

PARIS IS GERMAN'S REAL OBJECTIVE

Opening of Enemy's Third Operation Directed Against Paris on June 9 Between Montdidier and the Aisne Makes Clear That German Offensive for 1918 Is Aimed at French Capital.

By FRANK H. SIMONDS

ON Sunday, June 9, the Germans opened on the front west of the Oise and between that river and Montdidier, their third operation directed toward Paris of the present campaign. The first was included in their greatest attack, that of March 21; their second led to the passage of the Aisne and the arrival at the Marne, following the assault of May 27. Two weeks separate the last two, while the March stroke was followed after a little longer delay by their attack in Flanders.

It is the view of French military writers, now accepted in the allied world generally, that the ultimate objective of the German offensive for 1918 is Paris. Some time before the end of the present campaign it is assumed to be the expectation and the plan of the German high command to reach the walls of the French capital, and as a final threat to enforce their peace terms, give the French the choice between the destruction of their capital and a surrender on such conditions as Germany may then choose to offer.

Such an objective presupposes the decisive defeat of the French military establishment between Paris and the present front, the permanent immobilization of the British on the western front, the Somme and the sea, and the failure of the Americans to arrive in numbers and in condition to change the situation and a surrender on such conditions as Germany may then choose to offer.

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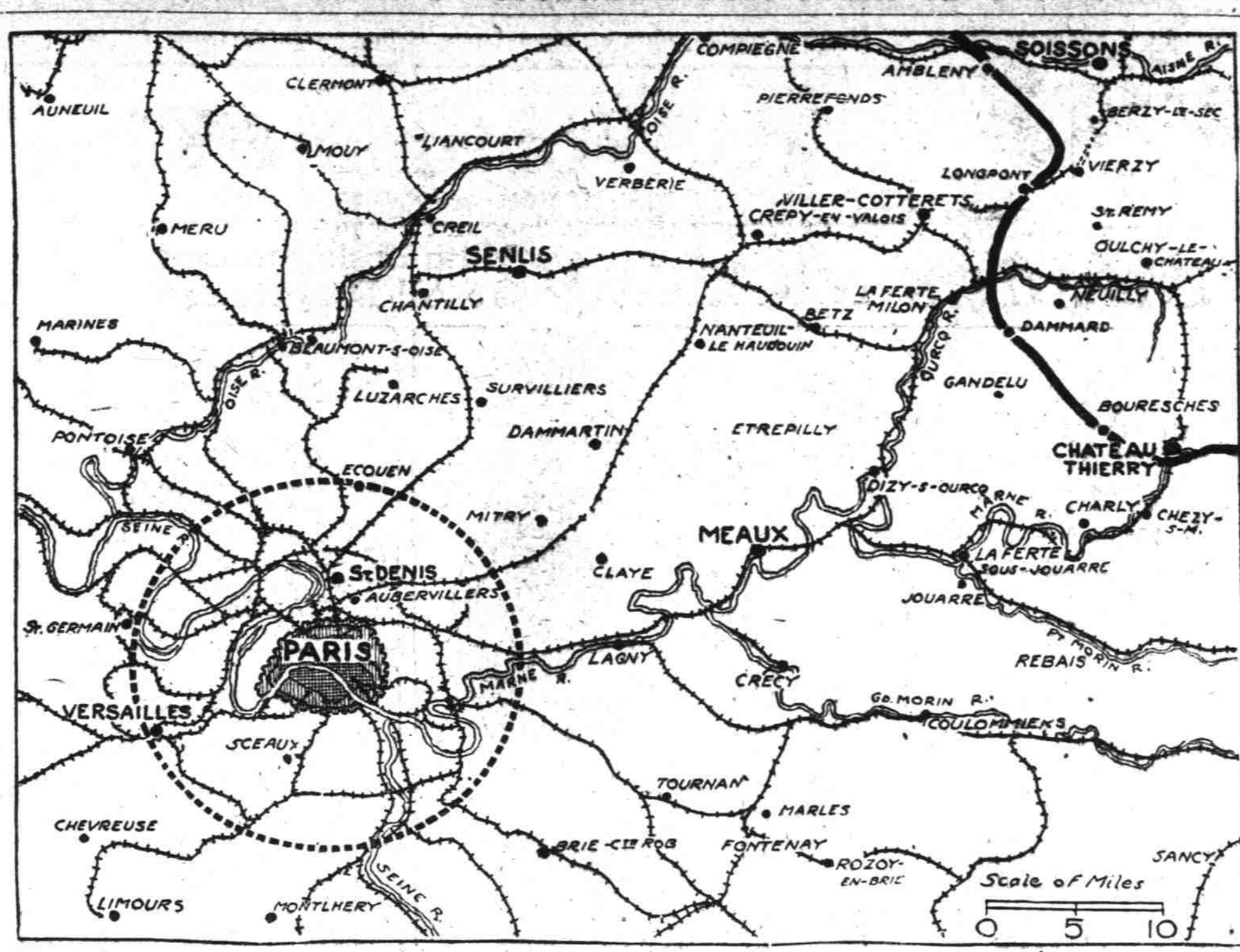
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WHERE GERMAN OFFENSIVE FOR 1918 IS CENTERED



