

ALLIES DRIVE INTO HUN LINES 6 MILES

Franco-Americans Advance on 28-Mile Front and U. S. Cavalry Is Pursuing.

GERMANS ARE SURPRISED

Smash Is Made From River Aisne on North, South to Near Chateau-Thierry; Americans Take 4000 Prisoners and 50 Guns.

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them with a lightning-like diversion from the Marne to the Aisne.

Thousands of prisoners, scores of cannon, hundreds of machine guns and much material fell into the hands of the allied troops. Before gaining possession of the heights dominating Soissons from the south a couple of dozen of villages were conquered by the allies, who tonight were engaged in severe fighting which disconcerted the enemy along the whole line from Chateau-Thierry to Soissons.

French troops have gained the ravine at the River Crise running into Soissons on a five-mile front down to the east of Buzancy, which means a maximum advance at this point of five miles, according to news received here tonight.

Yankees Take Prisoners.

The Americans operating in the region west of Soissons, the dispatches add, have taken 4000 prisoners, 30 guns and much other material which has not yet been estimated. The French have also taken several thousand prisoners and 20 guns.

South of Vierzy on the heights north of the River Ourcq Valley, the Germans hastily counter attacked and the situation at that point still is obscure.

Up to 1 o'clock this afternoon, French troops had captured the heights overlooking Fontenoy on the extreme left and had progressed to Mont De Paris, within a mile of the city of Soissons.

The French are on the western outskirts of Chouy and Neuilly-St. Front and from there to Belleau wood. This average depth of the advance is about three miles.

East of Rheims the allies have captured Prunay.

Fontenoy Is Attacked.

The northern point of the front of attack is the town of Fontenoy, nearly a mile north of the river Aisne. The French, the reports state, have recaptured Montovion, south of the Marne, at the point where the Germans had advanced farthest toward Epernay and Chene-la-Raine to the west, and took as well the western edge of those villages overlooking the Marne.

The French move this morning appeared to have been a surprise to the Germans. The life in which this surprise was accomplished may best be judged from the map, which shows a great area of forest covering the ground behind the French lines. General Foch has been preparing for some time for the present move.

All Branches Represented.

All the way from Belleau to Aisne the French attack was launched at daybreak today. It was what the British call a "full dress show," with every department, every weapon available in play, including the new French mobile tank. These tanks did excellent work at some of the most difficult points.

The French have reached a point menacing the most important German railway centers which feed the entire front west of Rheims. The French artillery is now within easy shelling distance of these railways and should be able to make them unusable for a large section of the German army.

Railway Deemed Vital.

Military men attach great importance to the lateral railway line around Soissons and say that if General Foch can get his artillery into position to keep these lines out of action, he will make the movement of the German supplies in the whole sector between Rheims and Chateau-Thierry impossible.

On the extreme east of the recent German offensive the French have re-occupied their old lines for a distance of three or four miles.

North of the Marne, the French have regained the whole of the Bois wood and the village of Ventouil.

The Germans are reported to have made slight progress north of St. Aman in the district southwest of Dormans, but their progress has been slow. The maximum penetration of the French lines since July 15 is six miles, according to the latest reports.

Italians Capture Town.

