

Crook County Journal

BY GUY LAFOLLETTE

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Time Table No. 4

Effective 12:01 a. m. Nov. 9, 1919.

Table with columns for Stations, Motor, and Motor times for West Bound and East Bound routes.

TRADE IN OUR TOWN

CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED

All of those who were residents of this section of the state eighteen years ago will well remember the attack of smallpox that took the lives of a number of our citizens, and endangered a great many more, demoralized business for weeks and gave the community much adverse advertising.

The state board of health is already issuing circulars to school authorities concerning vaccination and while no cases of smallpox have yet appeared in this community, the authorities and the citizens should be alert in reporting and combatting the first cases that should appear.

This also applies to the influenza epidemic which is making considerable progress in Burns and other communities in this part of the state.

OLCOTT'S AXE

While Governor Olcott may have made something of a mistake in calling the special session of the legislature, he showed himself fearless in the use of the veto axe by killing the entire list of highway bills, and a

number of others, a total of about one-third of the bills passed by the legislature.

One of the dangers confronting the public of Oregon is the uncertainty concerning the legislature at each of its biannual sessions, and the manner in which bills were passed at the special meeting was the worst of all horrible examples.

It seems that the average legislator cares but little if at all what bills are passed by his colleagues so long as he himself gets the bills passed in which he is personally most interested.

The governor showed rare good judgment in this act, and made many friends for himself throughout the state.

GEN. PERSHING'S OWN STORY

(Continued from last week)

June 23, and again on July 10 at Bombon I had very strongly urged that our best divisions be concentrated, under American command, if possible, for use as a striking force against the Marne salient. Although the prevailing view among the allies was that American units were suitable only for the defensive, and that at all events they could be used to better advantage under allied command, the suggestion was accepted in principle, and my estimate of their offensive fighting qualities was soon put to the test.

The enemy had encouraged his soldiers to believe that the July 15 attack would conclude the war with a German peace. Although he made elaborate plans for the operation, he failed to conceal fully his intentions, and the front of attack was suspected at least one week ahead. On the Champagne front the actual hour for the assault was known and the enemy was checked with heavy losses. The Forty-second division entered the line near Somme Py immediately, and five of its infantry battalions and all of its artillery became engaged. Southwest of Rheims and along the Marne to the east of Chateau-Thierry the Germans were at first somewhat successful, a penetration of eight kilometers beyond the river being effected against the French immediately to the right of our Third division. The following quotation from the report of the commanding general gives the result of the fighting on his front:

None Crossed but Prisoners.

"Although the rush of the German troops overwhelmed some of the front-line positions, causing the infantry and machine gun companies to suffer, in some cases a 50 per cent loss, no German soldiers crossed the road from Fossey to Creancy except as a prisoner of war, and by noon the following day (July 16) there were no Germans in the foreground of the Third division sector except the dead."

On this occasion a single regiment of the Third division wrote one of the most brilliant pages in our military annals. It prevented the crossing at certain points on its front, while on either flank the Germans who had gained a footing pressed forward. Our

men, firing in three sections, met the German attacks with counter attacks at critical points and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion, capturing 600 prisoners.

The selection by the Germans of the Champagne sector and the eastern and southern faces of the Marne pocket on which to make their offensive was fortunate for the allies, as it favored the launching of the counter-attack already planned. There were now over 1,200,000 American troops in France, which provided a considerable force of reserves. Every American division with any sort of training was made available for use in a counter-offensive.

General Petain's initial plan for the counter-attacks involved the entire western face of the Marne salient. The First and Second American divisions, with the First French Moroccan division between them, were employed as the spearhead of the main attack, driving directly eastward, through the most sensitive portion of the German lines, to the heights south of Soissons. The advance began on July 18, without the usual brief warning of a preliminary bombardment, and these three divisions at a single bound broke through the enemy's defenses and overran his artillery, cutting or interrupting the German communications leading into the salient. A general withdrawal from the Marne was immediately begun by the enemy, who still fought stubbornly to prevent disaster.

