

DRIVE IS EXPECTED SOON

Flanders or Dize - Soissons Sector Picked as Likely Scene of Blow.

REAL OFFENSIVE AWAITED

Huns to Be Driven Even Beyond Old Hindenburg Line; 1,250,000 U. S. Troops in First Army Under Pershing.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—A new drive against the German positions, either in Flanders or between the Oise and Soissons, is expected by many Army officers here as a result of the slowing up of the advance in the Picardy theater.

Outlining the situation at his mid-week conference today, General March, chief of staff, confirmed his statements to pointing out that the Germans have now been forced back until they are not within 50 miles of Paris at any point. The head of the Army has previously laid stress on the fact, however, that the greatest advantage won by Marshal Foch in a military way is in having wrested the initiative from the enemy.

In the Picardy salient the lines have now reached the general position of the front in 1914 before the Hindenburg withdrawal. The salient has been trimmed away on a front of 55 miles to a maximum depth of 15 miles. The chief of staff said, and the line on the Aisne-Marne front has remained stationary.

The opinion prevailed among other officers that the present struggle around Roye and Landrethun would soon terminate in the capture of those points, to be followed by the taking of Noyon.

Pershing Has 1,250,000 Men. In the course of his discussion General March said that General Pershing now has 1,250,000 American troops organized in the first Army corps. Presumably the Americans on the British left flank in Picardy, identified by the chief of staff as the 131st Infantry of the 33d (Illinois National Guard) division, are among those still brigaded for training. The troops are commanded by Major-General George Bell.

It is assumed that General Pershing has taken over his own staff as the staff of the First Field Army. In that case, Major-General James W. McAndrew is the chief of staff both of the Army and of the American Expeditionary Forces.

It appeared possible to some officers that the organization of the first American Army might be followed by an all-American attack at some point on the line which it holds beyond Verdun, where there has been no recent fighting.

The primary purpose of the two blows Marshal Foch has struck has been to free Paris from the menace of the two wedges the enemy had driven in that direction. The value of the drive in this respect was pointed out by General March today.

Real Offensive to Come. Officers here, therefore, anticipate a complete change in the character of the fighting in the next phase of the battle, with Foch's armies assuming the offensive in the fullest sense of the word and striking to force the enemy back in such manner that he cannot avail himself of his Hindenburg line defenses.

It appears plain to some observers that the Flanders front might see the next phase of the drive by British forces to pinch out the salient there as it has been pinched out at the Marne and again in Picardy. Discussing the work of the 28th Division, comprising Pennsylvania Guardmen, in the Aisne-Marne salient, General March said the only report upon its casualties received was that 400 men had been hit during four hours on July 30 in the advance to the Vesle.

The 28th Division, General March said, participated in the advance across the Ourcq July 26, when the attack against the German lines thrust the enemy back to the Vesle. The 28th was flanked on one side by the 42d (Rainbow) and on the other by the Third Regular Division. Its position in the line was between Serzy and Roncherea.

Nickname "Sammy" Frowned On. The chief of staff took occasion to frown upon the name "Sammy" for American troops. No American soldier in France approves the use of that name, he said, and it does not figure on the total embarkation for France, which he will make public on Saturday.

AMAZING HISTORY MADE (Continued From First Page.) stated that he could not see in this attitude anything but confirmation of Lenin's declaration of the existence of a state of war. Tchitcherine said that he would give a reply within three days.

"On the night of August 2 a reply was received from Tchitcherine. It stated that inasmuch as Lenin's utterances were made behind closed doors in a meeting at which an agent of the allies could be present only owing to a special courtesy on the part of the soviet government, public explanation could not be given about non-public utterances.

British Bombardment Alleged. "As to the members of the military missions Tchitcherine said that negotiations had been begun with the German authorities to procure safe passage from Petrograd to Stockholm for these officers, through Archangel, being impossible, because British cruisers had already begun the bombardment of the islands covering Archangel.

A third report from Consul-General Poole refers to the arrests of British and French citizens at Moscow. On the afternoon of August 13, a conference between Tchitcherine and the Consul-General of Japan, Sweden and the United States with the following result: "First—The Soviet government gave solemn assurances that allied persons having diplomatic or unofficial character would not be molested.

FRENCH HURL HUNS OUT OF RIBECOURT

Advance Made to Within Six Miles of Noyon, Point of Strategic Value.

GERMAN STAND DESPERATE

Old Positions at Piemont Give Refuge; Machine Guns Opposed to Allies' Rifles; Lassigny's Fall Is Reported.

(Continued From First Page.) on the southern end of the Picardy battle line, is reported today to be progressing steadily toward Noyon. The desperate German defense of the Chaules-Roye road has caused delay in the storming of the Noyon position, which is now said to be impending.

Germans Resist Desperately. The army of General Rawlinson, which is holding the line just to the north of the French positions, is meeting most desperate resistance along its whole front. The Germans seem determined to retain the Chaules Heights at all costs.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 14.—French forces fighting for the key positions of Thiescourt massif ridge and the St. Claude and Ecouvillen farms are progressing slowly. North of Gury, where the Germans are installed in the old French trenches of 1914, they have gained no ground. The enemy here in a lucky moment tumbled into ready-made fortified positions.

Foe Picking Up His Munitions. As the enemy retreats he is picking up his slow-moving material and is accumulating an increasing number of guns and quantities of munitions. The French, in advancing, have tended to outstrip their artillery and there are no tanks to assist the infantry.

The French are advancing against the line, which is thinly held, but which is bristling with machine guns, and are fighting in the atmosphere of mustard gas. Yet they have wrested dominant positions on the battlefield from the enemy.