Region between Oise and the Marne against which the German strategy for 1918 is directed.

front, because the French had brought up reserves and possessed admirable interior communications, while the Germans had been driven to a position where their communications had been destroyed and had out their reserves and supplies. Thus, while it was possible that the German might first strike in some side show, comparable with his Flanders venture after his March push in Picardy, it was reasonably plain that when he resumed his drive for Paris he would attack upon the west bank of the Oise and on the front between Montdidier and Noyon, and this is exactly what he did last Sunday. By this time he had had two months to repair his communications west of the Oise and collect the munitions and supplies for a new attack.

Now, roughly speaking, the situation as it existed when the German attacked June 9 was this: His immediate objective was the high ground just in front of his south of the Oise, the last considerable elevation between himself and Paris. But his ultimate objective was the bank of the Oise, where the main road crosses the stream north and south of Compiègne. If he could force a crossing of the Oise between Compiègne and Creil, then the French center would be retired not merely out of all the high ground between the Oise and the Aisne, but out of the wooded ground about Compiègne, south of the Aisne, which extends along the north bank of the Nonette about Senlis and offers the last but one of the natural obstacles to an invader approaching Paris from the north.

Paris the New Verdun
The allies have put a price upon Paris. In a word, they have decided that Paris is worth so much to the allied cause that it must be defended to the limit. And this means that the allies will oppose their main strength to German advance between the present front and the French capital. They have accepted the gaze of battle and obviously intend to make a supreme effort to hold the city.

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eat bean soup from New York to San Francisco and from New Orleans to the Canadian line. But it was not the same old bean soup.

"If I ever find the cook that made that 5 cent bean soup I will give him a job for life to do nothing but cook me up a bowl when I get the longing for it."



complete possession of the necessary facts on which to base their answer to German strategy. This could not be the case as long as it remained open to question whether the German objective was the channel or the French capital. The moment when the assailant's true and full purpose is disclosed is the moment when the defender really begins his operations.

Advantages All With French
Originally the French high command expected an attack where the blow of May 27 fell, namely, between Rheims and Soissons, and against this it was prepared. When the blow fell west of St. Quentin it had to transfer its reserves to Champagne to Picardy. Then the German struck in Champagne. But he cannot continue to mystify his opponent, and the moment his plan is disclosed Poch can keep pace with each German concentration. He can calculate within a narrow range exactly where the next blow is to fall and have his reserves ready.

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COMPIEGNE, FRANCE, CITY OF INTEREST

Town Notable as Place of Welcome of Marie Antoinette, as Point Where Joan of Arc Was Caught and Birthplace of "Ace of Aces."

