

BATTLE STRATEGY OF GERMANS BARED

Semi-Official Statement Gives Strictly Enemy Version of Defeat by Allies.

FACTS CLUMSILY JUGGLED

Ground on Both Sides of Somme "Which Furious British Attack Could Not Capture" Given Up "Voluntarily" by Teutons.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 12.—Presenting a picture of the Anglo-French plan of attack between the Ancre and the Avre, the German semi-official news agency in a dispatch to Berlin says that it was the intention of the allies to overrun the German defense system along this front, which was only weakly fortified. It says that there has been no time to construct permanent defenses.

The dispatch says: "Eventually the battleground on both banks of the Somme, which furious British attacks could not capture, was given up voluntarily. "Under protection of a short but extremely intense bombardment, the entire armies tried to cut lanes through the German infantry and artillery lines by tank squadrons. Then the cavalry supported by tanks was to be rushed through the infantry lines in order to reach on the first day of the offensive a high road between Peronne and Roye.

Resistance Declared Heroic. "Failure of this plan was due to the heroic resistance of trench garrisons which at many points held their positions until surrounded.

"The English and French began the second day's offensive with tank attacks, but, weakened by the losses of the previous day, they did not display the same vigor. "Only in the afternoon were the English, with the help of fresh troops, able to renew the attack. On the entire front from Morlaucourt to the Avre, waves advanced once more headed by strong tank divisions. A carrying counter attack by German infantry followed.

"The fight swayed this way and that, but finally the British, despite the strong forces employed, were unable to make headway on the banks of the Somme and along the great Roman high road.

"Further south the Franco-British assault against the line from Rosieres to Arrillers succeeded in gaining ground which was extremely unsuited for defense.

Further Retreat Hinted. The military writer of the Berlin Zeitung Am Mittag in preparing the German public for a further retreat of the German forces says: "If to avoid further fighting we are withdrawing to new positions, thereby allowing the enemy to attack with great losses, we are serving our aims better than by sacrificing our best men in an obstinate struggle for a piece of ground. The decisive moment has not yet come."

THE HAGUE, Aug. 12.—German newspapers are asking pointed questions concerning reverses in the west. A Berlin dispatch to the Post and Munich complains of the attempts of certain German official circles to conceal the truth from the people. It says this has done incalculable harm and is largely responsible for the public bitterness. The dispatch adds: "It is ridiculous to suppose that the importance of the events can be concealed ultimately from the people."

Von Kuehlmann Blamed. The Deutsches Zeitung of Berlin, attributed to the German general staff, attributes the failure of the offensive to the morale of the troops of Crown Prince Rupprecht, of Bavaria, due to the last Reichstag speech of former Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—Three German Generals recently commanding near Montdidier have been cashiered for neglect of duty, according to Belgian reports received in Amsterdam and transmitted by the Exchange Telegraph Company.

Many soldiers were court-martialed at St. Quentin Saturday for high treason. "The Germans in Belgium are showing signs of great uneasiness and the German Emperor is reported to have moved to Brussels.

TOWN OF GURY IS TAKEN

(Continued From First Page.) the enemy can withdraw his artillery. The increasing difficulties attending their retreat are driving the Germans to desperate sacrifices in their efforts to check the allies' advance around the

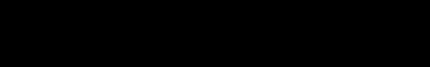
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positions the Germans hold on Thiescourt plateau. Their losses are extremely heavy and their dead lie all over the field. They are found in shellholes and nooks where they vainly sought protection from the French fire. Among them are some survivors who are found in every possible hiding place.

Many Privations Endured. Privations were endured by the Germans in the front line recently. This was picturesquely evidenced by a letter found since the offensive began.

It was from an officer who informed his relatives in Germany that the French artillery had been furnishing the only meat available by killing horses. Another officer wrote with pride and satisfaction that he was able to send along with his message of love and hope a sack of wheat he had just gleaned from an adjoining field.

A German wireless operator was found at the bottom of a well after the French had advanced over the enemy positions.

As evidence of the haste with which the enemy withdrew, it may be said that the entire mail of one regiment made up for transmission to Germany was captured at Rezonans-Sur-Matz.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 12.—(Reuters.)—There was a lull over the battlefield this morning. On the front of the French first and third armies the enemy was endeavoring to establish himself on the line of Roye-Laasigny and the French were in contact with him along the greater part of this line, which runs about two miles in front of Roye and three miles in front of Laasigny. The line extends from Andeschy close to the Amiens-Roye road, through Dancourt and Tilloloy and on to Gury.

Enemy Reserves Active. The enemy's reserves now are taking a vigorous part in the battle, which is over territory that was covered by the German offensives in March and May of this year. The first three days of irretrievable allied advance is slowing down the enemy's fresh divisions and placing the broken remnants that met the first shock.

