

FRENCH MAKE SATISFYING PROGRESS; AUSTRIANS IN BATTLE ON WEST FRONT

Prisoners Taken by Allies in Picardy Fighting Approximate Four German Divisions; Two New Divisions Are Thrown into Battle in Vicinity of Lihons in Attempt to Check Canadians, But Counter Attack Is Hurdled Back With Severe Hun Losses.

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—these are the vital points in the general line on which the Germans are desperately striving to recover their balance and stem the on-sweeping allies.

General Ludendorff is pulling in reserves from the entire region and throwing them into this line. Meanwhile he is trying to reorganize the divisions hurled back by the French and British.

Whether the Germans have decided to make a real stand on this line or only a temporary one, to enable General Von Hutier to withdraw his heavy guns and material, cannot yet be discerned. The allies now are thrusting wedges between these four main bulwarks in the German line in an effort to make them untenable.

Of the four, Chaulnes and Lassigny seem the likeliest to go first. If these fall it can be assumed that the others will be captured shortly, after which the Germans would have no line this side of the Somme upon which to stand. The extraordinary rapidity with which the French are bringing up their big guns is shown by the fact that frequently the "heavies" are firing from positions where there had been bayonet fighting only 24 hours before.

Between Ham and Peronne, where the Germans are bringing up new divisions, the allies are bombing and smashing bridges, while the Germans are trying frantically to repair them. Some of these are knocked out and repaired several times a day. Aviators report the enemy back areas choked with retreating transports and columns of troops.

Thirty-One Hun Divisions Are Identified in Picardy

By Earl C. Reeves

London, Aug. 12.—(I. N. S.)—(1:20 P. M.)—A number of fresh German divisions have been brought up along the Picardy front in an effort to check the allied advance.

Thirty-one German divisions have now been identified, including eight drawn from Prince Rupprecht's reserves in Flanders. (Thirty-one German divisions would be about 372,000 men.)

Eight German divisions have been smashed. They were the original eight line divisions in the army of General von der Maritz.

Prisoners Approximate Nearly Four Hun Divisions

By Bert Ford

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE PICARDY BATTLEFRONT, Aug. 12.—(I. N. S.)—(9:00 A. M.)—German prisoners approximating nearly four divisions have been captured by the British and French in the Picardy drive.

(A German division is usually estimated at about 12,000 men.) Two new divisions were thrown into the fighting in the vicinity of Lihons by the Germans Sunday night in a desperate attempt to check the Canadians.

Despite the violence of the counter-attack the Germans were hurled back and suffered heavy losses.

The attack was a complete failure. The fourth day of the offensive found

the Germans hurried up numerous divisions. Alarmed by the tremendous losses of ground, men and materials during the reverses of the three days, beginning Thursday, the enemy rallied for powerful defensive strokes. There has been increasing artillery activity.

Montdidier Now But Shell By Lowell Mallett

With the French Armies in the Field, Aug. 12, 12:40 a. m.—(U. P.)—Trees felled across roads and paths choked with abandoned German material are contributing toward slowing up the French advance. They also prevented two American correspondents from advancing beyond Montdidier Sunday. We were the first Americans to reach the newly delivered city, if the mass of ruins can be called a city.

Montdidier has been a battle gauge only since March and we hoped to find it only partly devastated. Approaching gingerly along a road which the seventy-fives had pitted and peckered and which heavy German shells had restored sufficiently to enable free passage of automobiles, our first view from the nearest hill made it seem as though it were the city, sitting proudly upon a butte.

When we reached Mesnil, the nearest suburb, we began to see what looked like buildings, but were only wrecks. Of the ancient church of St. Pierre only a battered tower and enough of the facade to form a pointed arch above the doorway remained.

Mesnil, the condition of Montdidier. Mesnil apparently was composed chiefly of houses built of wooden framework, with plastered walls and tiled roofs. Only the frames remained shining in the sunlight with a ghastly appearance, like the carcasses of horses on an Arizona desert.

