

FOCH'S STRATEGY SPOILS HUN PLAN

Foe's Work of Four Months Undone in Three Weeks.

GERMAN LOSS 700,000 MEN

Enormous Cost of Offensives of 1918 Goes for Naught; Enemy in Peril.

RETIREMENT MADE HARDER

Prompt Escape of Von Hutier's Troops Believed to Be Impossible.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—The situation since the battle of the Avre shows a change, which for rapidity and extent has rarely been approached in military history.

Big Results From Battle.

The immediate results of the counter offensives which will have the greatest bearing on subsequent operations are the clearing of the Chateau-Thierry pocket, ending the menace to Epernay and Paris; the liberation of Montdidier, ending the menace to Amiens; the freeing of the important eastern railroad line from Paris to Chalons and the equally important northern line from Paris to Amiens, restoring to the allies means of communication which give them enormously greater ease in future movements of troops.

These successes render impossible any rupture of the line which would separate the French armies of the center from those to the east, or a rupture of the junction between the French and British.

German Plan Wrecked.

The most disastrous consequence to the Germans, aside from the heavy losses they sustained in men and material, is the collapse of their plan to drive wedges into the allied lines and the subsequent widening and joining which would have threatened general dislocation.

Marshal Foch's strategy in reducing the salient wedges wrested the initiative in operations from the Germans, at once obliging them either to order a general retreat to a strong line such as the Somme or to engage reserves. The enemy adopted the second alternative which, having failed, makes eventual retirement immensely more difficult.

Noyon's Fall Probable.

The first phase of the battle of the Avre finds the French with a footing upon Thiescourt plateau, west of Noyon which has vital importance in future operations. The Germans must either capture this at high cost, if they can, or abandon Noyon, which means the fall of Roye and Lassigny, which already are under imminent menace of capture.

The disaster which menaced General von Hutier's army has been averted for the moment. The few narrow passages which now are open for the withdrawal of his stores are so harassed by the bombs of aviators and the fire of heavy artillery that prompt escape is impossible, rendering probable a desperate effort by the Germans to cling to their 1914 lines.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—Ground gained by the allied armies in the second battle of the Somme is held by them everywhere today, although they have been pausing for more than 24 hours. The harassed and disorganized forces of the enemy have launched several counter attacks, it is true, but none of them have carried the Germans anywhere.

At a matter of fact, the small but nevertheless important local gains made by the allies just north of the Somme River, to say nothing of other successful minor operations for improving positions, more than treble outweigh the extremely slight gains made by the Germans at a heavy cost at two points in the line.

Defensive Barbed Wire Found. Strong enemy concentrations have been reported between Roye and Fequescourt, but so far they have done nothing, if really they are there for an

FIRST U. S. FIELD ARMY IS CREATED

AMERICAN TROOPS NOW HOLD DEFINITE PART OF FRONT.

Five Full Corps, Comprising Approximately 1,250,000, Under Command of Pershing.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Secretary Baker was formally advised today by General Pershing that the first American field army had been created. General Pershing retains command of the Army, as well as of the entire American expeditionary force for the present. The dispatch added nothing to details of the Army organization already made known from Paris, however, Mr. Baker said.

Formation of the army is taken here to mean that the Americanization of a definite portion of the front has been completed. The only statement of the location of this American front given is that it is "south of the Marne."

The extent of that front has not been disclosed, nor has the definite strength of the Army been given. The advice indicate that it comprises, however, five full corps, which means approximately 1,250,000 men.

The effect of the taking over of the line is to make a definite beginning at shortening the long front. The British hold the left flank, aided by the Belgians, from the North Sea to the juncture of the British fourth army and the French first army in Picardy, where an offensive is being conducted at present.

In that position the British stand between the enemy and the channel ports, which would be his only road to England while the British fleet exists.

The French armies presumably are being concentrated wholly between the Picardy juncture with the British and the American left beyond Verdun. They block the roads to Paris.

To the Americans will fall the remainder of the front to the Swiss border, when the other American armies shall have been formed.

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BASEBALL IN HOLY LAND Complete Outfits Sent to Jewish Legion in Palestine.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Americans serving with the British army in Palestine are to introduce baseball in that country, and present plans call for a number of games in Jerusalem between rival nines among units of these troops.

Complete outfits for four teams were shipped from Washington today by the Clark Griffith ball and bat fund at the request of the Zionist organization of America.

The outfits will be delivered to the Jewish Legion for Service in Palestine, composed of Jews from this country serving with the army who are below or above the draft age or are physically disqualified for service with the American forces.

THOMPSON WILL SAW WOOD Recaptured Convict Given Ample Opportunity for Exercise.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 13.—(Special.)—Bennett Thompson, who was returned to the State Penitentiary yesterday, was given a bath, shave and new suit of clothes today and a short interim for rest.

