

U. S. LOSES 200 IN SEICHEPREY FIGHT

Town in Toul Sector Taken by Germans, Who Are Later Ousted.

HUN LOSSES 300 TO 400

Selected Storm Troops Hurled at Pershing's Line—Rebound Ejects Teutons From All Positions Taken at Beginning.

(Continued From First Page.)

artillery continued active. The officers and men were in fine spirits, even the wounded laughing and joking.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, April 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—"Tell them back home that we are just beginning," said an American lad, who was in the thick of the fight and severely wounded with shrapnel. "It was fine to see our men go at the Hun. All of us who thought baseball was the great American game have changed our minds. There is only one game to keep the American flag flying—that is kill the Hun. I got several before they got me."

Prisoner Bad Actor.

The other men in the hospital were of the same spirit, while in a nearby ward was a wounded German prisoner, who, it developed, was spared after he had held up his hands, at the same time carrying concealed bombs. This fellow sneeringly and in a sulky manner waved off the American guard with one hand. A nurse said he had given more trouble than all the Americans combined.

There appears little doubt that the Germans thought they would go through the American line, as they once boasted they would go through "Great Britain's contemptible little army."

The enemy made another attempt at a line occupied by the American troops on the right bank of the Meuse soon after the attack near Seicheprey. Sixty of the enemy started a raid, but were repulsed by a heavy fire. Some of the Germans reached the American entanglements and were left dead hanging to the wire, but the enemy carried off all his wounded.

An American raid against the enemy line nearby was carried out about the same time and one of the raiding forces was brought back dead and one wounded.

AMSTERDAM, April 22.—A telegram to the Wolff Bureau, the semi-official German news agency, on Sunday stated that the attack against the American positions on both sides of Seicheprey, thanks to careful preparation and the co-operation of all arms, was a complete success. The telegram says: "After an effective artillery preparation which caused severe enemy losses, the Germans stormed American positions over a front of two and a half kilometers and penetrated to a depth of two kilometers."

"Seicheprey was taken by storm and was found full of American dead. Bitter hand-to-hand fighting ensued around dugouts at various points and the enemy occupants were killed almost to the last man."

"Severe hand-to-hand fighting also occurred about the dugouts in Renner Wood. Here the American casualties were especially heavy."

"Dense columns of enemy reinforcements were discovered north of Beaucourt and also beyond Bernécourt, and were badly mauled by our destructive fire. Further back the German armoured troops were filling up in the trenches in Juvy wood and attacked them with machine guns, while our batteries worked fearful havoc in the closely filled trenches."

"After dark, when the enemy's defense works and dugouts had been destroyed and blown up, we evacuated the position, according to our plan, and unobserved by the enemy. Our losses were slight, while those of the untrained Americans were most severe. We captured five officers, one doctor and 175 men, as well as 25 machine guns."

(By the Associated Press.)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 21.—When an American regiment, reinforced by storm troops, attacked the sector held by German troops near Seicheprey, General Pershing's men fought the most serious engagement they have as yet experienced.

The attack was made by a considerable force, and indications show that important preparations were made for it. Unusual precautions were immediately taken along the whole sector of the front as soon as the German intention was known.

Poison Gas Comes in Night.

An extremely heavy hostile bombardment with poison gas shells opened during the course of the night, and lasted until 5 o'clock in the morning. At that hour the enemy infantry dashed forward, preceded by storm troops, which had been brought to the scene especially for the attack, after preliminary training in the use of gas. In the sector held by the American troops.

The assault was over a line 2000 yards

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OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

French.

PARIS, April 22.—The French official War Office statement follows: "A German raid last night east of the Aves, in the region of Thénac, was repulsed. We took prisoners. Another German raid, east of Rheims, gained no greater success."

"Active artillery fighting continued at different points on the front. The supplementary War Office announcement tonight says: "There is nothing to report today except quite pronounced artillery activity in the region of Montdidier and Noyon."

"On April 20 and 21 four German airplanes and two captive balloons were destroyed by our pilots, a fifth was brought down by our infantry fire. Sixteen enemy machines fell inside their own lines badly damaged after aerial engagements."

"In the same period our bombing airplanes carried out numerous sorties. Forty-nine thousand kilos of projectiles were dropped on railway stations, communications and enemy aviation grounds in the region of St. Quentin, Jussy, Chaulnes, Roye, Ham, Guise and Aves. Two fires broke out in the Chaulnes station and the Aves station; a munitions depot east of Guise was exploded."

"Eastern theater, April 21.—There was great fighting activity in all sectors. The allied troops carried out numerous destructive fires and raids with success, particularly south of Doiran, where a British detachment penetrated the enemy positions and brought back prisoners. In the region of Virelles in Serbian detachment captured an important enemy work and maintained their occupation there, notwithstanding a violent reaction by the Bulgarians. At the Cerina Bend an enemy attack on advanced posts in the Italian sector was repulsed. An enemy machine was brought down by a British aviator northeast of Petrich."

British.