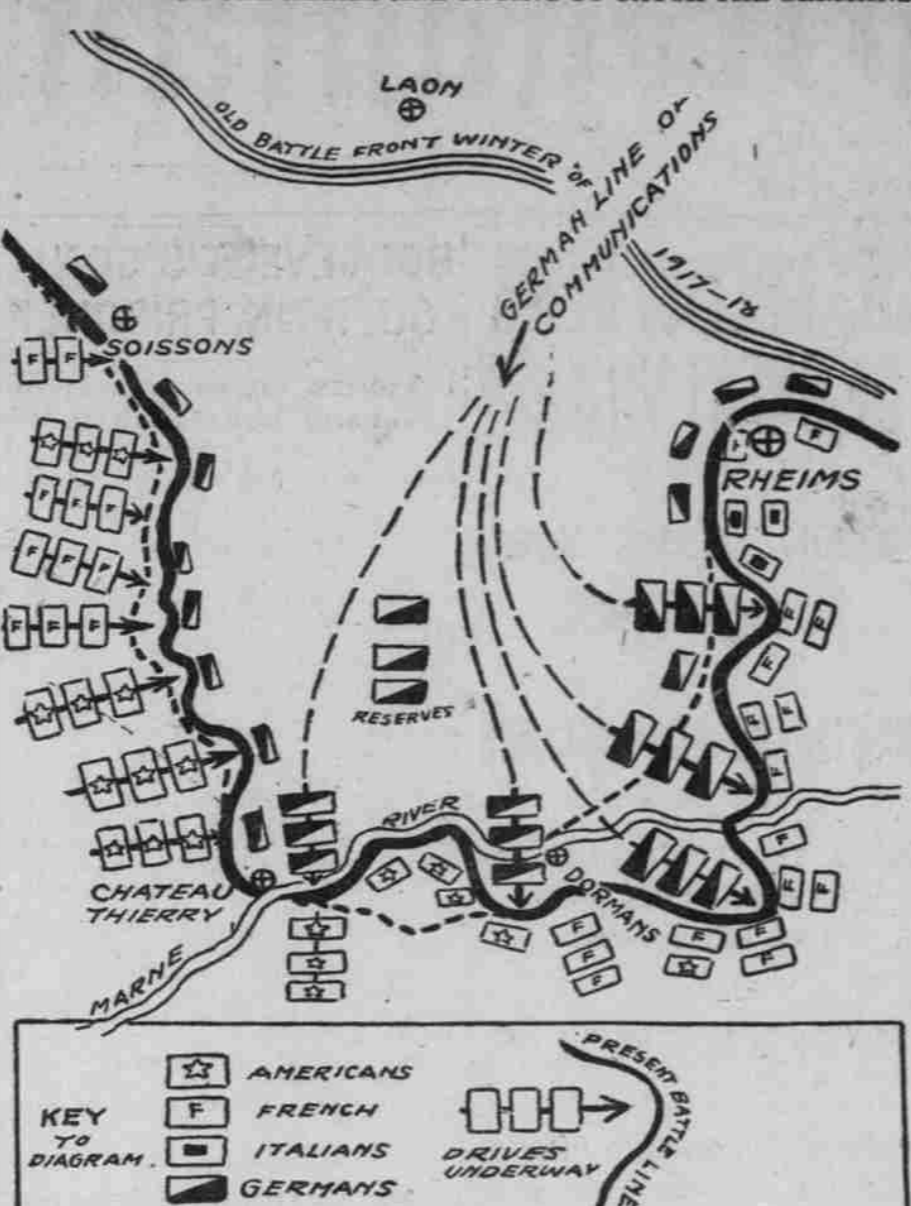
North of the Marne the Italians have retaken Clairnetta, two miles north-east of Bligny.

In the fighting on the front of the German offensive, the French last night stopped the Germans in the face of violent attacks which the enemy launched southwest of Nanteuil-la-Fosse, between the Marne and Rheims. On the front beyond Rheims, east of the Vesle River, an attack by German Guard units was completely repulsed.

Germans Are Caught Napping.

LONDON, July 18.—Reuter's correspondent at French headquarters in

TRAP IN WHICH THE ALLIES ARE TRYING TO CATCH THE GERMANS



The accompanying diagram shows the possibilities of a great allied victory which lie in the present battle line between Soissons and Rheims. The Germans on May 27 started a drive for Paris between the points named, but were stopped at the Marne by the French and Americans. Finding themselves in a salient which was too narrow for safety, they tried to widen it, but they were blocked by the French, and it was made narrower by local advances of the French and Americans on its west side between Soissons and the Marne and by the French and Italians on its east side between the Marne and Rheims.

The purpose of the German drive begun on July 15 was to establish themselves firmly south of the Marne and then to advance eastward on both banks of the river. At the same time the drive east of Rheims was designed to reach Chalons. If both drives had succeeded, the allied troops in the half-circle which encloses Rheims would have been in danger of being cut off and captured, along with that city, and would have been compelled to withdraw, abandoning the city and ground south of it.

The German advance has been blocked on all sides, reaching only six miles farther up the river than the line stood before it began, and counter attacks have recovered much of the small amount of ground lost by the allies. By a counter attack in force along a line of ever-tightening resistance between northwest of Soissons, to Chateau-Thierry, General Foch aims to drive in the Germans on the west, to cut the railroad, which is only four miles in the German rear, and to catch the troops on the Marne in a trap by cutting off their line of retreat. If the Germans use their local reserves in the center of the salient to repel this attack, an opportunity will be given the French and Italians to drive in the east line.

