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AMERICANS GO "OVER THE TOP" CHEERING IN FIRST GREAT OFFENSIVE OF THE YEAR

ALLIED TROOPS STRIKE ON 25 MILE FRONT

POILUS AND YANKS HIT HUNS ALONG 25 MILE FRONT EXTENDING FROM THE AISNE TO THE MARNE

Gains of From 2 to 4 Miles Registered By Noon—Thousands of Prisoners and Many Guns Captured—All Objectives Passed and Victorious Troops Pressing On—Soissons Now Under American Guns—Hun Railroads Threatened and Great German Offensive Definitely Halted—Huns Threatened With Being Forcible to Retreat or Being Cut Off.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 18, 2 p. m. (By the Associated Press). The entire offensive operation begun this morning on the front between the Aisne and the Marne is going at this hour for the most part even better than had been expected. The enemy so far has been unable to withstand the shocks the Americans and their allies have delivered and are still delivering.

As the whole German left flank is menaced the enemy must draw in his troops from the Marne front or risk their being caught where they are. This means that the finishing blow possibly has been administered to his dying offensive.

Huns Taken by Surprise
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 18.—(By the Associated Press). American troops went over the top with a cheer this morning in the launching of the allied surprise attack on the front northwest of Chateau Thierry.

The enemy was taken completely by surprise all along the line.

The American troops were brought up in the night together with French comrades from crack units and lay in their positions until five o'clock this morning. At that hour the American and French artillery opened fire.

The Americans advanced behind the barrage of their first objectives in less than half an hour. While they were digging in more Americans, in most cases, passed over the first objectives and then advanced behind the resumed barrage to the second objectives which were speedily taken, especially at the north end of the attack opposite the Paris-Soissons road. Numerous tanks participated in the offensive.

Without Artillery Aid
The American infantry went into attack without previous artillery preparation. In their advance behind the rolling barrage they captured many guns, machine guns, prisoners, equipment and material.

The Germans in most places offered feeble resistance but here and there they put up a stubborn fight which the American shock units quickly overcame at the point of the

HUN LOSSES IN 2 DAYS 60,000

PARIS, July 18.—(Havas Agency) In the pocket which the Germans created south of the Marne their losses reached the figure of 60,000 in the first two days fighting, the Matin declares today.

According to the Echo De Paris forty German divisions have been fully engaged, while twenty support divisions were obliged to take more or less part in the fighting.

Premier Clemenceau returned today from a visit to the front, expressing himself very well satisfied with the situation.

bayonets and at the muzzles of their weapons.

The town of Soissons is now well within the range of the American guns.

The towns of Torcy and Givry and the Givry wood were taken by the Americans in their advance. The final objectives in the Givry and Torcy sectors were reached in about two hours of hard fighting.

The troops on this part of the front did equally as well as those on the front further north, taking quantities of material and prisoners, who continue streaming back.

Troops Rush On
Hastily organized counter attacks against the Americans developed here and there by all were broken up and our troops continue to advance.

In one town, on the southern part of the front, the Franco-American forces captured eighteen guns.

Probably the most stubborn resistance to the allied advance developed in the region west of Caumont, which is 4 1/2 miles southwest of Soissons. The Americans and French fighting side by side, however, refused to be checked. The American machine guns mowed the enemy down and then our troops went on.

The fighting still continued in this region this afternoon and seems likely to become heavier, when the German reserves arrive.

In Soissons Region
In the region of Soissons where the attack was especially successful the Americans carried everything before them by storm. Early this afternoon they had passed their final known objective. From the second to the third objectives they swept behind a third barrage.

The third objectives were quickly taken by the troops of the first units who had dug in at the first objectives.

The resistance to the south was especially violent. At some sections the American advancing troops were held up, but only temporarily.

ITALIANS DRIVE ENEMY BACK AT POURCY IN MARNE

ON THE FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, Wednesday, July 17.—(By the Associated Press). While enemy and allied armies generally were marking time, the Italians this evening carried out a brilliant counter-attack near Pourcy, north of the Marne. They drove the enemy back into the valley of the Orde river.

The sectors north and south of the river Marne saw many small local actions. Most of these minor operations brought about violent encounters between small detachments.

Often both sides had prepared for an attack at the same time, consequently the men met at full tilt midway between the lines. Numerous hand to hand encounters resulted.



PERISHING SAYS ENEMY DRIVEN BACK TO MARNE

WASHINGTON, July 18.—General Pershing's communique for yesterday reports that in the American sector on the Marne the enemy has been entirely driven from the south bank. The dispatch follows:

"Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces, July 17.

"Section A.—In the Marne sector our troops have entirely regained possession of the south bank on the river. Northwest of Chateau Thierry the enemy yesterday repeated his attempts of the preceding day to penetrate our lines near Vaux. His attack was completely broken up by our infantry and artillery fire before reaching our lines.

"Yesterday in the region of Thilancourt, a hostile airplane was shot down by one of our aviators."

Attack a Failure
"Section B.—Northwest of Chateau Thierry between the evening of July 14 and the evening 16 the enemy made determined but unsuccessful attacks on our positions near Vaux. During the night July 14 to 15 he delivered a heavy bombardment which included the use of much gas and which developed into a barrage on the Vaux area. Under cover of this a storming party attacked the village. The system of infiltration by groups was used and some of these groups passed one of our advanced outposts northeast of Vaux.

"Our troops delivered withering machine gun fire on the assailants and counter attacked. At the same time our artillery dropped a barrage to cut off the enemy's retreat. The enemy fled but many were caught by our barrage and eighteen taken prisoner.

