande is near the top in child welfare work. As mentioned before, measuring and weighing is only the beginning of child welfare work. There will be important and instructive articles follow, along lines of proper food and care of children.

WEATHER REPORT.

PORTLAND, July 26.—Cloudy.

MISS ANNE GOODRICH



Miss Anne Goodrich, inspector of nurses in army hospitals attached to the surgeon general's office.

BIG DOINGS NEXT SUNDAY

ENTERPRISE-LA GRANDE BALL GAME AND CYCLE RACES.

Entire Proceeds Of The Day To Be Donated To The Army And Navy Auxiliary.

When the Moose lodge of La Grande consented to play their neighboring brothers of Enterprise a baseball game here next Sunday, the 28th, and added a few bicycle motorcycle and auto races to make the afternoon program more attractive, they touched off a big bunch of race enthusiasts among the riders and drivers of this vicinity, as is evidenced by the "loud talk" to be heard on all sides about the respective merits of the different wheeled vehicles on going slow, or fast, or backward, or almost any old way but straight up, and it is very evident that the contests will be entered to the limit. In fact, it will be first come first served, and a big number barred, as the track will only accommodate so many, and the management will not fill the races to the danger point. Quite a number of the out-of-town public is going to be there in large numbers.

As now arranged the race program will be started at 1:30 and as the track will be well wet down the night before and must be kept in prime condition for the bicycle events, there will be no motorcycles or autos allowed on the track Sunday until they are admitted for the races.

The program as now contemplated will start with the bicycle races, followed by the motor cycle races, then the ball game between Enterprise and La Grande, and last the auto races, two of which are bound to be winners, as one is for going the slowest half mile with a rule that any car coming to a complete stop must quit, and the other the race where cars are required to backup one quarter of a mile, turn in front of the grandstand and race one mile.

Among other attractions Red Williams will put on his feature exhibition of stunts with a motor cycle, or "Bullroading a Side Car" which will be some show. J. E. Anderson's "Maxwell Special" racing car will give an exhibition mile if not actually entered in a race, which there is now developing between a "speed demon" of Pendleton and a "fast bug" or two from other points.

Altogether the afternoon promises to develop into one of the most interesting impromptu occasions yet offered the public in Union county, and as the entire receipts go as a donation to the Union County Army and Navy Auxiliary, the public will also have the satisfaction of knowing that their patronage has helped just so much toward "getting the Hun."

The Observer hopes to be able to publish the complete program and prize list tomorrow, as the committee is yet working on the race events and some interesting additions are looked for at the last minute.

NEW CENSUS SOON.

G. L. Larson, manager of the La Grande Grocery Co., who also has charge of the new war census being taken of La Grande, reported this morning that he hoped the work will soon be completed and a full report can be made.

PRESIDENT CONDEMNS MOB-LAW

SAYS THOSE WHO CONDONE IT ARE TRUCKING TO HUN METHODS.

LYNCHERS EMULATE GERMANY'S EXAMPLE

No Man Is Champion Of Liberty Who Does Not Obey the Law Of Our Beloved Land—We Must Despise Enemy Methods And All Who Adopt Them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26.—(By United Press)—President Wilson, in a proclamation, denounces the growth of the mob spirit in America. He declares that this spirit is emulating the lawless passion of the Germans, and is furnishing the Germans with an excuse that their ideals are accepted by Americans.

The President calls on all communities and urges them not to tolerate the mob spirit.

In appealing to the country to "make an end of this disgraceful evil," the President said:

"My fellow countrymen, I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject which so vitally affects the honor of the nation and the very character and integrity of our institutions that I trust you will think me justified in speaking very plainly about it.

"I allude to the mob spirit which recently here and there very frequently has shown its head among us, but not in any single region, but in many and widely scattered parts of the country. There have been many lynchings and overtones of them has been a blow at the heart of ordered law and human justice. No man who loves America; no man who really cares for her fame and honor and character, nor who is truly loyal to her institutions, can justify mob action while courts of justice are open and the governments of the states and nation are ready to do their duty. We are at this very moment fighting lawless passion. Germany has outlawed herself among the nations by disregarding the sacred obligations of law and has made lynchings of her a disgraceful example.

