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NO. 59

## GERMAN OFFENSIVE NEARING THE MARNE

### HUN WEDGE TWO MILES FROM RIVER

Allied Left Force Back In Region of Ailette—Near Soissons German Attacks Fail—In Center Germans Make Slight Advance Further East and North of Rheims Allied Lines Hold—Crown Prince Advance in Center Is Dangerous.

PARIS, May 31.—5.45 a. m.—The Germans continued to push forward south of Fere-en-Tardenois, according to the latest advices reaching Paris, but neither Chateau Thierry nor Dorman have yet fallen into their hands. There is reason to hope that Chateau Thierry, the population of which has fled, will be saved. Chateau Thierry is ten miles south of Fere-en-Tardenois, while Dorman is six miles south of Verzily. Both towns are on the river Marne. The extreme point of the German advance is Le Charnel, about two miles north of the river Marne, according to an outline of the battle-front as marked out by a newspaper correspondent, the Havas agency says.

PARIS, May 31.—The allied left flank on the Aisne front has been forced back by violent German attacks in the region of the Ailette river, it is announced officially. Near Soissons and further south German attacks broke down, the French maintaining their positions. In the center the Germans made a slight advance north of the Marne. Further east and also northwest and north of Rheims, all the German efforts were vain. The French by a counter attack won back the town of Thillois, west of Rheims. Withdrawing before the German onslaught in the region of the Ailette, the French fell back on positions north of Blerancourt (nine miles southeast of Noyon) and Epagny (seven miles northwest of Soissons.) The French are holding their positions along the road between Soissons and Chateau Thierry, as well as in the western outskirt of Soissons.

The fighting front, it is declared, runs as follows: From Chavigny north of Soissons it describes a circle west of that city and rejoins the river Crise south of Soissons. Then it goes to Gerzy, follows the Soissons—Chateau Thierry road until near Hartennes, where it bends southeast to Grand Rozoy. Then on southward, leaving Mulehy-Le-Chateau, it passes Nanteuil-Notre Dame and advances toward the Marne to Courcy, Brecy, Cornnoil and Le Charnel, which marks its extreme southern point. Through Verzily, Brouillet, Savigny and Thillois it runs northward to the environs of Rheims.

Like Battle of Marne. The newspapers do not attempt to minimize the importance of the German advance. Gabriel Hanotaux (in the Figaro) compares the strategic situation with that on the eve of the battle of the Marne. All the commentators, however, express confidence that the high command will so dispose the allied troops as to restore

### 280,000 CALLED TO COLORS ON JUNE 24

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Official announcement was made today that 280,000 men will be called to the colors during June. They will be ordered to report June 24, but it has not yet been determined to what camps they will be assigned, so the list of appointments is for the present being withheld.

### NO GROUND FOR ALARM SEEN IN FRENCH CAPITOL

Rapid Advance of Germans Due to Small Forces Holding Line—Is Now War of Maneuver—Opportunity Opening for Repetition of Battle of Marne in 1914—Paris Confident.

PARIS, May 31.—Baffled by the valour of the allied soldiers, the Germans yesterday failed to enlarge greatly the pocket in the allied line. Even in the center the enemy appears to have been held and the advance there is slackening. In accordance with their favorite maneuver, the Germans apparently are swinging their columns eastward with the object of getting around Rheims through Ville-en-Tardenois and the Valley of the Ardre. The bastion constituted by the ruined city and the high ground known as the mountain of Rheims is a menace to the German flank. It is too strong to be attacked from in front with any chance of success, so the enemy is trying to turn it from the southwest.

Public Confidence Unshaken. While any progress by the Germans on French soil, with the inevitable trail of ruin and desolation strikes French hearts sorely, the unswerving confidence with which the general public views the situation is most remarkable. No doubt is felt as to the outcome and there is no weakening in the resolve to fight on to the end. The Havas correspondent at the front, who is considered to reflect the official view, thus summarizes the situation: "The rapid advance of the enemy is due to the temporary numerical inferiority of the allies which has changed the aspect of the struggle. It is necessary to go back to the beginning of the war for an analogous situation. This is a war of movement where two armies maneuver under the open sky.

Battle of Maneuver. "Under these conditions the momentary advance of an army and the capture of a town may mean nothing. The problem is more vast. For its own reasons our command did not find it advisable to give battle either on the Somme or in Flanders after the March offensive. It confined itself to stopping the enemy. "Shall we accept battle this time as we formerly accepted it on the Marne? That is the secret of our command. The Germans have no illusions as to the value of the success they have gained. They know we have several million picked troops forming in maneuvering masses which they will have to encounter—somewhere.

No Ground for Alarm. "It will be seen, therefore, that there is no ground for alarm. We probably are witnessing the preliminaries to a great battle which both sides wish to be decisive. Consequently it is comprehensible that our commanders do not act hurriedly, but strictly in accordance with plans agreed upon."