The army of General von Hutier, with its left resting on the massif of Thiescourt and on the Oise at Noyon, is sufficiently well placed for a defensive battle except for the threat of a further advance by the British along the Amiens-Roye road.

TONS OF BOMBS ARE DROPPED. Aviators Attack Peronne and Cambrai Stations; Return Safely.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—An official communique dealing with aviation issues tonight says: "Fifty tons of bombs were dropped by our airmen on August 11 and the following night. The bombs were objectives, both by day and by night, were the Somme crossings and certain railway junctions of military importance.

"Courtly station and its slings were heavily bombed by some of our squadrons in broad daylight from a low height, without loss to us. Many diversions were observed.

"At night the stations at Peronne and Cambrai were severely attacked with good effect. All our night bombing machines safely returned.

"Enemy aircraft, flying in large formations, were active on the battle front. Twenty-nine hostile machines were destroyed in air fighting during the day and 24 others were driven down out of control. Four hostile balloons were shot down in flames. Five of our machines are missing."

GERMANS SAY THEY ESCAPED. Semi-Official News Agency Tells of "Successful Withdrawal."

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 12.—The German semi-official news agency, in a dispatch to Berlin tonight, says of the allied offensive in Picardy: "On the third day of the offensive the French launched a frontal attack on the German front between Montdidier and the Matz. As there was only a temporary defense, the attackers, advancing after a strong artillery preparation, accompanied by tanks, met only our rear guards whose machine guns caused the attacks everywhere were arrested. After the most sanguinary repulse of the French assaults, our rear guard line was able, with slight losses, to withdraw many tons of material, to disengage from the enemy and to withdraw.

"North of the Avre, Franco-British troops made the strongest efforts southward to take the new German formations to the rear and to the northward to roll up the German Avre front but they failed."

Spasmodic Shelling of Americans on Vesle Is Without Result.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—Along the Vesle hostile attacks in the vicinity of Fismes were repulsed with severe losses to the enemy. General Pershing reported in today's communique.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE VESLE, Aug. 12.—(Reuters.)—The Germans are shelling the Vesle front spasmodically, their heavy guns being concentrated in turn on certain targets. St. Thibaut, Mont Notre Dame and Fismes have been chiefly chosen.

A real attempt to feel out the allied strength has taken the form of an attack at Fismette, a little village north-west of Fismes. This, however, was a failure, as the American soldiers were so good that not a single man was able to enter the village and the assaulting troops retired, leaving a fresh sprinkling of dead on the battlefield, which already has been fatal to so many Germans.

ALL AMERICA IS LAUDED. Madame Foch Expresses Belief That Victory Is Near.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—In a letter to the Lafayette memorial fund, Madame Foch, wife of the allied Generalissimo, expressed gratitude to America for contributions and belief Victory is in sight. Madame Foch appeals for continued and increased activities for French widows and refugees a second time and for French children removed from the city, owing to the bombardment and who are now being established in Summer colonies.

"The task remains very heavy," she writes, "and the different phases and changes of the war gradually involve fresh burdens."

HAYWOOD AT BAY

I. W. W. Leader Confronted With Damaging Documents.

EPIGRAMS READ IN COURT

Persistent Attempts Made by Accused Man to Dodge Responsibility for Radical Utterances Against War Plans.

CHICAGO, Aug. 12.—A large number of letters were read into the record of the I. W. W. trial before Federal Judge Landis today by Frank K. Nebeker, chief counsel for the prosecution, in support of the Government's charge that William D. Haywood, general secretary and treasurer of the organization, talked and wrote against conscription and the war and used his influence as head of the body to interfere with the Government military policy.

On direct examination Haywood declared that he had never spoken a word or written a line in opposition to the war. He was asked to explain the contents of a letter which he had written and received from his lieutenants containing numerous references against the Government's war plan.

Haywood was kept busy in a vain effort to explain the contents of letters which he had written and received from his lieutenants containing numerous references against the Government's war plan. He denied having written certain letters with which he was unexpectedly confronted and attempted to place the blame on his assistants.

Draft Dodgers Defended. He was obliged to admit that the I. W. W. had employed lawyers to defend all members arrested for evading the Army draft, but denied that the general executive board of the organization had ever adopted a resolution opposing war.

He also admitted that members had been dropped from the rolls after they had entered the Army. On several occasions he denied having written certain letters with which he was unexpectedly confronted and attempted to place the blame on his assistants.

Haywood refused. Attorney Nebeker then read a list of I. W. W. epigrams in Haywood's own handwriting, which the leader admitted having composed for use in public addresses.

Epigrams in Haywood's Handwriting. They read as follows: "Join the Army and Navy, confess and be prepared to die. "Courage station and its slings were heavily bombed by some of our squadrons in broad daylight from a low height, without loss to us. Many diversions were observed.