"I am proud to claim to be champions of democracy. If we really are indeed and in truth, let us see to it that we do not discredit our own. I say plainly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives it any sort of countenance is no true son of this great democracy, but its betrayer, and does more to discredit her by that single disloyalty to her standards of law and right than the words of her or the sacrifices of her heroic boys in the trenches can do to make suffering peoples believe her to be their savior. How shall we commend democracy to the acceptance of other peoples if we disgrace our own?"

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AIM IS WORLD WIDE DEMOCRACY

AMERICA WILL CONTINUE HER EFFORTS EVEN AFTER PRUSSIA IS CRUSHED.

PHILADELPHIA, July 26.—(By United Press)—Chairman Hurley of the Shipping Board, addressing diplomats representing the Latin-American republics at Hog Island shipyard, declared: "America demands commercial as well as political protection for the small nations and therefore she will continue the struggle for world-wide democracy even after Prussian militarism is crushed and trade relations restored between the nations. He said that the emergency fleet which American yards would produce is to be dedicated to freedom and would be equally effective as an instrument that will promote enduring peace.

WESTERN UNION IS NOW IN BAD COMPANY VIOLATES LAWS AND MAY HAVE TO FACE FINE OF \$17,000,000.

NEW YORK, July 26.—(By United Press)—The Western Union Telegraph Company has been indicted on a charge of violating the Federal law preventing competition with the United States postal service by transmitting 350,000 messages by messenger between New York and nearby cities.

The maximum penalty would be a fine of \$17,000,000. None of the company officials have been indicted.

MOISTURE HELPS CROPS

General Downpour of Rain in All Parts of the Valley.

"The fine rain of yesterday, and the heavy rain last night, will add 25 per cent increase to all spring crops in this valley. It was simply magnificent."—J. D. McKennon.

"The rains of yesterday and last night will be of great benefit to all crops in the valley."—J. S. Clark, M. & M. Co.

"The down-pour of rain last night was just the thing. It soaked into the ground and stayed put. The benefits are hard to estimate, but will be very large."—G. L. Larson, La Grande Grocery Co.

"The storm of last night may interfere somewhat with the harvesting of crops already going forward, but it will be of great benefit to corn, potatoes and all the gardens in the valley."—A. H. Prince, assistant emergency county agent.

"The rains of last night will help, rather than injure crops."—T. J. Scroggin, cashier U. S. National Bank.

"SUPERB SOLDIERS" WIRES PERSHING

YANKEES ARE FILLED WITH NATIONAL SPIRIT AND DETERMINATION TO WIN.

WITH THE AMERICANS IN FRANCE, July 26.—(By United Press)—Replying to a congratulatory message from Secretary McAdoo, General Pershing cabled:

"In the name of the American Expeditionary Forces I thank you for your cordial message.

"Our officers and men are filled with the national spirit of a fixed determination to win.

"They are superb soldiers."

MME. PADEREWSKI AND HER POLISH NURSES



Group of Polish nurses, members of the Polish White Cross, who were recruited through the efforts of the president of the Polish White Cross, Mme. Helena Paderewski. These 37 women form the first unit of Polish nurses to arrive here.

2,600 HUNS CAPTURED BY FRENCH

STRADY PROGRESS IS STILL RECORDED IN SPIE OF GERMAN COUNTERS.

VILLEMONTAIRE FALLS AFTER FIERCE STRUGGLE

Chateau le Oulchy Now In Allied Hands Together With Many Prisoners And Guns—Germans Are Making Desperate Efforts To Avert Disaster.

PARIS, July 26.—(By United Press)—An official communique issued this morning announces the capture of Oulchy le Chateau. This is the principal center of German resistance east of their base at Fere en Tardenois.

The Franco-Americans have also captured Villemontoire, a town midway between Oulchy and Soissons on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry highway, together with hundreds of additional prisoners. The communique says: "The French captured Villemontoire yesterday evening, after a fierce struggle which lasted throughout the day.

With the fall of Oulchy le Chateau 2600 prisoners and some machine guns fell into our hands. After the town was captured we made progress east of the town and captured four guns.

During yesterday's fighting south of the Ourcq we captured several hundred prisoners."

TEMPORARY SETBACKS

Advance May Be Slower But It Is Equally Sure.

WITH THE AMERICANS IN FRANCE, July 26.—(By United Press)—Under allied pressure towards Fere-en-Tardenois, the Germans now are face to face with a withdrawal across the river Ourcq. The circumstances are practically identical with those which marked their retirement across the Marne.