Took Berzy-le-Sec.

The First division, throughout four days of constant fighting, advanced 11 kilometers, capturing Berzy-le-Sec and the heights about Soissons and taking some 3,500 prisoners and 68 field guns from the seven German divisions employed against it. It was relieved by a British division. The Second division advanced eight kilometers in the first 26 hours, and by the end of the second day was facing Tigny, having captured 3,000 prisoners and 66 field guns. It was relieved the night of the 19th by a French division. The result of this counter-offensive was of decisive importance. Due to the magnificent dash and power displayed on the field of Soissons by our First and Second divisions, the tide of war was definitely turned in favor of the allies.

Other American divisions participated in the Marne counter-offensive. A little to the south the Second division the Fourth was in line with the French, and was engaged until July 22. The first American corps, Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett commanding, with the Twenty-sixth division and a French division, acted as a pivot of the movement toward Soissons, capturing Torcy on the 18th and reaching the Chateau-Thierry-Soissons road on the 21st. At the same time the Second division crossed the Marne and took the heights of Mount St. Pere and the villages of Charleves and Jaulgonne.

In the First corps the Forty-second division relieved the Twenty-sixth on July 25 and extended its front, on the 26th relieving the French division. From this time until August 2 it fought its way through the Forest de Fere and across the Oise, advancing toward the Vesle until relieved by the Fourth division on August 3. Early in this period elements of the Twenty-eighth division participated in the advance.

Forced Enemy Back.

Further to the east the Third division forced the enemy back to Bonchères wood, where it was relieved on July 30 by the Thirty-second division from the Vosges front. The Thirty-second after relieving the Third and some elements of the Twenty-eighth on the line of the Ourcq river, advanced above of the Forty-second toward the Vesle. On Aug. 3 it passed under control of our Third corps, Major Gen. Robert L. Bullard commanding, which

made its first appearance in battle at this time, while the Fourth division took up the task of the Forty-second division and advanced with the Thirty-second to the Vesle river, where, on Aug. 6, the operation for the reduction of the Marne salient terminated.

In the hard fighting from July 18 to Aug. 6 the Germans were not only halted in their advance, but were driven back from the Marne to the Vesle and committed wholly to the defensive. The force of American arms had been brought to bear in time to enable the last offensive of the enemy to be crushed.

The First and Third corps now held a continuous front of 11 kilometers along the Vesle. On Aug. 12 the Seventy-seventh division relieved the Fourth division on the First corps front, and the following day the Twenty-eighth relieved the Thirty-second division in the Third corps, while from Aug. 6 to Aug. 10 the Sixth infantry brigade of the Third division held a sector on the river line. The transfer of the First corps to the Woevre was ordered at this time, and the control of this front was turned over to the Third corps.

On August 18 Gen. Petain began an offensive between Rheims and the Oise. Our Third corps participated in this operation crossing the Vesle on Sept. 4 with the Twenty-eighth and Seventy-seventh divisions and overcoming stubborn opposition on the plateau south of the Aisne, which was reached by the Seventy-seventh on Sept. 7. Two days later the Third corps was transferred to the region of Verdun, the Seventy-seventh division remaining in line on the Aisne river until Sept. 17.

The Thirty-second division, upon its relief from the battle on the Vesle, joined a French corps north of Soissons and attacked from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, capturing Juvigny after some particularly desperate fighting and capturing the Chateau-Soissons road.

On the British front two regiments of the Thirty-third division participated in an attack on Hamel, July 4 and again on Aug. 9 as an incident of the allied offensive against the Aisne salient. One of these regiments took Gressaire wood and Chipilly ridge, capturing 700 prisoners and considerable material.

Emergency Had Passed.

The counter-offensives against the Marne salient in July and against the Aisne salient in August had gained such an advantage that it was apparent that the emergency, which justified the dispersion of our divisions, had passed. The moment was propitious for assembling our divisions. The formation of the army in the Chateau-Thierry region and its early transfer to the sector of the Woevre, which was to extend from Nomeny, east of the Moselle, to north of St. Mihiel, was therefore decided upon by Marshal Foch and myself on Aug. 9, and the details were arranged with Gen. Petain later on the same day.