Tomorrow he will be handed a buck-saw and started sawing wood. Warden Murphy said today. This is in line with the new regulation which will apply to all escaped prisoners. Thompson is serving a life term. Whether this punishment will apply for the remainder of the sentence the warden did not say.

HOLES TO BE CONSERVED War Simplicity Marks New Directory of Phone Company.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13.—The current issue of the telephone directory appeared here today without the usual string band for attaching it to hooks or the string perforations.

"We are 'hoovering' on both holes and string and the public can now conserve the hooks," officials of the company announced.

Two directories are published each year instead of three as formerly. The company is considering the issuance of but one directory a year.

TROTSKY ASKED TO EXPLAIN WAR TALK

Entente Envoys Said to Have Served Notice.

3 DAYS ALLOWED FOR REPLY

Russian Situation Daily More Serious for Germany.

PETROGRAD TO BE ENTERED

Kaiser Sending Forward Forces to Seize Former Capital—Ukraine Bitterness Toward Invader Is Increasing.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—Action suggestive of an ultimatum to the Bolshevik government is reported to have been taken by the allied powers. This move, which is referred to in Moscow advices by way of Berlin, has taken the form of a demand for an explanation of the war talk recently attributed to Premier Lenin.

The diplomatic representatives of the allies are said to have handed a collective note to War Minister Trotsky demanding within three days an explanation of Premier Lenin's threat that Russia would declare war "against Anglo-French imperialism."

It was reported on Monday that Premier Lenin and War Minister Trotsky had fled from Moscow to the naval stronghold of Kronstadt, and that the Bolshevik government would follow them there.

Dispatch Delayed in Transit. Owing to the difficulties of communication with Russia, it seems probable that the above dispatch has been delayed in transit and refers to an event of several days ago.

Lenin's declaration was made prior to August 9 when American Consul Poole at Moscow informed the State Department at Washington that Lenin had told a gathering of sovietists that a state of war existed between the Russian government and the entente.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Reports through Berlin that allied diplomats have demanded an explanation of a threat by Lenin, the Bolshevik Premier, of a declaration of war against the allies, are assumed here to refer to the action of American and allied Consuls in calling in a body August 1 on Tchitcherin, the foreign commissioner at Moscow.

Word From Poole Lacking. The Consuls, after being told by Lenin that a state of war existed between Russia and the allies, demanded an explanation from Tchitcherin. They were told that the statement was not necessarily to be interpreted as a war declaration; that it rather was a declaration of a state of defense

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CRYPTIC "C" AUTHOR YET UNDISCOVERED

NO PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION OF HOUSE MARKINGS FOUND.

Casual Canvass of Residences in Sellwood District Show Nearly All Bear Mystic Message.

The meaning of the mystic symbol is mysterious and puzzling as ever. Who has been marking houses in Portland and other cities in Oregon with a cryptic "C" is still unknown to the police and, what is more, no plausible explanation has been set forth.

More markings were reported to the police yesterday. A woman living in the Sellwood district said that after a casual canvass of her neighbors' houses had been made, nearly all bore markings of the capital "C," some of them with a heavy line drawn across them. Similar markings on houses in the Irvington district also were reported.

The suggestion that the markings are the work of enemy agents preparing to carry on some form of propaganda is scouted by the police. They point out that the activities of the Secret Service and the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice are so broad and thorough that any attempt on the part of enemy emissaries to carry out a programme of such a nature would have been thwarted before this time.

It is known that some of the markings were made several weeks ago, although most of the mystic symbols only recently have been discovered by residents.

TROOPS, STRIKERS CLASH Shots Exchanged in Plaza Independencia at Montevideo.

MONTEVIDEO, Aug. 13.—Strikers, estimated to number 15,000, assembled in the Plaza Independencia late this afternoon and delivered fiery speeches in which the president of the republic was frequently mentioned.

Cavalry attempted to disperse the gathering and was fired on by the strikers. The cavalrymen returned the fire. No reports as to the number of casualties have been received.

The general strike which has been in progress here for several days is paralyzing commerce, especially trade by sea. Today the port workers and packing house employees joined the strikers, resulting in the stoppage of meat shipments to allied nations.

Numerous business houses have closed. The scarcity of food supplies in the city is becoming serious.

KNITTING MAY NOT STOP Red Cross Expects Only Reduced Supply of Yarn.

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—The action of the War Industries Board yesterday in halting the production of yarn for knitting in order to conserve wool for Army uniforms "may result in the Red Cross getting less wool than it needs, but does not mean a complete stoppage of knitting in American Red Cross work rooms," according to an announcement tonight by officials of the Atlantic division.