### GAS MASKS FOR HORSES AND MULES

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Every horse and mule in the American expeditionary forces will soon be equipped with a new type of gas mask which is declared to make them impervious to gas attacks. The masks are coming from a specially equipped factory at the rate of 500 a day, the gas defense service announced today, and are going rapidly to the forces in France.

WHEN GERMAN KULTUR WILTS



German kultur—that makes each German prison camp a hell on earth—welts away under such kindness as the Canadian Red Cross soldiers just back of the firing line are showing the German prisoners in this picture. The Canadians are carefully dressing the prisoners' wounds.

### YANKEES REPEL FOUR ATTACKS UPON CANTIGNY

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 31.—(By the Associated Press.) Four German attacks yesterday against the American troops at Cantigny west of Montdidier, were repulsed after sharp fighting.

The 82nd German reserve division from which the Americans took prisoners in the fighting at Cantigny, is commanded by Generals Von Lorne and Staube. This officer commanded on both the Russian and Western fronts, and came to Cantigny between May 12 and 15. His division participated in the German offensive on the San river in May, 1915. His division pierced the Russian front in Galicia.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 31.—American forces northwest of Toul carried out a successful raid against the German lines late last night. American aviators shot down another German airplane today on the front northwest of Toul. It fell within the American lines.

The American troops went over the top along a front of 500 yards. At the same time the American artillery opened fire. The men advanced behind the barrage, while the guns pounded the enemy lines and rear areas.

Engineers blew up the enemy entanglements. The infantry swarmed through the defenses, where there was fighting in which the Germans sustained losses.

Two prisoners were taken by the Americans. One of them attempted to escape on the way across No Man's land and was killed by a Massachusetts corporal.

### SMALL AMERICAN STEAMER TORPEDOED

AN ATLANTIC PORT, May 31.—The American steamer Amackassin, a vessel of 266 tons gross, formerly running between New York and Hastings-on-Hudson, was sunk by a German submarine near Gibraltar in the early part of April, with a possible loss of all but one of her crew of 20, according to Edward Madison, the survivor, who arrived today on an Italian ship.

### BIG AMERICAN TRANSPORT SUNK BY SUBMARINE

Former Hamburg-American Trans-Atlantic Liner Now the President Lincoln, Torpedoed While Returning From Europe—Sinks Within an Hour After Being Hit—No Details.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Admiral Sims reported today the torpedoing and sinking of the transport President Lincoln, returning to the United States from Europe. No details were given. The dispatch said the vessel was sunk at 10 o'clock this morning. No mention was made of casualties. The President Lincoln, a 15,000-ton vessel, formerly was a Hamburg-American trans-Atlantic liner plying between Europe and New York and was taken over by the government at the declaration of war. The vessel sank within an hour after she was struck. Her position was not disclosed in the brief dispatch announcing her destruction. The navy department made this official announcement: "The navy department has received a dispatch from Vice-Admiral Sims stating that the U. S. S. President Lincoln was torpedoed at 10:49 this morning and sank an hour later. The vessel was returning from Europe. No further particulars have been received."

### TRAFFIC BOARDS NAMED BY M'ADOO

WASHINGTON, May 31.—To work out many changes to be made in the new high rate schedules, Director General McAdoo today appointed traffic committees for the eastern, western and southern districts and for local regions, to hear complaints of shippers and recommend modifications. At the same time it became known that the director general plans to order a number of reductions in rates to maintain existing rate relationships between rival communities and to protect certain industries before June 25 when the new schedules are to go into effect. Interurban electric lines are considering a general increase in both freight and passenger rates, it was learned here today. Such increases in most cases would be subject to review by state commissions.

### BRITISH CASUALTIES FOR MAY 166,802

LONDON, May 31.—Casualties in the British ranks reported during the month of May reached a total of 166,802. The losses were divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 1,536; men 29,518. Wounded or missing—Officers, 6,182; men, 138,566.

### GERMANS DRENCH UKRAINE TOWNS WITH POISON GAS

LONDON, May 31.—The Germans in their reprisals against peasant disorders in the Ukraine drenched several villages near Kiev with gas, according to a Petrograd dispatch to the Daily Express. Thus, adds the message, whole communities were asphyxiated.

MOSCOW, May 29.—(By the Associated Press, Ukraine.)—Strong revolutionary detachments of demobilized Russian soldiers and peasants have risen in the district of Tehtgerine in the province of Kiev, in an attempt to seize governmental power. The Bolshevik government has been asked to send troops to subdue the revolutionaries. German forces while disarming Ukrainian troops today at Odessa were fired upon. The Germans then arrested a number of the important personages in the Black sea port and took them to the German army headquarters. Peasant disorders are spreading throughout the province of Podolia.

