

VERDUN DRIVE MAY BE THE KEY STRATEGY

Other Big Attacks Viewed by Berlin Correspondent as Possible Outcome.

PARIS STILL IS CONFIDENT

Whole Front Is Alert and Leaves of Absence Are Recalled, While Desire for Continuance of Attacks Is Expressed.

BY OSWALD F. SCHUETTE (War Correspondent of the Chicago Daily News)

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—The German advance has now broken through the heavy French entrenchment north of Verdun to a point three miles north of the outer forts and six miles from the citadel of the great fortress itself.

From details available it is seen that whether or not the French are likely to stem this drive, this is by far the most important victory for the Germans on the west front since last May, when they tried to crush the outer lines at Ypres.

Heart of France Imperiled. If the movement is carried on so far as really to imperil Verdun, it will be one of the greatest movements of the war. However, there is no means of knowing whether this is the great offensive that has been planned.

Attack May Be Only Bland. The situation is much like that on the Danube last October, when the Germans threw an attack all along the Russian lines only to make the real assaults in the least likely place, the great citadel of Belgrade itself.

French Will Be Compelled to Weaken. The French will be compelled to weaken their positions south and east of Verdun to reinforce those at the north. This would mean relief for the German army holding the Woerwe plain.

GENERAL IN COMMAND. French Censor Refuses to Pass News of Verdun's Defenders.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The defense of Verdun is believed to be under the direction of General — who is commanding the group of armies of the east.

Another of the commanding officers before Verdun is General —, who during the battle of the Marne, was in charge of the artillery of the Sixth Corps.

Paris is extraordinarily calm in face of the great battle, according to a dispatch from the French capital tonight.

There are no indications of tension or nervousness, but only sober confidence in the result prevails.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attacks should continue, for they argue, the losses on the German side would be in proportion to their efforts.

There were few persons around the newspaper bulletin boards today and no crowds at the Ministry of War or other public offices.

The whole front from the North Sea to Switzerland is on the alert, and all leaves of absence have been recalled.

French Regain Lost Ground. Tonight's official statement by the French War Office says: "In Champagne we completely repulsed an attack by the enemy against a salient carried by us to the south of Ste. Marie-Epy. The total number of prisoners taken by us in this affair has reached 340, of whom nine are officers and 36 non-commissioned officers."

In the region to the north of Verdun the bombardment continues with-

out cessation to the east and to the west of the Meuse. To these attacks of the enemy our troops have replied by counter attacks carried out with vigor at the various points assailed on our front.

All the new attempts of the Germans in the region of Champagneville and on La Cote de Poivre, where we are solidly established, have been repulsed.

A furious struggle has been in progress around Fort Douaumont, which is an advance element of the old defensive organization of Verdun fortress.

The position captured this morning by the enemy, after several fruitless assaults, which cost him extremely heavy losses, was reached again and even beyond by our troops, which all the attempts of the enemy have not been able to push back.

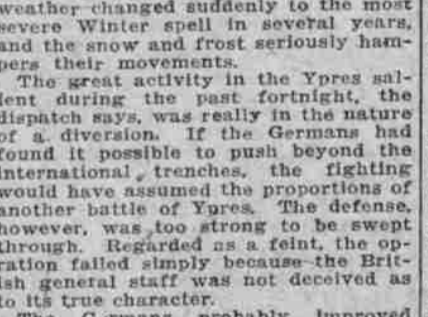
German Aeroplanes Brought Down. Today, in the region of Verdun, Adjutant Nevers, in a monoplane, beat down with a machine gun two German aeroplanes, this achievement making five enemy aeroplanes brought to earth by this pilot.

The enemy machines fell in our lines. Two aviators manning them were killed while two others were made prisoner. On the same day one of our aeroplanes, composed of nine bombing aeroplanes, dropped 144 shells on the Sablon railway station at Metz.

Another of our aeroplanes squadrone bombarded the enemy establishments at Chambley, northwest of Pont-a-Mousson.