They interpreted the board's order to mean that, after an inventory of the country's wool supply had been made production would be resumed and the Red Cross would receive its allotment after the needs of the Army and Navy had been supplied.

FRENCH TRANSPORT SUNK; 442 MISSING

Djemnah Torpedoed in Mediterranean.

THREE IN CONVOY ATTACKED

Australian Sent Down and 17 Sailors Killed.

THIRD SHIP STAYS AFLOAT

U-Boats Continue Active Off North Atlantic Coast; Two More Vessels Sent Down; Raider Reported Destroyed.

PARIS, Aug. 13.—Four hundred and forty-two men are missing as a result of the torpedoing of the French steamer Djemnah in the Mediterranean the night of July 14-15 while bound from Bizerta to Alexandria with troops on board, according to an official announcement tonight.

Four days later the French steamer Australian also was torpedoed in the Mediterranean.

Still another steamer was torpedoed, but remained afloat.

Official Report Issued. The text of the communication follows: "The steamer Djemnah, belonging to the Messageries Maritimes, proceeding from Bizerta to Alexandria with military passengers, was torpedoed and sunk the night of July 14-15. Four hundred and forty-two men are missing.

"On July 19 the Mediterranean steamer Australian, belonging to the same company, was torpedoed and sunk. Seventeen sailors were killed. Passengers to the number of 948 were saved. Three are missing.

"In the same convoy another steamer which was torpedoed was kept afloat. "Numerous bombs were thrown at the submerged submarine."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The steamer Henry S. Kellogg has been torpedoed by a German submarine off the New Jersey coast, according to a report received late tonight by the Navy Department. No details were available, but it was presumed the steamer still was afloat.

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—Available shipping records do not contain the name of the Henry S. Kellogg, but there is listed a new American tanker, the Frederick R. Kellogg, 4450 tons, owned by the Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Company of Los Angeles and commanded by Captain White. She is 425 feet long with a beam of 57 feet and was built at Oakland, Cal., in 1917 by the Moore and Scott Iron Works.

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—The reported sinking of an enemy submarine off the North Atlantic coast and the addition

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VOLUNTEER GATES TO ARMY CLOSED

GRANTING OF COMMISSIONS TO CIVILIANS DISCONTINUED.

Secretary Baker Announces Action to Check Enlistments Pending New Draft Legislation.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Aug. 13.—An order prohibiting the granting of commissions in the Army to men in civilian life between the proposed draft ages of 18 to 45 was issued by Secretary of War Baker today.

This completely closes the door to civilians seeking to enter the military service by volunteering. An order had been previously issued suspending all voluntary enlistments in the Army and Navy.

The only exception made is in the case of students in officers' training camps. They will be permitted to complete their courses and qualify for commissions.

Civilians not in training camps whose applications were approved before the order was issued will be given commissions, but action on all other applications for commissions will be suspended while the order is in force.

It is planned to continue the order in force until the passage of the manpower bill now pending in Congress, which increases draft ages to 18 and 45 years.

Secretary Baker explained that his reason for suspending Army enlistment was to check the indiscriminate enlistment of men of the new draft ages before the law is passed.

OPERATION WINS IN ARMY Dr. G. E. Riggs, of Albany, Commissioned First Lieutenant.

ALBANY, Or., Aug. 14.—(Special.)—After undergoing an operation to fit him for the service, Dr. G. E. Riggs, City Health Officer of Albany, has been commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the Army, and received orders today to report at Fort Riley, Kan., September 1.

Dr. Riggs applied for Army service last September, was rejected and advised that nothing but an operation would fit him for service. He accordingly planned for this and was operated on in Portland in May.

MANY TO TAKE TRAINING Applications for Next Officers' Camp Coming in Ten a Day.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 13.—(Special.)—October 5 will see the opening of the third officers' training camp at the University of Oregon. Applications are being made at the rate of ten a day.

Men are attending the present camp from Colorado, California, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Washington.

R. M. Winger, professor in mathematics, has been at the Presidio making study of artillery mathematics, and will be one of the instructors in the next camp.

BRITISH AIR BOMBS FATAL Several Killed in Frankfurt During Raid by Fliers Monday.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 13.—A dispatch received from Frankfurt says that, despite the timely alarm given, several persons were killed and material damage was done, especially in the streets of Frankfurt, during the British raid of Monday.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 93 degrees; minimum, 38 degrees. TODAY'S—Showers and cooler; moderate southwest winds.