LONDON, April 22.—The official British statement issued this evening follows: "Early in the night a strong local attack, accompanied by heavy shelling, was made by the enemy against our positions in the neighborhood of Mesnil, north of Albert. After sharp fighting, in which the enemy captured one of our advanced posts, the attack was repulsed."

"We improved our positions slightly during the night in the Villers-Bretonneux, Albert and Robecq sectors. "We made a number of successful raids at different points south and north of Lens, capturing prisoners and machines. The fighting has been directed chiefly against our positions astride the Somme and Ancre rivers, in the Lens sector, in the neighborhood of Festubert and in the Neuf Forest forest."

"Field Marshal Haig's report from headquarters in France tonight says: "Hostile raids attempted early this morning south of the Somme, in the neighborhood of Hamel, and south of La Bassée Canal, opposite Cambrin, were repulsed."

"Northwest of Festubert, under cover

in length, and at several places the enemy succeeded in entering the American lines. They even entered and occupied Seicheprey, where the Americans holding that position offered the most stubborn defense."

Without a moment's delay, after their retirement at Seicheprey, the Americans counter-attacked, which was carried out brilliantly, driving the Germans out of the village and taking a number of prisoners. The fighting did not cease until late in the afternoon."

Wood Cleared of Enemy.

The severest encounters occurred in the Renner Wood, where the Germans had taken a firm hold at dawn, notwithstanding the most strenuous defense by small bodies of Americans stationed there. The French and American troops joined in the counter-attack, and by the end of the day were able to secure a complete victory and restore their lines as they were before the engagement. In this vicinity many prisoners fell into the hands of the allies, while the barbed wire and shell-pitted ground was covered with German corpses."

Enemy Wounded Removed.

Reports coming in today relative to the fight in the Toul sector show that the losses sustained were no larger than what could reasonably be expected from such an engagement, which was the most severe of any in which American troops have taken part. The losses of the enemy, on the other hand, were much greater than he expected, as is evidenced by more than 300 dead Germans in the American trenches and in no man's land. His losses in wounded men are unknown, as disabled men were dragged back to the German trenches."

An American officer today brought in the news that the German machine gunners, resembling a miniature machine gun, and made its first appearance against the Americans."

Not far from the scene of the American first big fight against the enemy is the village where Joan of Arc was born. From the hill where the martyred girl saw the vision which called her to the defense of France one can now see the young Americans marching to the front. They are cheered by the French, remain in their homes notwithstanding the roar of the German guns, confident in their defenders."

(By the Associated Press.)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, April 22.—Two low-flying German airplanes were brought down Saturday by American machine gunners during the German attack in and about Seicheprey, northwest of Toul. The machine gunners who bagged the planes had been ordered to retire, but they remained in their position and fought effectively against the enemy aviators."

American Wires Severed.

During the engagement the Germans concentrated their artillery fire on the American telephone and telegraph wires, which were cut many times. Couriers were forced to pass through two or three barbed wire lines in the meantime the men of the Signal Corps, many of them smoking cigarettes in face of a heavy bombardment, restored the wires almost as fast as the enemy shells disrupted them."

Ambulance men ventured into No Man's Land during the thick of the fight and did heroic work in rescuing wounded. One German, who had offered to surrender, attempted to explode a bomb on the ground as three Americans approached him. Another soldier, however, discovered the trick and hurled a grenade at the German, who died later, a prisoner of the men he attempted to blow up."

A village near the front lines which the correspondent visited today tells a mute tale of Saturday's fight. There are huge shell holes in the streets and parts of the church and other buildings have been blown off."

The enemy fire became so hot here that Salvation Army girls, who had been serving coffee and doughnuts to the Americans, were forced to leave. The girls protested, saying they were not afraid of the Germans and wanted to stay in their doughnuts, but the officers did not wish to take the responsibility. As they left the girls were cheered by soldiers returning from the front lines."

of the bombardment reported this morning, the enemy succeeded in capturing an advanced post which had already changed hands several times during the recent fighting."

"As a result of another successful minor operation which we carried out in the Robecq sector, we advanced our line slightly captured 64 prisoners. Bodies of hostile infantry assembled in this neighborhood were engaged by our artillery."

Italian.

ROME, April 22.—"Desultory artillery actions occurred along the whole front," says today's War Office report. "In Macedonia at dawn on the 20th instant, under the effective cover of artillery fire, detachments of our troops inflicted heavy losses on German advanced posts, one of which was destroyed."

German.

BERLIN, via London, April 22.—The official communication from general headquarters today says: "On the battle fronts there were local infantry operations. Enemy attempts to advance across La Bassée Canal to the northwest of Bethune failed under our fire."

"North of Albert we captured 88 British, including two officers, and took 20 machineguns and a few machine guns. "The artillery battle was revived in only a few sectors. On the rest of the front the fighting remained calm within moderate bounds. Southwest of Altkirch (Alsace) we took some prisoners during a reconnoitering advance."

British Aviation.