In Montdidier the first building we recognized was the railway station. We only recognized it because it was bearing the name happened to be left standing. We rode down the main street past the Hotel de Ville—in American lingo, the town hall. Nothing remains except ruins, many of which bear German signs. Across the main street are successive strips of matted camouflage.

Five months ago Montdidier was one of the prettiest of French towns. Today its condition reveals how France is contributing not only men and money to the war, but whole cities and cooly facing the cost.

Three Generals Sidelacked Amsterd., Aug. 12.—(I. N. S.)—Three German generals, commanding forces near Montdidier, have been captured, said a dispatch from Berlin today.

A large number of German soldiers have been court-martialed at St. Quentin. The Kaiser has gone to Brussels.

BOLSHEVIK RULE ENDS, WIRE FROM GERMANY

(Continued From Page One)

ment of policy by the members of the newly-formed government there. They intend to fight to free Russia from all outside influences. And it was made plain in the cable that this new revolutionary movement was in every way in sympathy with the allies.

In particular the supreme government expects to defend the north with the timely assistance to Russia by the peoples of England, America and France. It counts on allied assistance against starvation and financial oppression," said the announcement.

Collapse Not Surprising. The report, together with other information reaching this city, has emphasized the importance of the new Russian revolutionary movement in the north. There has been established a complete government, with headquarters at Archangel, and the soviet officials all have been deposed and many of them imprisoned.

Reports that the Bolsheviks in Russia had collapsed, while without official confirmation here, caused no surprise. It has been realized for the last few weeks that the German domination of Russia—and in plain words that is what the Bolshevik rule has meant for months—was defeating itself.

Zurich, Aug. 12.—(By Agence Radio to the I. N. S.)—Dr. Karl Helfferich, German ambassador to Russia, will not return there from Berlin because of the hostile reception he received. It was reported from Vienna today.

When Dr. Helfferich arrived at Moscow he was hissed and hooted by the crowds.

The Austrians are demanding that a Socialist envoy be sent to Moscow.

Dr. Helfferich returned to Berlin from Moscow last week. When he arrived in Moscow he was guarded by 1000 soldiers.

Petrograd Streets Patrolled Amsterdam, Aug. 12.—(I. N. S.)—The streets of Petrograd are being patrolled day and night by cavalry and all persons found without identity cards are being arrested, according to a dispatch from Moscow received today by the Weiser Zeitung. The dispatch added that guns have been placed at street corners to prevent a coup d'etat.

Germany Embassy Moves Copenhagen, Aug. 12.—(U. P.)—Berlin advices today reported that, owing to the situation in Moscow (where the social revolutionaries are very strong), the German embassy has been ordered removed to Paris. (Pskoff is much nearer than Moscow to the lines of the German forces in Russia.)

Naval Forces Make Attack on Hun Coast London, Aug. 12.—(I. N. S.)—Light British naval forces, supported by aircraft, were attacked by German aircraft Sunday while reconnoitering off the Prussian coast, the admiralty announced today. The text of the admiralty communique follows:

"Light forces, accompanied by aircraft, while reconnoitering west of the Prussian coast Sunday, were attacked by German aircraft.

"Six of our motorboats failed to return. We attacked and destroyed a German airship north of Ainel.

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The Prussian coast fronts the North sea and is 225 miles from the British coast. To reach it the British naval forces would have to pass the great German naval outpost of Helgoland.

Aircraft Hearings To Resume Tuesday Washington, Aug. 12.—(U. P.)—Department of justice hearings into aircraft production will be resumed here tomorrow with the return of Charles E. Hughes, head of the investigating committee.

Red Cross Canteen At Union Station For Men in Service

This morning the first canteen to be opened at the Union station in Portland by the American Red Cross began its career of service to the soldiers and sailors passing through or leaving Portland. At 9 o'clock this morning the doors were open and from now on from 9 a. m. until 6 and from 11 p. m. two shifts of two women each will be on duty. Mrs. Ferdinand Reed is in charge of the canteen and a large corps of workers will assist her. Mrs. E. N. Howe and Mrs. Stanley Lamb were on duty this morning, and to them came the honor of distributing smokes to the first soldier boy who wandered in. Sergeant G. W. Anderson of Company E, 44th infantry, American Lake. Everything given out to the men is gratis. There will be cigarettes, chocolate, writing materials and magazines. The canteen is located in the old lunch counter quarters in the south wing of the depot, and has been newly furnished and well appointed through the courtesy of local firms, who have donated all the equipment.

