

SMASHING YANKEE DRIVE ROUTS HUNS

Boche Regiment Wiped Out and 500 Captured.

MUCH BOOTY IS SEIZED

Vaux Village, Two Woods, Hill and Large Slice of Paris Highway Brilliantly Won.

COUNTER BLOW REPULSED

Americans Gain All Objectives and Dig In Far Beyond Old German Trench Line.

PARIS, July 2.—German counter attacks west of Chateau Thierry against the positions captured by the American troops have completely failed, according to the War Office announcement tonight. The village of St. Pierre Aigle is again in French hands.

(By the Associated Press.)
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE MARNE FRONT, July 2.—American troops, which advanced and hurled back the Germans on a front of two miles west of Chateau Thierry in a battle which began last night at 6 o'clock, continued their pressure on the enemy throughout today, and repulsed a counter attack against their new positions.

Fighting Yet Continues.

The village of Vaux, the height to the west of the village, two patches of wooded land, a large slice of the Paris highway west of Chateau Thierry and other ground gained by the victorious Americans has been retained. The battle continues.

The total number of prisoners captured by the Americans is now estimated to be about 500, of whom seven are officers. Many groups of prisoners already have been sent to the rear and others have been located in hospitals where they were removed after being wounded. The Americans have captured many machine guns and other equipment.

Hill 204 Is Shelled.

There was hot fighting today in front of Hill 204, which is in the hands of the Germans. At 5 o'clock this evening, the American artillery was engaged in heavily shelling the position.

An entire German regiment has been virtually annihilated in the fighting west of Hill 204, according to official information.

Reports from the advanced front brought back through a heavy enemy barrage confirmed the earlier statements that the Americans have reached their every objective and are holding every point.

Foe Attackers Annihilated.

The German counter attack which was fiercely conducted was launched against the American positions at 3 o'clock this morning. It resulted in the Americans further increasing their number of prisoners. Virtually the remainder of the enemy-attacking force was annihilated.

In the Vaux region the Americans took the Germans completely by surprise. Most of the prisoners were taken out of cellars and dugouts.

U. S. Planes Are Active.

While the artillery preparation was going on many American airplanes flew high overhead. Some were protecting the observation balloons, while others were combing the skies to keep off enemy machines.

Early this morning, the American pilots again appeared for similar duty and soon were found contesting with the enemy for supremacy in the air. A number of the aerial battles were observed, but reports on the results are not yet available.

It was exactly 6 o'clock last evening when the Americans went over the top under the protection of a hail of machine gun bullets from our machine gun batteries. The infantry action was preceded by a short but terrific artillery preparation. When the Germans saw that a formidable attack was developing, many of those in outposts yelled and ran toward the rear to nests from which a hot fire began pouring.

The Americans paused for a moment.

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IRON CROSSES FAD OF YANKEE TROOPS

BOYS FROM WEST COLLECT KAISER'S WAR MEDALS.

Americans Strip German Prisoners of Souvenirs to Send to Girls Back Home.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—The German Emperor has distributed iron crosses galore among the American forces holding lines west of hill 204. The distribution was not direct, but via the chests of soldiers Germany considers her best. Having an iron cross is a fad among the Americans. Nearly every prisoner taken has one, and few retain them. These are probably overlooked during the excitement of battle and the hurry to get the prisoners to the rear.

A few Americans seen today had the enemy medal pinned in the center of their shirts—not on the left side, while others pulled their trophies from their pockets, explaining that they considered them the best souvenirs because they are easily mailed home, while machine guns, rifles and trench mortars are likely to become elephants on one's hands.

The men said some of the crosses had been given voluntarily by the Germans when they were asked for them, but others were cut off prisoner's shirts. One small doughboy, who looked less than 20, stepped up to a German officer taken prisoner and drew his bayonet to cut off the cross. The officer thought the American intended to kill him, and fled.

The American chased him with the bare bayonet in his hand. The prisoner finally was headed off by other Americans. The small soldier put the cross on the shoulder with one hand and removed the desired trophy with the other, much to the astonishment of the officer. The American gave the German a cigarette and a match and the bargain was closed.

NEW BARRAGE GUN WONDER

Factory Turns Out Howitzers at Rate of Ten Each Day.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—American-built 155 millimeter howitzers are moving to France, supplementing the equipment of General Pershing's troops heretofore obtained from French ordnance factories.

One American firm that never touched ordnance work prior to America's entering the war is turning out these guns at a rate of ten a day from a factory, the site of which was a flourishing cornfield last August.