A British two-seater shot down two enemy machines. The pilot was badly wounded and fell across his controls. The observer secured his comrade's body and managed to get in control of the machine. He brought it to earth where it crashed, but both the occupants escaped death.

Another pilot started for home wounded. When 10 feet above the ground inside his own lines, he collapsed from loss of blood.

There are dozens of thrilling tales of how machine after machine, skimming close to the ground, fired point blank into bodies of enemy troops, killing a great many, despite the fire from the ground, and how they wiped out the crews of enemy machine guns holding up the allied advance.

They also effectively attacked the poorly constructed German tanks before they ever had a chance to get into action. Prisoners from fresh Russian and Bavarian divisions have been captured in the past few hours. The morale of these men is extremely low, a great many of them expressing the opinion that Germany, twice badly beaten in recent weeks and perhaps having further defeats in store for her, is on the down grade, headed for defeat.

The contrast between the number of prisoners taken and the allied casualties is regarded as remarkable. For instance, the casualties of the entire allied forces were considerably less than the total prisoners taken. When it is understood that this battle has not been waged for the purpose of taking prisoners, but casualties inflicted on the Germans must have reached a large figure.

BERLIN, via London, Aug. 12.—The war office statement issued today says: "Between the Yser and the Ancre, partial enemy thrusts frequently broke down before our lines. North of the Yser we beat back a strong British attack. The enemy in the early morning launched violent attacks north of the Somme and between the Somme and Lihons.

"They were repulsed chiefly by our fire and sometimes by our counter attacks. In the fighting around Lihons the enemy advanced beyond that place toward the east. Our counter attack threw him back to the northern and eastern edges of the village.

There have been violent partial engagements between Lihons and the Avre. Southwest of Chaunay we attacked the enemy and took Halls. On both sides of the Amiens-Roye road we repulsed enemy attacks.

Between the Avre and the Oise rivers strong enemy attacks continued last night. They were completely repulsed.

The French suffered especially

heavy losses near Tilloloy. By advancing their artillery, which followed closely after their tanks, they tried to effect a break through here. Our infantry and artillery shot the enemy to pieces before our lines.

"Seventeen enemy airplanes and four captive balloons were shot down yesterday. In July 218 enemy planes were shot down by our airmen on the German front and 69 by our anti-aircraft guns. Thirty-six captive balloons also were shot down. Two hundred and thirty-nine of these airplanes are in our possession and the others were seen to fall inside the enemy's positions. We lost 123 airplanes and 82 captive balloons in battle during the same period."

BRILLIANT STROKE IS MADE. Entering of French Third Army and Stiffening Resistance Features.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—The entry of the French third army under General Humbert into the battle south of the original front of the allied attack from the strengthening of the German resistance are regarded by newspaper commentators as the outstanding features of the Franco-British offensive during the week-end.

The brilliant and rapid stroke of the French third army is recognized fully and important results are expected from it. The German reaction had been foreseen and the commentators see nothing in it as a cause for anxiety. Nevertheless, a strong warning is raised against over-confidence and exaggerated anticipations.

Situation Favors Allies. Sanguine reports of the capture of Chaunay and Roye seem to have been examples of the tendency in some quarters to imagine that the progress is faster than it is in the face of stiffening enemy resistance. Those places still are apparently in German hands, although their fall seems possibly not far off. On the whole, however, the situation is regarded as extremely favorable for the allies.

The Daily Mail describes as an event of historic importance the entry into the fight of the American troops north of the Somme. It says they won the admiration of the most famous British regiments.

The British have captured the western edge of the town of Bray, on the Somme, in the advance state.

Lassigny Center of Interest. Apparently the attack on the southern part of the front was being continued by the French this morning. Main interest centered in the sector around Lassigny. It is difficult to say whether the French are on the crest, but they must be close to it. The whole position on the southern line depends upon possession of it.

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30-YEAR TERM GIVEN

Drafted Man From Seattle Is Punished for Disobedience. INSINCERITY IS DISCOVERED

Refusal to Accept Gun at Camp Lewis Is Followed by Trial; Another of His Kind Gets 20 Years.

CAMP LEWIS, Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 12.—Private DeWitt Ramsdell, of the 44th Company, 166th Depot Brigade, a selective draft man from Seattle, who had appeared before a military board with a claim as a conscientious objector, was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment today following his trial

by general court-martial for disobedience to orders. Private Peter Slynstog, a draft man of Plentywood, Mont., was sentenced to 20 years on a similar charge, after presenting an objector's claim.

Ramsdell was found to be insincere in protesting conscientious scruples in a report of a military board here recently. Following the board's action he was ordered to active combatant service, but refused to accept the gun issued him by the company supply sergeant.

Testifying before the military court, Ramsdell said: "I don't believe in killing anybody" as reason for his disobedience. On the plea he did not believe in the deity he was allowed to affirm his testimony in his own behalf without the usual oath.

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