War. Foch's strategy offsets Hun's 1918 campaign. Page 1. French driving on in Oise offensive. Page 1. Allies' prisoners reach 70,000. Page 2. Americans and Huns in artillery exchange on Ypres front. Page 2. Austrian offensive on Italian front expected. Page 2. Official casualty list. Page 3. Ludendorff urges Germans to conserve manpower. Page 3. First American field army created. Page 1. French troop ship sunk, 442 men missing. Page 1.

Foreign. War corrupts Berlin police, says Kaiser's dentist. Page 5. Treaty called to explain Lenin's war talk. Page 1.

National. Northwest complains against increased export freight rates. Page 12. Manpower bill ready for report to Senate. Page 4. Occupational taxes to be levied. Page 10. Granting of Army commissions to civilians discontinued. Page 1. American trade vital post-war topic. Page 5. Domestic. Philadelphia street railway wage case settled. Page 3. Haywood defends sabotage. Page 4. Federal inquiry into cotton prices begins. Page 3.

Sports. Fielder Jones, of St. Louis Americans, to train Portland shippard club. Page 6. Hunters to leave for Coast timber. Page 6. Pacific Northwest. Consolidations to net state \$386,500 in two years. Page 7.

Commercial and Marine. Two plans for selling wheat offered to Northwestern farmers. Page 15. Potato crop of Northwest 25 per cent less than last year. Page 13. Railway stocks sell at highest prices of year in Wall street. Page 15. Calais enters on career as shipping-board carrier. Page 11.

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FRENCH DRIVING ON IN OISE OFFENSIVE

Two Keys to Thiescourt Plateau Taken.

LASSIGNY MASSIF CAPTURED

Evacuation of Roye Expected Within Day or Two.

FOE REINFORCING OLD LINE

Positions Held From 1914 to 1917 to Require Heavier Armament to Break; Planes Are Used to Bomb Infantry.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—The French continued their vigorous assaults on the Thiescourt Plateau, taking two more important positions which are keys to the plateau—the Evellon and St. Claude farms. The Germans are filling the numerous ravines and woods with mustard gas and keeping up a heavy machine-gun fire in trying to cling to the parts of the heights they still hold.

FRENCH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Aug. 13.—(Reuter.)—In the French sector the dominant factor is the desperate energy with which the enemy is clinging to the western and southern edges of Thiescourt and the hills filling the space between Lassigny and the Oise, which constitute the pillar of General von Hutier's right wing.

On these edges the French hold Gury, Mareuil, La Motte and Canny-Sur-Matz. A short distance north of Canny is the Bois Des Loges. Along this line the enemy has established himself in his 1914 trenches and is fighting his hardest.

PARIS, Aug. 13.—The French resumed the offensive today between the Matz and the Oise rivers, making progress to the north and east of Gury and thereby increasing the menace to the Germans at Lassigny, according to the War Office statement tonight. Strong enemy resistance was unavailable to stop the attackers.

The text of the statement reads: "During the day our troops resumed their attacks in the wooded region between the Matz and the Oise. In spite of strong enemy resistance, we succeeded in making progress to the north and east of Gury. We have gained a footing in the park of Pleasier de Roye and reached Belval. Further east we have advanced our line about two kilometers to the north of the village of Cambromme."

"Aviation—On the night of August 12-13 our bombing airplanes dropped 29 tons of bombs on stations and enemy establishments at Ham, Nesles, St. Quentin, Tergnier and Noyon. Fires are reported to have been seen at several places.

"On the 12th 11 German airplanes were brought down or put out of action. Four captive balloons were destroyed."

Command of District Given. This gives command of the town of Lassigny and the village of the Divette, as well as the entire district to the north.

The capture of the massif by the French must inevitably have the most serious effect on the German positions over a wide area and this effect should begin to show within 48 hours. The massif was the hinge of the old German positions in the whole angle in the Noyon region, and now that this hinge has burst the entire angle must yield to the relentless allied pressure.

Roye Under Crossfire. In the opinion of experts here, the evacuation of Roye may be expected within a day or two, for the town is now under a crossfire. The abandonment of Roye by the Germans would also make Chaules difficult to hold. Thus recent history on the Marne is counted upon to repeat itself on this new front.

In the region of Des Loges, south of Roye, the French this afternoon are consolidating their line. They hold the town, but have not regained the woods beyond. It appears that the woods must yield, however, for the French hold all the high ground here overlooking the Germans in Roye from the south and commanding the great criss-cross of roads leading out of the town.

Line Difficult to Hold. If the German line does not fall back after the manner it did on the Marne, with the expected fall of Roye and Chaules, it could hold out only under conditions of the greatest difficulty and at tremendous cost.

The French gains on the Lassigny massif already have forced the Germans to evacuate a long line of trenches in the valley of the Oise and are calculated to force further evacuations almost immediately. Noyon will come under the fire of the French

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