These facts were disclosed today to newspaper correspondents from Washington, who visited the new Army proving ground at Aberdeen, Md.

The howitzers, which are of French design, are of approximately six-inch bore, and are the heavy barrage guns which support an infantry advance against an entrenched position. The United States soon will be independent of its co-belligerents for guns of this type.

7 CLATSOP MEN REJECTED

Man Who Fails to Sign Questionnaire Sent to Fort McDowell.

ASTORIA, Or., July 2.—(Special.)—The local board has received word that seven of the contingent of 94 men sent recently from here to Camp Lewis have been rejected with several men yet to be reported upon. These men were rejected for slight physical defects, such as imperfect teeth.

Joseph D. Waring, who was arrested a few days ago for failure to sign and return his questionnaire, has been inducted into the military service and was sent today to Fort McDowell.

ARMY TITLE IS SPURNED

Preston Gibson Enlists as Private in U. S. Marine Corps.

NEW YORK, July 2.—Preston Gibson, nephew of Chief Justice White, an author and playwright, has refused an Army commission to enlist as a private in the Marine Corps. He has notified Colonel E. Lester Jones, at headquarters of the Signal Corps in Washington.

Mr. Gibson joined the French army as a volunteer last August and was twice cited for bravery. He returned to the United States and spoke for the last liberty loan.

AMERICANS MAKE 2 RAIDS

In Daylight Operation Near Montdidier One German Is Captured.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Two successful raids, one of them in broad daylight, have been carried out by the American forces in the Montdidier region.

In the daylight raid a Corporal and three men entered an enemy post located in a wheat field and took one prisoner and a machine gun.

"SPANISH GRIP" FEARED

Steamer Thoroughly Fumigated and Passengers Undergo Examination.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, July 2.—As a precaution against the introduction into this country of the "Spanish influenza" recently reported as prevalent in Spain, a Spanish passenger liner which arrived here today was thoroughly fumigated and those on board subjected to thorough examination by Federal and state health officers.

MILLION AND MORE U. S. MEN OVER SEAS

Troops Moved Abroad in Swelling Stream.

30 DIVISIONS NOW IN FRANCE

America's Forces Ready to Help Resist German Smash.

EQUIPMENT KEEPS PACE

President Makes Public His Correspondence With Secretary Baker Relative to Dispatch of Soldiers Abroad.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—American troops sent overseas numbered 1,019,158 on July 1.

This was made known tonight by President Wilson, who gave to the public a letter from Secretary Baker disclosing a record of achievement which the President said "must cause universal satisfaction," and which "will give additional zest to our National celebration of the Fourth of July."

The four units—non-combatant—left American shores on May 8, 1917. General Pershing followed 12 days later, and at the end of the month 1715 men had started for the battlefields of France.

Steady Stream Started.

June saw this number increase by 12,261, and thereafter khaki-clad "crusaders" from the Western Republic flowed overseas in a steady stream until upwards of 300,000 had departed, when the great German thrust began last March.

President Wilson's determination to meet Germany's supreme effort with the utmost of America's available manpower to assist the desperately resisting French and British armies is sharply reflected in the movement of troops during the last three months.

The March sailings of 83,811 were increased in April to 117,212. May saw another 244,345 men embark, and last month 276,372 were sent away, making a total for the three months of 627,929. This, Secretary Baker said later, put the troop movement six months ahead of the original programme.

First Field Army Formed.

Substantially 30 divisions are now in France ready to meet whatever move the German staff has in preparation. Some of these divisions already have been formed into the first field army under Major-General Liggett, others are holding trench sectors at important points along the battle line, and still others have been broken up and brigaded with the French and British troops.

And so, when the German thrust comes, the Americans will be called upon to play no small part in meeting it.

Secretary Baker wrote the President that the supplies and equipment in France for the million men who have

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U. S. AIR SQUADRON BATTLES WITH FOE

HALF-HOUR FIGHT SERVES TO DESTROY 3 BOCHE PLANES.

Two American Machines Fail to Return; British Destroy 42 Enemy Airplanes in One Day.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—An American air squadron composed of nine machines had a thrilling half-hour fight this morning north of Chateau-Thierry with a German flight squadron of the same number. At least three of the German planes were driven down, plunging to the earth, and up to 6 o'clock tonight two of the Americans had not returned.