At Bombon, on July 24, there was a conference of all commanders in chief for the purpose of considering allied operations. Each presented proposals for the employment of the armies under his command and these formed the basis of future co-operation of the allies. It was emphatically determined that the allied attitude should be to maintain the offensive. As the first operation of the American army, the reduction of the salient of St. Mihiel was to be undertaken as soon as the necessary troops and material could be made available.

On Aug. 20, a further discussion with Marshal Foch was held at my headquarters at Ligny-en-Barrois. At this meeting it was proposed by Marshal Foch that the general operations as far as the American army was concerned should be carried out in detail by:

(a) An attack between the Meuse and the Argonne by the Second French army, reinforced by from four to six American divisions.

(b) A French-American attack, extending from the Argonne west to the Souain road, to be executed on the right by an American army astride the Aisne and on the left by the Fourth French army.

To carry out these attacks the ten to eleven American divisions suggested for the St. Mihiel operation and the four to six for the Second French army would leave eight to ten divisions for an American army on the Aisne. It was proposed that the St. Mihiel operation should be initiated on Sept. 10 and the other two on Sept. 15 and 20, respectively.

The plan suggested for the American participation in these operations was not acceptable to me, because it would require the immediate separation of the recently formed first American army into several groups, mainly to assist French armies. This was directly contrary to the principle of forming a distinct American army, for which my contention had been insisted. An enormous amount of preparation had already been made in construction of roads, railroads, regulating stations and other installations looking to the use and supply of our armies on a particular front. The inherent disinclination of our troops to serve under allied commanders would have grown and American morale would have suffered. My position was stated quite clearly, that the strategic employment of the first army as a unit would be undertaken where desired, but its disruption to carry out these proposals would not be entertained.

An American Army.

A further conference at Marshal Foch's headquarters was held on September 2 at which General Petain was present. After discussion the question of employing the American army as a unit was conceded. All the allied armies were to be employed in a converging action.

It should be recorded that although this general offensive was fully outlined at the conference no one present expressed the opinion that the final victory could be won in 1918. In fact, it was believed by the Meuse-Argonne attack could not be pushed much beyond Montfaucon before the arrival of winter would force a cessation of operations.

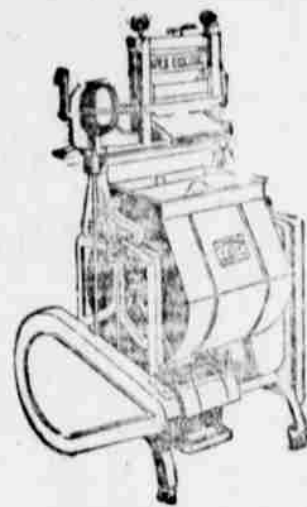
The choice between the two sectors, that east of the Aisne, including the Argonne forest, or the Champagne sector, was left to me. In my opinion, no other allied troops had the morale or the offensive spirit to overcome successfully the difficulties to be met in the Meuse-Argonne sector, and our plans and installations had been prepared for an expansion of operations in that direction. So the Meuse-Argonne front was chosen. The entire sector of 150 kilometers of front extending from Part-sur-Selle, east of the Moselle, west to include the Argonne forest, was accordingly placed under my command, including all French divisions then in that zone. The first American army was to proceed with the St. Mihiel operation, after which the operation between the Meuse and the western edge of the Argonne forest was to be prepared and launched not later than September 25.

On the night of September 11 the troops of the first army were deployed in position. On the southern face of the salient was the first corps, Major General Liggett commanding, with the eighty-second, ninetyth, fifth and second divisions in line, extending from the Moselle westward.

On its left was the fourth corps, Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman commanding, with the eighty-ninth, forty-second and first divisions, the left of this corps being opposite Montsec. These two army corps were to deliver

(To be continued)

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