(From the National Geographic Magazine.)
Compiègne, the most important city along the line of the attempted advance of the Germans on the Noyon-Montdidier front, is situated on the southeast bank of the River Oise, just a mile below its confluence with the Aisne. The city, with a population of 17,000 at the outbreak of the war, is 52 miles by rail northeast of Paris on the Paris-St. Quentin railway, 45 miles southeast of Amiens and 25 miles west of Soissons.

It is one of the most interesting cities in this part of France, having been known as Compendium in the days of Clovis. Its beautiful location, on the northwestern slope of the plateau east of Compiègne, made it a favorite country residence of many French monarchs. The forest, which contains more than 35,000 acres and is 68 miles in circumference, was for centuries a great royal hunting preserve.

It was Louis XV who commissioned Gabriel to build the magnificent palace which is still well preserved, and it was that monarch who here welcomed Marie Antoinette, the ill-fated daughter of France. The young girl, when at the age of 15 she became the bride of the dauphin, the future Louis XVI. It was here, also, that that other Austrian princess, Marie Louise, spent her brief but happy honeymoon with Napoleon I. As an evidence of the emperor's infatuation for his bride (an infatuation which caused utter ruin to France) "he is so evidently in love with her that he cannot conceal his feelings and all his customary ways of life are subordinate to her wishes" there is still to be seen in the park surrounding the palace an iron trellis which he ordered built to remind the 19-year-old empress of her favorite trellis at Schonbrunn.

This incident is reminiscent of the devotion displayed by the Babylonian king who built one of the seven wonders of the world—the hanging gardens. Order that his bride might not be without her native mountain scenery even on the plains of the Euphrates.

It was at Compiègne that one of the saddest episodes in French history occurred—the capture of Joan of Arc by the Burgundians in 1430, followed by her martyrdom at the stake just 12 months later in Rouen.

Before the war Compiègne was an industrial town of considerable importance. Its chief activities being boat building, rope making, distilling and the manufacture of chocolate, machinery, socks, chemicals and hats. It also carried on a thriving river borne traffic in timber and coal, and its apparatus farms were famous.

In 1814 Compiègne offered a stern resistance to the Prussians, and in the Franco-Prussian conflict of 1870-1871 it was one of the headquarters of the German army.

Now and for all time to come, Compiègne will be dear to the hearts of the French people, not because it was once the favorite residence of Louis XV, Louis XVI, Napoleon I, Louis Philippe and Napoleon III, but because on Christmas Eve, 1894, there was born here Georges Guynemer, "Ace of Aces," the foremost aviator of France, who before his tragic death at the age of 28 had won every honor that his grateful country could bestow upon the fearless defender.

Author of "My Dawg" Song Gets Married
Kansas City, Mo., June 22.—J. Frank Neighbors, 47, business man and author of the song that almost made Champ Clark president, is married.

Called for Frivoly
Amsterdam, June 22.—An American artist named Schaffer, his wife, and two Germans have been sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment at Munich, according to a telegram to the Frankfurter Zeitung, for "frivolity" in holding a fancy-dress ball during the first days of the offensive in the west. The ball was largely attended by the members of the aristocracy and officers.

Every Family a Fighting Family!

That is the war-time spirit of true-blue Americans---the spirit that will win the war. The day of talking patriotism is passed---the time has come to practice it.

Your government has officially set--

Friday, June 28th National War Savings Day

On June 28th every American will be summoned to enlist in the great "army that stays at home." On that day every loyal American should "sign the pledge" to invest a definite amount in War Savings Stamps each month during 1918.

W. S. S. Cost \$4.17 in June Worth \$5.00 Jan. 1, 1923

Help the Fighters Fight—On June 28th

Pledge Yourself and Encourage Others to Buy W. S. S.



Chicago, June 22.—Now that his labors in the Red Cross drive are at an end, William W. Wright Jr., chewing gum magnate and one of Chicago's most democratic millionaires, is going to resume his search for a bowl of real bean soup.

Time was when nickels were as big to the chewing gum man as \$10,000 is today and it was then that he made the acquaintance of the bean soup that has been the object of his search ever since he became wealthy.