The American airmen, acting as a patrolling party came upon the enemy shortly after 7 o'clock in the morning and immediately attacked. With the advantage of the offensive, the Americans succeeded in getting above their adversaries, and after furious exchanges at an altitude of more than two miles drove the Germans down a mile.

Two of the American aviators saw one of the Nieuport, driven by an American pilot, go into a dive and disappear, but three American pilots have reported that they observed tracers go through the fuselage of three enemy machines within a few minutes of each other, the planes crashing earthward.

The fighting was fast and all kinds of maneuvers were brought into play. Finally the Germans made off hurriedly.

When the Americans returned to their field they found two of the patrol missing, and they have not been heard from so far.

One machine had been struck 13 times. One bullet grazed the gas tank, another cut a strut, while the fuselage was like a sieve.

LONDON, July 2.—British airmen yesterday disposed of 42 German airplanes and three balloons, according to the official report on aerial operations issued tonight.

Of the airplanes, 25 were destroyed, 15 were driven down out of control and two landed behind the British lines, where their occupants were captured.

SACK OF FLOUR SELLS HIGH

Mystic Shriners of Oklahoma Break Record With \$86,675.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 2.—For one sack of flour—\$86,675. That is the price paid by the Mystic Shriners of Oklahoma for the "Shriners' Red Cross sack of flour," according to Potentate John D. McGilvray, of Islam Temple, San Francisco, who has just returned here.

The sack has been sold 21 times and the total sales to date are \$137,500, which has been turned over to the Red Cross.

DELAYS TO BE ELIMINATED

Monthly Checks for Allotments and Allowances to Come Promptly.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—Misunderstanding the war risk insurance act, either on the part of the enlisted man or by his dependents, has caused much of the delay in the mailing of monthly checks for allotments and allowances, according to the findings of a special committee of inquiry appointed by Secretaries Baker and McAdoo.

Steps are being taken, the committee reported, to eliminate all causes for delay.

MEXICAN EDITORS REACH PORTLAND

Better Understanding Object of Trip.

RECEPTION DELIGHTS VISITORS

War Preparations of United States Astonish.

WEST CALLED WONDERFUL

Political Relations of Two Americas Certain to Improve When Truth About This Country Is Told, Say Writers From South.

On the last leg of a 40-day journey that has taken them through the principal cities and industrial centers of the United States, 29 Mexican newspaper men arrived in Portland at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a two-day stay.

The party is in charge of Lieutenant P. S. O'Reilly, U. S. N. R. P., who is representing the Government in its efforts to show the editors what this country is accomplishing in its war preparations.

Tired and dusty after their trip across the mountains, broken only by Monday's visit in Seattle, the visitors were given last night to rest up for the strenuous two-day programme arranged by the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Highway Trip Planned.

A ride around the city, with stops at several points of interest, will be the first event today. Following the ride the Mexican visitors will be guests of honor at a luncheon at the chamber.

A trip up the Columbia Highway in the afternoon will be followed by a dinner at the Crown Point Chalet.

Surprise at the manifold war activities of the United States mingled with delight at the reception accorded them was expressed in the visitors' conversation. Only four of the party speak English fluently, though practically every one of them understands it and can manage a few words of appreciation.

Editors Have Much to Tell.

"We didn't believe it possible," said Manuel Carpio, editor of La Voz de la Revolucion, of Yucatan, and El Triunfo, of Havana, in speaking of the country's war preparations. "We shall have much to tell the people of Mexico when we get back, and we already have been telling them much by correspondence as we travel along."

"The West is wonderful. Here they give us time to think, and we Latins are not a bustling people. In the East we were pushed along from place to place with scarcely time to appreciate anything. Of course we know they are busy, but they should be more pleasant about it and they would enjoy everything more. It is beautiful out here—the air, the country and the people."

Better Understanding Prime Object.

Better Understanding Between Mexico and the United States—the prime object.

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SHIPYARDS TAKE UP CHALLENGE OF FOE

HUNDRED LAUNCHINGS JULY 4 MESSAGE OF DEFIANCE.

Pershing, Addressing Chairman Hurley, Acknowledges Receipt of Inspiring News.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—"No more defiant answer could be given to the enemy's challenge."

This was the message received from General Pershing in reply to Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board, informing the American fighting men in France that the shipbuilders at home would launch 100 merchant ships July 4.

The launching of 100 ships on the fourth of July is the most inspiring news there has come to us," General Pershing said. "All ranks of the Army in France send their congratulations and heartfelt thanks to their patriotic brothers in the shipyards at home. No more defiant answer could be given to the enemy's challenge. With such backing we cannot fail to win. All hail American shipbuilders."