Spain Decides to Maintain Neutrality Madrid, Aug. 12.—(U. P.)—At the conclusion of Sunday's cabinet meeting in the palace a semi-official statement was issued declaring that Spain's foreign policy will not be altered and that maintenance of its neutrality is vital to the country.

Italians Accused of Bombing Hospitals Vienna, Aug. 12.—"Flying over Feltre and the Setti communis, Italian squadrons from a low height, attacked recognizable hospitals, killing attendants and patients," the Austrian war office declared today.

BATTLE IS GRADUALLY SLACKENED ALONG LINE (Continued From Page One)

lery and stores to the right of the Somme.

The Americans are with the British before Bray and the British are pushing on slowly, despite increasing opposition.

The Somme makes a horseshoe bend east of them and the English stream is paralleled by a canal flowing through a broad salt marsh. It is difficult to cross save by built-up roads and bridges which have been rendered dangerous by allied artillery and airplane bombs.

Unless Von der Marwitz's army is able to make a stand, the situation may become critical. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Germans are massing beyond Proyart, 1½ miles south of the Somme, beyond Bray.

Chaulnes-Roye Railway Cut The Canadians have advanced 2½ miles beyond Chaulnes, cutting the Chaulnes-Roye railway, while at Damery, three miles northwest of Roye, I personally witnessed the taking of the last high ground before Roye, the Eng-

lish and French cooperating. The hill is 300 feet above the sea level. Across its crest runs the Amlens-Roye road. Three miles from Roye a thick wood crowns the hill. To the left of the road the German positions were defended by concrete "pickle boxes" and nests of machine guns, while trees were fitted up for observation posts. A mile to the northward lies Damery village. Half way between the German positions and the entrance or exit of Roye.

The attack began at 9:30, with half an hour's barrage from the British heavy guns. The Germans replying in kind. The enemy's counter battery work Sunday showed he has brought up reserve artillery, but, as an officer at my side remarked, "it is nothing to write home about."

Boches Display Fright French 75s opened up and a light French patrol advanced toward the hill. This frightened the Boches, who began laying down barrages south of the road, apparently thinking they were about to be hit by another cavalry charge such as the British made in this region the day before.

The tanks came up from behind us and charged the woods in plain sight. Enemy shells fell to the left and right, but none of the tanks was hit. Each tank had to cross the highway. The machine guns on our left began pouring bullets into the wood, the Germans retreating blindly. The French began advancing up the hill, crossing the road within a short distance of the wood itself.

Meanwhile, the British were approaching Damery wood. The tanks were now close up and our barrage was lengthened, falling in the wood itself.

Then, as though from a signal, a vast mass of Germans ran out of the north end of the wood, toward a copse to the eastward. The Germans never had a finer target, the enemy running in compact bunches, carrying machine guns and machine gun parts. All enemy machine guns were stopped and all but the heaviest artillery fire stopped.

I have gone into the fullest detail on this battle because the set-away-fighting on the whole front is like this from Albert to south of Montdidier, where there are many little battles inside the big one, but they are timed to fit inside each other, while whippets and tanks and airplanes pave it into a compact whole.

Rupprecht is throwing in his reserves.

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as fast as he is able to bring them up for the purpose of slackening the advance. Since last Thursday, 10 fit divisions of his already limited reserves have been identified, making a total of 41 divisions engaged since the start.

Prisoners say that six of these divisions were hurled from the Vesle region in omnibuses. Indications are that the German high command will make its biggest effort within the next 48 hours to hold up the allies from the present line, which is practically the same as the old Somme line.

'Zig-Zag' Speeders And Girl Arrested An automobile containing two men

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