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### U. S. BIRDMEN DOWN 3 MORE HUN AIRPLANES

Rickenbacker, Former Auto Racer, Wings Another German In Battle With Five Enemy Machines and Goes to Rescue of Crippled American, Driving Off Assailant.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 30.—(By the Associated Press.)—There was much aerial activity on the front northwest of Toul today and two, if not three, German machines were shot down. Lieutenant Edward Rickenbacker, the former automobile racer, not only brought down one machine, but rescued Lieutenant James A. Meissner of Brooklyn after his machine had been damaged. Single-handed, Rickenbacker attacked two Albatross biplanes and three monoplanes. After he had fired a hundred rounds into one of the biplanes it fell crashing to the ground. The lieutenant turned and attacked another which sought safety in flight. Meanwhile, the remaining German machine had descended too low for Rickenbacker to attack.

Rickenbacker Victor. As he was returning to behind the American lines Lieutenant Rickenbacker saw four German airplanes coming toward him. He turned and saw Lieutenant Meissner, who was flying high, attack one enemy machine just as a second hostile airplane attacked Meissner. Meissner's machine collided with one of the enemy and a wing of the American's airplane was torn. Meissner immediately turned home when a third enemy machine, seeing that he was crippled, took hastily after him. Rickenbacker made a long dive and drove off the German with his machine gun, undoubtedly saving Meissner. The combat took place east of Thalaucourt. In another fight two American pilots were forced to withdraw because their guns became jammed just as they attacked the enemy. Another pilot encountered five hostile machines, but the enemy machines retreated.

Two More Downed. Later five Americans saw two enemy machines over Aprement. They attempted to get away as the Americans came up, but two Americans got on the tail of one of the enemy machines. Hundreds of bullets were fired into the fuselage of the German airplane and it crashed into a wood. The other enemy machine was chased down by an American and it was seen to overturn as it reached the ground. The result of several other combats have not yet been reported. An American aviator was captured by the Germans in No-Man's-Land after his machine gun had been damaged in a fight between five American machines and a German squadron. The American aviator was last seen going into the enemy trenches under cover of German rifles.

### NEW TINSEL STAR GIVEN CROWN PRINCE

AMSTERDAM, May 31.—Emperor William has conferred upon Crown Prince Frederick William the star of Grand Commander of the Royal House of Hohenzollern, with awards a Berlin dispatch today announced.

### WISCONSIN AVIATOR KILLED IN FRANCE

MILWAUKEE, Wis., May 31.—Lieut. J. L. Mitchell, aviator, has been killed in action somewhere in France, according to a telegram received by his mother today. Lieut. Mitchell, 25 years old, was a son of the late United States Senator John L. Mitchell of Wisconsin, and brother of Colonel William M. Mitchell, in charge of the American aviation corps.

### LINKS AISNE WITH SOMME BATTLEFIELD

Germans Execute Stroke On Allied Left Flank That Extends Battle Line Westward and Joins Present Battle With That of Somme—Attack Made Along Ailette—Allied Wings Hold Firmly but Narrow Wedge in Center Nearing Marne.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, May 31.—Keeping the tide of their advance in the center flowing strongly, although seemingly less swiftly, toward the Marne, the Germans simultaneously have executed a stroke on the allied left flank that has extended the battle line westward and virtually linked up the present battle with that of the Somme. The attack was delivered along the Ailette river, northwest of Soissons. Sweeping forward in the salient that projected between the Somme and the Aisne battlefields, the Germans drove the allied line back so that it now runs northwestward from the vicinity of Soissons, through Epagny and Blerancourt to the Oise river, apparently at its point of junction with the Oise canal about eight miles east of Noyon.

Battles Connected. The Noyon area was included within the field of the German offensive in March, when the French established new lines along the Oise and the Oise canal to the east and southwest of that town after being driven back below St. Quentin. The German drive down the Oise valley toward Paris was then checked. The present movement here suggests the possibility of its resumption. The advance in the center has now brought the Germans within two miles of the Marne at one point, Paris dispatches report. The wedge here appears increasingly narrow, however, and on its flanks below Soissons and Rheims the enemy is reported firmly held. Wings Hold Firmly. The French war office announces the breaking down of enemy attacks in the Soissons area and to the south, while on the allied right the line extending northeastward, toward Rheims from the neighborhood of Verzily appears virtually unchanged, the Germans failing in all their efforts to win ground. The energetic defense on the right wing is exemplified by the fighting at Thillois, three miles east of Rheims, where the Germans entered the town only to be driven out by a French counter attack. By such resistance the safety of Rheims is momentarily safeguarded, but observers view its ultimate fall as apparently inevitable. The probability of German penetration right up to the banks of the Marne in the center of the advance is likewise indicated in the news dispatches, which mention the near approach of the Germans to Chateau-Thierry and Dormans, both of which towns are on the Marne river. The civilian population has left Chateau-Thierry and some of the refugees from it have already passed through Paris for the interior. Allies Not Worried. On the British front the Germans (Continued on Page Two.)

### ARTILLERY ACTIVE AMIENS AND AINSE

LONDON, May 31.—Activity by the German artillery in the Villers-Bretonneux sector east of Amiens, and in the Albert region to the north is reported today by the war office. There has also been lively gunfire from the enemy lines on the Flanders front between Postubert and the Clarence River.