Chairman Hurley's message to the Army said:

"Not by delaying a single ship, but by speeding to the utmost, the American shipyards will launch nearly 100 ships on July 4. On that one day, celebrating the Nation's independence and backing up boys in the trenches, the men in the shipyards will launch 450,000 deadweight tons, as much as was launched in six months last year."

"Your inspiring leadership of the American Army in France has thrilled the shipyard workers and if the time comes when you need even the shipyard men over there, they will go, to the last man."

"We want you and the boys in the trenches to know that men in the yards are going the limit to provide in record-breaking time the ships that will carry more men, food and munitions to the intrepid American expeditionary forces."

SOFA FERRY'S FLOUR BIN

Seattle Attorney Arrested on Charge of Hoarding Food.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 2.—Pierre P. Ferry, pioneer Seattle attorney and son of Elisha P. Ferry, first Governor of Washington, was arrested here today and charged with hoarding food in violation of Federal laws.

Officers said they found almost 600 pounds of flour behind a sofa in the home of Mr. Ferry, according to the officers, said the flour was purchased before the food laws became effective and asserted he did not know he was violating the statutes by keeping it.

SUFFRAGE MOTION FAILS

Senator Fall, of New Mexico, Ruled Out of Order.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—An effort by Senator Fall, of New Mexico, to bring up the woman suffrage resolution failed in the Senate today, the Vice-President ruling the Senator out of order.

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16 DEAD, 200 HURT IN T. N. T. DISASTER

Explosives Plant at Split Rock, N. Y., Blows Up.

CITY OF SYRACUSE ROCKED

Terrific Blasts Set Off When the Flames Reach Vats of Chemicals.

FIRE FIGHTERS HELPLESS

Lack of Apparatus Makes Struggle Against Conflagration Futile.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., July 2.—At least sixteen persons were killed and two hundred injured and the huge plant of the Smet-Solvay Company, at Split Rock, near here, was virtually wrecked by two explosions of trinitrotoluol at 9:30 o'clock tonight.

Terrific concussion from the explosions of the war powder rocked large business buildings in the center of this city, smashing plate glass windows and causing a panic in the residential district.

T. N. T. Vats Reached by Flames.

The explosions followed a fire that had got beyond control and spread to the T. N. T. vats.

Two let go, burying workers under an avalanche of debris and scattered the flames to adjoining buildings.

At a late hour tonight the flames were burning fiercely and there was constant danger of more explosions. Volunteer firemen were powerless. Aid was sent from Syracuse, but at midnight the water system broke down.

Five hundred workers were in the plant when the fire broke out. Its origin has not been ascertained. The workers fought the flames and when they ran to safety were caught in the first explosion.

Men were hurled in all directions. Two, caught between burning buildings, were blown through a wall. They were still alive when picked up, but there was not a shred of clothing on their bodies.

The second explosion occurred 15 minutes after the first. Buildings in the vicinity were crumpled. Homes of working men across the road from the plant collapsed. Burning timbers were blown to the roofs of buildings across the railroad tracks which divide the plant.

Families fled across the fields in confusion.

James Russo and Arthur C. Goodfellow were analyzing samples in the plant when the cry of "fire" called them to building No. 1.

Water Found Lacking.

Goodfellow tells this story: "Russo grabbed a hose and I tried to help. Smoke was thick, we could not see. Little explosions kept letting go inside the building. There wasn't enough water to be of any use."

"We knew that a big explosion was coming and we ran. Just as we reached the foot of a hill the blast let go. It knocked us both flat on our faces."

A telephone message from Split Rock brought the first word of the accident to the city. It reached police headquarters in the form of a request for all the ambulances. The shock of the explosion, a few minutes earlier, had tied up all the telephone lines, causing a delay before the ambulances were on the way.

Many Buildings Burn.

Both fire and explosions, according to workmen who escaped, were confined to the east side of the plant which is made up of about 15 buildings, including the offices and laboratories.

There are three of the T. N. T. plants, in the first of which the flames originated. Next to them are six plants in which nitric acid is handled. Beyond them only a hundred yards away are four plants in which picric acid is handled. All of these clustered together on the south side of the railroad tracks.

At midnight the flames had eaten into the picric acid plants and were making slow headway toward the giant tanks of oleum.

Most of the small explosions were due, according to workmen, to the contact of flames with small "nitrefiers," or "pulverizers."