The Germans now are in Piemont, about a mile southeast of Lassigny, to which they retired, following a new advance by the French. General Humbert's army moved forward two miles yesterday and took the St. Claude farm, which makes the hold of the French on the southern part of the Thiescourt plateau secure.

Old Positions Ready. At Piemont the Germans found positions all ready to receive them and were able to offer strong resistance. The enemy took Piemont during the fighting early in June and their old trenches there are still organized with wire entanglements.

The battle for the Thiescourt area, however, is only a small part of the operation in progress, and developments in other parts of the line may modify the situation before the battle is reopened here.

The Germans have had one advantage. They have been falling back upon their supplies, while the French have been obliged to bring theirs up over a difficult country.

Rifle Against Machine Gun. So far, General Humbert's troops have had four days of constant fighting, fully half of which has been spent in gas-infested sectors. During all this fighting it was the machine gun against the rifle, the Germans having comparatively few infantrymen in the front line, but being plentifully supplied with machine guns—virtually one for each man, and all ambushed.

Besides holding the two important crests of St. Claude farm and Ecouvillen, the French are within 100 yards of Monolther, another high plateau, which commands a considerable extent of ground to the north and east.

French Overlook Divette Valley. From Ecouvillen the French have a good view of the Divette Valley, where the Germans appear to be trying to establish a position with the aid of their old earthworks which were constructed in 1914.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—The town of Lassigny, on the southern part of the Picardy battlefield, for which the French have been struggling over the hills to the west and south, has been captured by them, the Fall Mail Gazette today says it understands.

Fall Not Confirmed. The reported capture took place this morning. The news of the fall of the town has not been officially confirmed. There was terrific fighting today on top of the Lassigny ridge, the Evening Standard reports. The French there were fighting their way stubbornly forward and this afternoon were pushing solidly down the far side of the ridge, the reports declare.

The Germans were said to be putting up the fiercest sort of resistance, and the fighting, it was indicated, might last a day or two before the hill was finally cleared of the enemy.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 14.—(By the Associated Press.)—The entire region about Lassigny is cut by spurs and ridges which facilitate defensive operations.

Germans in Old Trenches. At Canny-sur-Matz, two miles northwest of Lassigny, the Germans are in the old trench position, where wire entanglements still remain. The enemy is seeking to unite parts of the old French line with some of his own for-

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Victrola advertisement featuring portraits of Caruso, Melba, McCormack, and Gluck. Text includes: "Every Victor Record is approved by the artist who made it", "Our contract demands it", and "Victrola is the Registered Trademark of the Victor Talking Machine Company".

SCARE HITS HUNLAND

German Press Awakening to Gravity of Reverse. DEFEATISM GETS REBUKE

Once-Derided American Army Now Admitted to Be Giving More Trouble Than Was Expected.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 14.—While Tuesday's Berlin newspapers regard the Anglo-French main thrust as parried, the journals in the Rhine country discuss the situation in a much graver tone. The newspapers deem it necessary editorially to brace up the nerves of the people of the Rhenish provinces.

The Cologne Volks Zeitung appears to interpret popular apprehensions when it speaks of "another impending ruthless Anglo-French attempt to break through the German northwest front," and says that Germany follows the terrible struggle with bated breath.

In the next column it inveighs against defeatism, which is "rearing its head in Cologne, Dusseldorf and elsewhere," even in Essen, where the people may be heard grumbling: "Another defeat for us—we shall lose the war. We have nothing to eat, no clothes, no shoes; we shall starve and be utterly ruined."

As a cure for this state of mind the Volks Zeitung administers an antidote in the shape of a raging article about the enemy "wanting to murder, rob and enslave German men, women and children."

CAPTIVES BEATEN WITH CLUBS

Two Britons, Escaped From Huns, Tell of Cruel Treatment.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE VESLE, Tuesday, Aug. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—Worn out from fatigue and suffering from hunger, two escaped British prisoners staggered into the American lines north of the Vesle today. They had escaped from a German pen after having been captured in the Marne fighting, and it took them seven days and nights to work their way to Fismette.

On the last lap of their journey the Britons ran through a German barbed wire. They said that the ration given prisoners was three-quarters of a pound of potato bread, a pint of thin vegetable soup and "coffee" made of hawthorn berries. The allowance of a German soldier was the same, only in somewhat greater quantity, occasionally supplemented by horse meat.

It is a common practice of the Germans, the escaped men added, to beat their prisoners with clubs and the butts of rifles. Wounded prisoners, they said, were sent to hospitals only when they were unable to walk, and then received little attention.

ALLIED PLANES WATCHING FOE Enemy Movements Closely Observed on Picardy Front.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, Aug. 15.—(Reuters, via Montreal.)—Good weather continued on the Picardy battle front, enabling the airplanes to observe enemy movements. The allies know exactly whence he is bringing his reinforcements and guns and where he is concentrating them.

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OWNERSHIP OF THE WAR

GENEVA, Aug. 13.—Pietor Troelstra, Dutch Socialist leader and Genoaophile, who came to Switzerland in order to arrange an international pacifist conference, has announced from Vevey that he is returning home.

The British government's refusal to issue a passport to Arthur Henderson, leader of the Labor party in the House of Commons, appears to be the finishing blow to the enterprise of Troelstra, but the Germans, especially since their recent defeat, continue to exert heavily their peace propaganda in Switzerland.

This propaganda chiefly is concentrated at Geneva and the object frankly is to get into touch with the allied representatives. The Germans are employing every diplomatic means in order to minimize their difficult military situation.

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