



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-eighth Year, Daily—Thirteenth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, JULY 15, 1918

NO. '96

HUNS STRIKE AMERICANS AND FRENCH ON 65 MILE FRONT IN RHEIMS SECTOR

GERMANS CROSS MARNE IN SUPREME EFFORT TO CAPTURE ALLIED LINES

Teutons Renew Offensive Upon Gigantic Scale. Striking From Chateau Thierry to Maison de Champagne, a Distance of 65 Miles—Feint Made at Vaux Brings Successful Counter Attack By Americans—Tremendous Bombardment Covers Region Far Back of Lines—Immense German Objective Is to Detach Rheims and Force Evacuation of Verdun-St. Mihiel Sectors—220,000 Americans in Sectors Attacked, Fighting Gallantly to the Finish—Situation Well in Hand.

ON THE FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, July 15.—(By the Associated Press, noon). Some of the severest fighting of the war is taking place today on the front between Chateau Thierry and the Main de Massiges, along a front of about fifty miles. The most violent engagements are occurring in the neighborhood of Dormans on the Marne where the Germans are attempting to cross the river.

GERMANS CROSS MARNE

LONDON, July 15.—The Germans have crossed the Marne at several places in their offensive begun this morning, according to advices received here.

Began at Vaux

LONDON, July 15.—The German attack in the new offensive began in the region of Vaux after bombardment with gas and high explosive shells according to the Exchange Telegraph company's advices from Paris. The American artillery replied with barrage fire.

To Detach Rheims

LONDON, July 15.—The immediate objective of the Germans, it is considered here, probably is to detach Rheims by attacking on both sides of it and capturing the hills which would protect their right flank on a further advance southward.

French Meet Shock

PARIS, July 15.—A new offensive by the Germans was begun last night.

TURKS DEFEATED IN PALESTINE

LONDON, July 15.—Turkish troops on Saturday night attacked the British positions in Palestine commanding the crossings of the Jordan and on the ridges north of Jericho. In the ridge region, the war office announced today, the British completely restored by a counter attack the positions that had been penetrated. More than 500 Turks were taken prisoner, including 260 Germans.

ATTACK ON VAUX, FEINT THAT FAILS

Germans Attack American Marines West of Chateau Thierry and Are Met With Savage Counter Attack That Forces Huns Back 800 Yards, Yielding Prisoners—Americans All Along Marne Front Fighting Savagely and Dying Gamely.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE MARNE, July 15.—(By the Associated Press.) 1:40 p. m. Reports from Vaux this afternoon indicate that the Americans had advanced their line in this region in the face of the enemy attack. The advance extended a distance of approximately 700 yards but the Americans subsequently withdrew to their original line for strategic reasons. Twenty-eight Germans were taken prisoner in this sector.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE MARNE, July 15.—(By the Associated Press.) The Germans at daylight today launched a violent attack against the American positions west of Chateau Thierry, especially near Vaux.

The attack came as a most violent bombardment of high explosives and gas shells throughout the night. The American troops sought shelter wherever it was available. When the enemy infantry appeared, the Americans swarmed out and met the attackers with a rain of machine gun bullets.

The Americans wore their gas masks as they fought the attacking Germans.

An enemy bombardment of towns in the rear of the lines began shortly after 6 o'clock a. m.

The latest reports say the Americans are holding their own in the fighting, maintaining their positions.

Heavy Bombardment

Heavy shells from German naval guns are falling in regions far behind the actual battle area, many of these projectiles having fallen in the city of Meaux, 25 miles from Chateau Thierry. In many of these towns the German shell fire is constant, the projectiles being from 10 and 12-inch naval guns.

At this hour it had not been determined how the battle in the vicinity of Vaux was progressing. The whole line in both directions from that town was dense with smoke and gas fumes. The roar of the cannonade was punctuated in the few intermissions with a terrific din of machine gun and rifle fire which seemed of the hottest character in Vaux itself.

At 11:20 o'clock this morning, the long range bombardment was becoming more intense.

The day opened sunny but low clouds are now scurrying over the battlefield, threatening rain.

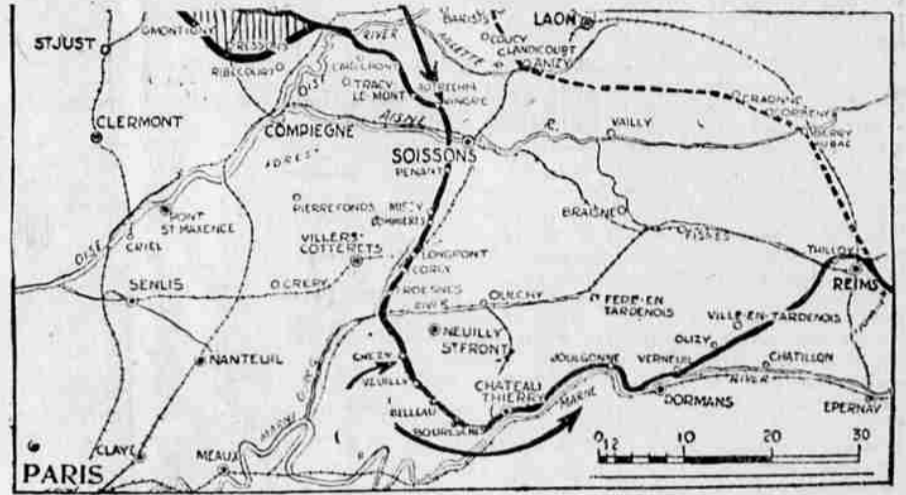
East of Rheims Also

Word received here also that the

KIRBY OF HOUSTON WOOD SHIP BOSS

WASHINGTON, July 15.—J. H. Kirby of Houston, Tex., today was appointed lumber administrator of the Emergency Fleet corporation to administer all activities of the ship building program connected with the production and storage of lumber.