The Americans and French are thus fighting shoulder to shoulder in what may prove to be one of the decisive battles of the war, where there is a possibility that the Germans may suffer a disaster equal to that which befel the French at Sedan in 1870.

France suggests that the complete surprise of the enemy by the French and American attack was due partly to lack of vigilance, owing to the violent thunder storms and the rain and wind which swept the whole country between the Aisne and Marne during the night. The German first lines, the correspondent says, made weak resistance and many prisoners were taken in the first hour of the attack.

The correspondent predicts stiffer fighting Friday, when he believes masses of unused German troops beyond the Aisne will be brought up. "The operation may be regarded as a big diversion, which will be a salient between the Aisne and the Marne, with a view to arresting his advance toward Epernay and Rheims," says the correspondent.

"It was the first time since the German offensive began March 21 of the development of an independent maneuver which obliged the Germans to give battle on ground of General Foch's choosing. The changed situation is largely due to the progressive diminution of the enemy's superiority since March and the arrival of a powerful American contingent on the allied front."

DEFEAT ADMITTED BY BERLIN

Credit of Attack Given to French in Official Statement.

BERLIN, via London, July 18.—German headquarters this evening chronicles the great counter offensive carried out today by the French and American troops along the Marne as follows: "Between the Aisne and the Marne the French attacked with strong forces and tanks and captured some ground. Our reserves, which were held in readiness, took part in the battle."

SALABERRY QUITS CABINET

All Argentine Minister May Resign. 50,000 Laborers Strike.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, July 17.—It is expected in well-informed government circles that the resignation of Domingo Salaberry, Minister of Finance, which was announced today, will be followed possibly by the resignation of the entire cabinet.

CECIL TAKES NEW POST

Minister of Blockade Enters Office of Foreign Affairs.

LONDON, July 18.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, has relinquished his post and will become Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

YANKEES RIP BOCHE LINE

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gines rolled along in front of the infantry, driving the Germans before them with streams of bullets and clearing away many obstructions that had escaped the artillery.

The enemy early began to bring up strong reinforcements. Fresh troops have appeared at various points and a heavy counter-attack probably will have to be withstood.

On the line south of Soissons, the American troops carried all their objectives in the second attack with the same dash as the first, even proceeding further than had been expected. The enemy was routed and for the most part fled before the American

WESTERN SUPPLY SHIP REPORTED MISSING

Report From Vice-Admiral Sims Indicates 82 Officers and Men Rescued.

SHIP TORPEDOED JULY 11

Army Supply Vessel, Manned by Naval Crew, Sent to Bottom in War Zone White on Way to Europe.

WASHINGTON, July 18.—The American steamer Westover, an Army supply ship manned by Navy men, was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone July 11, while bound to Europe, the Navy Department was advised tonight by Vice-Admiral Sims. Ten officers and men of the crew of 92 are missing. They are: Assistant Paymaster Robert Halstead, Lansing, Mich.; Ensign Basil Dillingham Caldwell, Woodford, Me.; Chief Machinist Mate Frank Willard Holloway, Washington, D. C.; Seaman—James Brewster, Hartwell, Ga.; Austin Clyde Wilson, Muncie, Ind.; firemen—Bryan Deal, London, Ind.; Harvey Harrison, Nobleville, Ind.; Edward Lewis Griffin, Baltimore, Md.; Mess Attendant John Cole, Brentwood, Md.; Water Tender Wilfred Joseph Gerry, Anshand, Ky. No details were given in the Navy Department's announcement and the circumstances under which 82 officers and men of the crew were rescued were not known. Nor was there any announcement as to whether the submarine was sighted and fired upon by the armed guards on the steamer.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 18.—(Special.)—The steamship Westover was an \$800-ton steel vessel launched from the J. F. Duthie shipyard on Sunday, February 17. She entered commission April 15 and sailed from here in command of Captain H. P. Ogilvie. Excepting her master, the balance of her crew returned here in June, and it is presumed Ogilvie was still on her as a reserve naval officer.