The allies continue to advance, in spite of temporary setbacks, and although it is not rapid it is maintained along the highways leading to Fere-en-Tardenois from the south and east.

Particularly hard fighting is now proceeding in the forest of Fere.

OPERATION SUCCESSFUL.

Miss Sylvia Hughes Submits To Surgery At Hot Lake.

Miss Sylvia Hughes, daughter of T. J. Hughes, was operated on by Dr. Phay at Hot Lake this week and reports are to the effect that the operation was successful. Miss Hughes, who was formerly a resident of La Grande and more recently of Union and North Powder, has been an invalid for a number of years, and it is hoped that relief has been secured.

GRAND JURY IN SESSION.

The grand jury, the same members that have been in service since the spring term of court, were called to meet today. No report of their investigations had been turned into court this afternoon.

GEN. K. M. OBEROUCHEFF



Gen. K. M. Oberoucheff, formerly a prominent Russian commander, is urging that the allies send an armed expedition to Russia to restore the east front and push back the Teutons. General Oberoucheff was for 30 years a Russian revolutionist.

VICTORY IS DUE WITHIN FEW HOURS

PERE FOREST WAS LAST PHYSICAL OBSTACLE BETWEEN YANKS AND OBJECTIVE

SERIOUSLY ENDANGERS HALF MILLION GERMANS

Americans Now Have Clear Sweep From South And Will Be Able To Enflank City By Advancing Down Valley Of Ourcq From The Southwest.

PARIS, July 26.—(By United Press)—The Franco-Americans, in turning the German flank from the Fere Forest here overcame the last great physical obstacle before Fere-en-Tardenois and the capture of that all-important German controlling center is believed to be a matter of hours.

The fall of the city will endanger the center German position within the Soissons-Rheims salient more than any other single operation that appears to be coming within the next few days.

Having turned the German flank in the great forest and forcing the center of the enemy army to withdraw, the Americans now have practically a clean sweep from the south and are thus enabled to enflank the city by advancing down the valley of the Ourcq river from the southeast.

Having captured Oulchy le Chateau, the allies can attack Fere-en-Tardenois from the west. The allies are thus in a position to attack the city from three sides over more than a 15 mile front.

Latest reports show the allies to be less than four miles from the city.

HATCHERY PROPOSED.

Plans Considered For Re-establishing Plant On Wallowa River.

Local sportsmen are much interested in a proposal to re-establish the fish hatchery on Wallowa river. This was originally designed as a place for salmon propagation and considerable expense was incurred in buildings and the construction of a dam. The dam was blown out, but there is now a proposal to construct a flume as a means of providing up-stream passage for fish and at the same time establish a trout hatchery. The move is favored by the master fish warden and the governor.

Local parties who are interested in the matter say that in account of so many autos going out on fishing trips the streams are becoming rapidly depleted. A hatchery should be established in Eastern Oregon to save the expense of alighting and this section would receive its quota of fry. The hatchery is already in good shape and needs but slight amount of repairs. There is no necessity for reconstructing the dam, which was put in to retain the eggs. A good many hundred people, including all the members of the fishing organization, are interested in the proposition.

FUNERAL TOMORROW

Remains of W. W. McCully to Be Taken to Elgin For Interment.

The funeral of the late W. W. McCully will be held from the Behrenskamp chapel tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock. The remains will be taken to Elgin for interment. The deceased is a well known railroad fireman and had been in poor health for a year. He was a son of the late J. W. McCully, of Elgin, and a nephew of F. D. McCully of Joseph.

HAS IT FIGURED OUT

German Critic Says Foch's Plans Have Succeeded.

THE HAGUE, July 26.—"The first part of General Foch's plan, which consisted in stopping out (the German) offensive, has been successful," writes the military critic of the Frankfurter Zeitung. The German writer continued: "General Foch's offensive was not merely a reply to our attacks on hot sides of Rheims. It is an offensive against Hindenburg's entire plan. General Foch sought to thwart the Germans' plan by wresting from our high command the strategic reserves which are its trump cards."

LOWEST IN TWO YEARS

Decline Is Shown In Amount of the U-Boat Sinkings.

LONDON, July 26.—Total allied and neutral shipping losses during June, as the result of submarine action or marine risk were 275,625 tons, according to figures made public today. This is the smallest total since September, 1916. British losses were 161,062 tons in June.

JAKE GASSETT LEFT TODAY

For Union and Coy to look after some business matters in that locality.