LONDON, April 22.—The official statement dealing with the aerial operations issued by the War Office tonight reads: "After a long spell of stormy weather, which greatly hampered aerial work, the sky cleared on Sunday and our airplanes were able to remain in the air from dawn until dark. Bombing raids were carried out in several cases. Over 23 tons of bombs were dropped on the Thourout railway station, Menin, Armentieres and various other targets."

"Thousands of rounds of machine gun ammunition were fired by our low flying machines. Enemy machines were seen in large numbers but were not aggressive. Eleven German machines were downed in air fighting and six were driven down out of control. A hostile observation balloon also was destroyed. Anti-aircraft fire accounted for two other hostile airplanes. Five of our machines are missing."

"The pilot of one of the hostile machines brought down was the well-known German aviator and fighter, Baron von Richthofen, who claimed to have destroyed 80 allied machines. His body was buried today with full military honors."

"On Sunday night our night flying machines again bombed Armentieres, Bapaume, the Chaulnes railway station and Peronne, dropping a total of nine and a half tons of bombs. All the machines returned safely."

STATE PLEDGES AID

Public Utility Extensions Discouraged During War.

RATE CASES ARE DELAYED

Expenditures by Carriers to Be Limited to Actual Needs of Transportation; Commission Will Co-operate With Nation.

SALEM, Ore., April 22.—(Special.)—The Public Service Commission, during the time of abnormal conditions resulting from the war, will discourage complaints asking for extension of lines, construction of depots and other betterments and improvements, but will make a reduction of rates on grain shipments from Eastern Oregon points to Portland will also be held in abeyance until conditions return to normal. Expenditures by carriers will be limited to the actual needs of transportation and numerous matters coming before the commission contrary to that rule will be withheld.

These, in effect, are the policies which will be pursued by the commission as outlined in a letterhead memorandum by Chairman Miller to John Barton Payne, general counsel for the Director-General of Railroads.

Co-operation Is Pledged.

Recalling Mr. Payne wrote to the commission relative to all matters pending before it, particularly as to those affecting the revenues of railroads within the state, he said that it would be the policy of the Railroad Administration to secure the assistance of state commissions wherever possible, and he declared for the administration to be fully acquainted with matters pending before the state bodies.

"We are extremely anxious to co-operate with the Director-General of Railroads in relation to any matter affecting transportation, and, realizing the importance of transportation during the war, we are desirous of doing everything in our power to accomplish and expedite this desired result," says Mr. Miller in part in answering Mr. Payne.

Rate Cases Postponed.

"Formal cases P-550, P-570, P-571, P-572-3-4-5-6-7 are important rate hearings affecting grain and grain products transportation from all of Eastern Oregon to Portland, and which might affect seriously the revenue of the carriers. It is deemed expedient that these matters be deferred until conditions have become more nearly normal. We ask your approval of the postponement of these cases."

"Requests for extensions of lines, construction of depots and other betterments and improvements have been made to the commission, but we have uniformly requested the carriers to defer all such matters until after the expiration of the war. During the year just passed we have discouraged insofar as possible the filing of complaints against carriers that might injuriously affect their revenues or cause considerable expenditure of funds."

"During the period of the war we will continue the policy heretofore pursued and will endeavor to limit expenditures to the actual needs of transportation."

HOSTS GATHER FOR FRAY

(Continued From First Page.)

movements by the Germans. One probably will pivot on the village of Robecq, northwest of Bethune, on the southern side of the salient driven into the allied lines back of Armentieres. The other is expected to develop at near Mesnil, north of Albert, on the north side of the Somme salient. The purpose of these movements will be to cut deep into the allied lines on

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prompted by war needs, it was indicated that to as great an extent as possible they will be allowed to carry the ordinary merchandise of peace times, so that economic unsettlement will be minimized.

A committee of experts, composed of F. R. McMillin, H. S. Loeffler and L. B. Smith, will leave for California, to study the 3000-ton concrete steamer

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MOVE DUE TO WAR NEEDS

Newly-Acquired Fleet Will Be Put Into Non-Hazardous Trades With South America, Releasing Steam Craft.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Shipping Board has chartered 400,000 tons of Norwegian sailing ships. They will be put into non-hazardous trades with South America, releasing ships for war needs.

The sailing ships will supplant about one-third as much steam tonnage, the difference being due to slower speed. Some of the chartered ships are as large as 5000 tons capacity and all of them are of steel.

The chartered ships will be allowed to fulfill existing contracts, most of which expire soon, after which they will be directed in their trade according to war needs.

Control by the Shipping Board will result in lower rates to shippers and more effective handling of the ships through the abandonment of the "tramp" method of obtaining cargoes.

Most of the vessels are in the Atlantic, but a few in the Pacific will be allowed to remain there for trade with Australia and the Orient.

The addition of the Norwegian sailing ships is one of the most substantial increases which the American-controlled merchant fleet has received.

While control of the vessels has been

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RULER OF ANHALT DEAD

Duke Frederick II Passes Away at Ballenstadt Castle.

AMSTERDAM, April 22.—Duke Frederick II, ruler of the German duchy of Anhalt, is dead at Ballenstadt Castle. He was 61 years old.

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