The Temps' military review, which usually is written by General De la Croix, sums up the situation thus: "The battle being fought is extremely serious. Even should the heights of Poivre and the Vanche Wood be taken, the enemy would find as perhaps stronger on the Froideterrec-Douaumont line, from which begins the defenses, proper speaking, of the fortress, covered with trenches and batteries."

MAP SHOWING DEFENSES OF VERDUN, NOW UNDER ASSAULT BY TEUTONS.



PORT DE DOUAUMONT, STORM CENTER YESTERDAY, SHOWN IN CIRCLE

This is a siege by the Germans; it is a battle against one of our armies in the garrison at Verdun, and its forts do not figure in these combats as a support.

GERMANS PAYING HIGH PRICE. Correspondent Says British Time for Attack Has Not Come.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—A delayed dispatch from the correspondent of Reuters' Telegram Company at the front today, says that the Germans could not have chosen a more inopportune time for the offensive against Verdun.

At the beginning of the attack the severe winter spell in several years, and the snow and frost seriously hamper their movements.

The great activity in the Ypres salient during the past fortnight, the dispatch says, was really in the nature of a diversion, if the Germans had the intention of pushing beyond the international trenches, the fighting would have assumed the proportions of another battle of Ypres.

French Retake Position. (Continued From First Page.) Then the three groups of field guns opened fire and checked the advance. The losses of the Crown Prince's army on that day were estimated at 20,000.

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Republicans and Democrats Each Must Nominate 143 at the Primaries.

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At the present time the Secretary of the State has received a total of 86 persons have filed their candidacies for office.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The French liner Lafayette, carrying 228 passengers and a general freight cargo, left here today for Bordeaux.

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WASHINGTON "U" Enrollment Drops. UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, Feb. 26.—(Special.)—Enrollment at the University of Washington.

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And at the lowest price that it is possible to produce first-class work. Your teeth are precious; treat them accordingly. My 20 years' experience is at your command. Let me prove my statements.

Painless Extraction of Teeth. DR. B. E. WRIGHT Northwest Corner Sixth and Washington, Northwest Building. Phone—Main 2119, A 2119. Office Hours, 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. Consultation Free.

BETTER SHOES FOR Men and Women \$3.00 The Pair. Knight Shoe Co. Steps to Economy Dept. Morrison Street Near Broadway

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The Man With a Rupture. Is always in more or less danger UNLESS or UNTIL it has been definitely, radically and permanently CURED by an operation, or made safe and comfortable by fitting a suitable TRUSS or BELT. Consult Your Physician. Take his advice, and, if it be a truss, LET US FIT IT. We know how—have made this a part of our calling for over 50 years.

PERSIAN CITY FALLS. Russians Report Capture of Kermanshah by Storm. DOUBLE PURPOSE SERVED. Movement Aimed at Suppression of Hostile Natives and Effecting of Junction With Beleguered British at Tigris.

Cozy Dairy Lunch. 323 Washington St., Near Sixth Ladies Welcomed. Three Nut-Brown Hotcakes, With Our Famous Coffee, 10c. Our Own Home-Made Sausage, 10c. Small Sirloin Steak, 10c. Regular 60c Tenderloin Steak, 25c. Always Fresh, an Endless Variety of Breakfast Pastry, Fruits, Sauces, Jams, Preserves.

Logger Shirts \$4.50. U. S. Army Overcoat Cloth. Army & Navy Store. SPECIAL Bleached Middie 75c. Middie for ladies, elegant blue flannel, \$3.50. Middie, other styles, 60c to \$2.50. S. J. K. Middie \$1.50. Shirts, olive, drab, \$3.50.

Auto Truck Victim Is Buried. The funeral of Miss Esther Myrtle Gimson, who was knocked down and killed by an auto truck at Williams Avenue and Fargo street several days ago, was held yesterday at 10 o'clock at the Byrnes undertaking chapel.

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