WHERE THE GERMANS ARE RENEWING THEIR GREAT OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE ALLIES



Upper map shows line from Montdidier to Rheims. Lower map shows front held by Americans from Rheims to Alsace. Present drive is from west of Chateau Thierry east around Rheims to the Meuse river, a distance of 65 miles, held by French and American forces. Arrows on lower map show American sectors.

HAITI DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY IS 22ND NATION

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, July 15.—The council of state, according to and in accordance with the legislative powers given it under the new Haitian constitution, has unanimously voted the declaration of war upon Germany demanded by the president of the republic.

Haiti is the twenty-second nation to declare war on Germany. Seven other countries have broken diplomatic relations with Haiti in June, 1917, after the West Indian republic had protested against Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare and demanded compensation for losses to Haitian commerce and life.

ATTACK FOUND FRENCH READY

PARIS, July 15.—Writers of the German offensive began today, the military critic of the Temps suggests the possibility of an immediate Austrian attack on the Italian front, as there are indications of such a happening in the latest Italian communications.

"After a pause of some unusual length," writes Lieutenant Colonel Roussel in Liberté, "the enemy has resumed action. He has chosen the night following the French national fête, hoping to catch us napping. Such a calculation was gross but in the true heroic manner. The enemy neither surprised nor caught us unawares. The attack was begun where we had reason to anticipate it."

ROAD TO PARIS CHOSEN BY HUNS IN RENEWING DRIVE

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The Germans have selected the road to Paris for renewal of their drive, offering here new hope today, judging from early reports on the battle.

The new battle line runs clear around Rheims in its fifty mile sweep from Chateau Thierry, where the first and second American divisions are known to be in line. American troops in the Jaulgonne sector of the Marne east of Chateau Thierry also are involved.

The apex of the German advance on the Alsace front is at Chateau Thierry where the American first corps now holds the left flank of the battle line. Presumably the main objective is some place east of that point which lies on the direct road to Paris.

President Wilson went to the war department during the afternoon and spent three quarters of an hour with Secretary Baker going over the news from the front. Official reports were far behind the press dispatches describing the fighting.

ARCTIC FRONT WHERE BRITISH AND AMERICAN FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED THE MURMAN COAST ON THE WHITE SEA



ALLIED TROOPS IN ALBANIA ADVANCE

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, July 15.—In Albania the allied troops continue to advance. Vienna declares they are approaching the new Austrian "line of resistance," which probably means the Mena river. The Italians maintain their pressure on the west. French troops in the east are clearing the Devoll and Tomoroc valleys. Two towns and an important hill are included in their latest captures. British troops are active near Dorian, Macedonia, but there has been no important fighting.

AMERICANS WITH BRITISH SEIZE KEM

Murman Coast Occupied By British and American Forces to Prevent Possession By German and Finnish Forces—Proclamation Issued to People That Occupation Is for Russia—Bolshevik Orders Allied Forces From White Sea Region.

LONDON, July 15.—American and British troops have occupied the whole French Murman coast, in northern Russia, says a dispatch from Moscow to the Central News Agency, by way of Amsterdam. After capturing Kem, a railroad station on the White Sea coast, the dispatch adds, the American and British forces advanced toward Torok, the Russian Bolshevik authorities having withdrawn to Nirok. The commanders of the entente allied forces have issued an appeal to the population of the Murman coast requesting help against Germany and Finland. It is declared that the Murman coast is Russian territory under the protection of the entente powers.

Troops Unknown

WASHINGTON, July 15.—American participation in the occupation of the Murman coast of Russia so far as known here is limited to marines and bluejackets.

War department officials said that 35 other American troops had made their appearance in the neighborhood of Archangel and Kola they must have been dispatched by General Foch, supreme commanding general, from some of the American troops in English concentration camps.

Considerable Allied Forces

LONDON, July 15.—At the request of Russians considerable allied forces are now on the Murman coast which is on the Arctic ocean to the extreme north of Russia. On this coast there are several harbors connected by rail with Petrograd. More forces are being sent and the local population is co-operating with the troops.

Meanwhile the Germans are making a desperate attempt to secure control of the Murman coast. They need the harbors for submarine bases.

The total German force in Russia is 32 German and 15 Austrian divisions, composed mainly of old and inferior men. This force is spread from Petrograd to the Black Sea.

In Finland the Germans have more than a division, mainly in the south and not easily within reach of the Murman railway.

British public opinion welcomes the news of aid to the Russians and is watching eagerly the progress of affairs on the Murman coast.

Bolshevik Protest

LONDON, July 15.—M. Tchitcherine, the Russian foreign minister, (Continued on Page Six.)

JAPANESE TO BUILD AMERICAN STEAMERS

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Contracts for thirty additional steel cargo ships have been let by the shipping board to Japanese yards. Contracts also have been let for building twenty transports to the Bethlehem shipbuilding corporation at Alameda, Cal.