WHOLE NATION REJOICES

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wrote new and glorious pages in American history. Secretary Baker had difficulty in holding himself to a cool unburied expression of his feelings, and his papermen late in the day, a statement summarizing General Pershing's brief report. Supplemented with the news dispatches, the official account revealed, however, the full thrilling story of the dash against the enemy delivered with such gallantry and such a complete surprise that it swept over the first German lines apparently without wavering and rushed on to objectives much more than the German

During the day Secretary Baker, General March and War Department officials spent much time over the messages. They read every detail of the accounts brought in over press wires, and time after time other business halted in the swiftly changing battle front was traced out. Until late in the night officials were eagerly receiving every report that came in.

Allied Troops Praised. Mr. Baker's statement paid instant homage to the dash and gallantry of the American forces and his elation as the result of the official report surrounded him was clearly written between the lines.

Aside from promising consideration of the counter attack, officers believe, that from renewed proof of the fighting qualities of the new American armies, in the fact that General Foch has now sufficient forces to unloose a major counter stroke, for the blow today is nothing less than that, however limited its fixed objectives for offensive may have been. The supreme commander now has shown clearly that a definite turning point has been reached where his reserves in men and munitions are great enough for him to assume at least an aggressive defense.

Whether the present counter stroke will enlarge into an allied offensive cannot be known until the events of the next few days are known. If the present Franco-American thrust should realize all the possibilities seen in it by observers abroad and force the Germans out of the whole Aisne-Marne salient, it is highly probable that officials here that General Foch might feel warranted in expanding that success through offensive operations on other fronts.

Doubters Give Views. A narrower construction on today's events fixes the stopping of the German drive west of Rheims as the purpose of allied attack. In that case it is already certain that what was accomplished today will go far toward ending any menace the German assault may still have.

In some quarters here doubts were expressed early today as to the wisdom of diverting forces for a counter stroke while the German advance along the Marne toward Epernay was still in motion. The extent of the gains effected, however, was regarded as fully justifying General Foch's strategic dispositions, and there is no doubt that the American military is in full harmony with him.

The risk involved in concentrating a great force far from the apex of the German advance, it was argued, was more than offset by the possibilities that a successful diversion on the Aisne-Marne would have. In effect, General Foch struck at the rear of the enemy columns hammering at the French lines south of the Marne, and there is little possibility of any serious effort to press forward there while the Franco-American drive is unchecked.

Inside Lines Held. In any event, the reserves employed in and supporting today's drive stand between the enemy and Paris on the direct road. They hold the inside lines of the Compiegne salient, which is regarded as the key point of the whole German campaign.

At need they can be shifted swiftly to the north to support the Montdidier-Soissons front, or employed to harass the flank of any German thrust north of Montdidier.

Signs have not been lacking that General Foch had in mind some such enterprise as that launched today, even before the German drive of last Monday began. The front from which he struck covers that upon which French "nibbling" tactics have been steadily employed for several weeks with good local gains.

British Raids Succeeded. Similar "nibbling" is going on along the British front at several places. Successful raids and improvement of position were reported yesterday and today. The Germans apparently are becoming aroused over the British enterprises, for the dispatches tell of increased enemy artillery fire in those sectors.

It was suggested tonight that a

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thrust from the British front on a far wider scale than anything attempted there since the great German assault began last March might develop as a companion piece to the Franco-American effort. In that case, it was said, it would be clear that the tide of battle had definitely turned and the German drive of 1918, their greatest military effort of the war and the campaign on which they have counted to achieve victory of arms, had been defeated.

CHICAGO, July 18.—Charles E. Perkins was elected president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad today, to succeed Hale Holden, who has been appointed regional director of the Central Western region.

Train Derailed, Four Killed. MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 18.—Two trainmen and two passengers were killed and between 30 and 35 persons were injured when the Kansas City-Florida "Special" on the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad was derailed today near Flickinger, Ark., according to advices received here this afternoon.

Score and More to Be Examined. PRINEVILLE, Or., July 18.—(Special.)—All men in the new registration, who were advanced to class I, will be examined by the local examining board here Saturday. About 30 men were affected in the new registration.

Railroad Elects New President. CHICAGO, July 18.—Charles E. Perkins was elected president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad today, to succeed Hale Holden, who has been appointed regional director of the Central Western region.

Two Killed in Auto Crash. LINDSAY, Cal., July 18.—Two persons were killed instantly and four injured, two probably fatally, here today

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