"The attack was a complete failure, the enemy at no time penetrating our lines.

Box Barrage Fails
"On the evening of July 15 the attacks in this region were renewed. A box barrage was placed by the enemy, and several large hostile groups attempted to advance. This attempt also collapsed. Our infantry fire and a creeping barrage from our batteries again broke up the assault."

GERMANS TRICKED BY CORN RAISED IN POLAND

STOCKHOLM, July 18.—Warsaw dispatches say the Germans are doubling their requisitions of foodstuffs in Poland because of their failure to obtain grain in Ukraine.

In order to deceive the German people and encourage the belief that the stores of Ukrainian grain are not fabulous, the Huns are packing corn and fodder exported from Poland in sacks marked "Ukraine."

FRENCH GAIN EVERYWHERE IN SURPRISE DRIVE

Foch Has Been Massing Men In Forest Area for Days—"Dress Show" With Every Available Weapon In Play—Ends Germans' Efforts at Rheims—Railways Under Guns.

LONDON, July 18.—The French have gained from two to four miles everywhere on the 25 mile front of their offensive today between the Aisne and the Marne, according to reports reaching London this afternoon.

The French have captured several thousand prisoners and about twenty guns.

Reports received in London showed the situation to noon all along the line of the attack began by the French this morning to be excellent.

Biggest Allied Drive

The attack is the biggest offensive move made this year by the allies.

The French move this morning appeared to have been a surprise to the Germans. The manner in which this surprise was accomplished may best be judged from the map which shows a great area of forest covering the ground behind the French lines. Under cover of these forests General Foch has been preparing for some time for the present move.

All the way from Belleau to Aisne the French attack was launched at daybreak today. It was what the British call "dress show," with every development available weapon in play.

"This is the moment Foch has been looking for," said a military authority here today, "and if all goes well his splendidly executed counter-attack should bring the whole German offensive on the Rheims sector to a halt immediately."

Menace Hun Railroads
The French have reached a point menacing the most important German railway centers which feed the entire front west of Rheims. The French artillery is now within easy shelling distance of these railways and should be able to make life miserable for a large section of the German army.

Military men attach great importance to the lateral railway lines around Soissons and say that if General Foch can get his artillery into position to keep these lines out of action he will make the movement of the German supplies in the whole sector between Rheims and Chateau Thierry impossible.

On the extreme east of the recent German offensive the French have reoccupied their old lines for a distance of three or four miles.

North of the Marne the French have regained the whole of the Bois wood and the village of Venteuil.

KAISER WATCHED HUN OFFENSIVE

AMSTERDAM, July 18.—Emperor William watched the opening of the latest German offensive from an advanced observation post northwest of Rheims, his favorite correspondent Karl Rosner, reports in a dispatch to the Berlin Kokal Anzeiger.

"The emperor," says the correspondent, "listened to the terrible orchestra of our surprise fire attack and looked upon the unparalleled picture of the projectiles raging toward the enemy positions."

JAPS ACCEPT U.S. PLAN TO AID SIBERIA

Japanese Troops to Join American Forces in Intervention in Russia, According to Announcement in Tokio Newspapers—American Proposal Differed From Those Made By France and England.—Time Not Ripe for Announcement.

TOKIO, July 18.—(By the Associated Press).—Japanese newspapers today publish the terms of an American proposal to send American troops to Siberia, the newspapers declare that the Japanese government has decided to accept the suggestion made by the American government that Japan also send troops.

LONDON, July 18.—The Japanese government has reached a decision which was the outcome of proposals from the United States, says a dispatch from Tokio to the Times under date of July 15, for joint American-Japanese intervention in Siberia. The American proposals, the dispatch adds, were different than those made by Great Britain and France.

Great Activity Shown

TOKIO, July 14.—(By the Associated Press).—Japanese newspapers insist that the United States has made proposal to Japan concerning intervention in Siberia. No official confirmation is available.

There is great activity in Japanese official circles and the newspapers devote columns to the subject of intervention. They also say that Emperor Yoshito has postponed his vacation on account of important developments.

TOKIO, July 15.—(By the Associated Press).—The elder statesmen met today and heard the government's report concerning the dispatching of troops to Siberia. While formal decision has not been reached it is said that the elder statesmen are fully supporting the government.

It is generally felt that Japan will resent any form of limitation placed on her movement of troops.

Washington Silent

WASHINGTON, July 18.—American government officials declined to comment in any way upon the report from Tokio that Japan has accepted a proposal of the United States that American and Japanese troops be sent to Siberia. It is known that important developments in the Siberian situation are impending but officials indicated that the time was not ripe for an announcement.

BRITISH ADVANCE SOUTH OF SOMME

LONDON, July 18.—South of Villers-Bretonneux, south of the Somme the British line has been advanced on a front of more than one mile, says the official statement today from their headquarters in France.

The British positions to the east of Bebuterne also were improved somewhat.

South of Buequoy on the front southeast of Arras, a German raiding party was given off.

The German artillery showed considerable activity during the night on the Flanders front north of Bailloul.

ALLIED BLOW STRATEGY TO CHECK HUNS

Foch Strikes to Counter German Blow Further South—French Stopped Germans in Face of Violent Attacks Launched Between the Marne and Rheims—Huge Salient South of Aisne Endangered By Allies' Success.

PARIS, July 18.—The French this morning delivered an attack along the line from the river Aisne as far south as the region of Bailloul, a front of about 25 miles, and made progress at certain points of between a mile and a half and two miles, the war office announced today.

The situation on the Marne and Champagne fronts is unchanged. Early in the morning prisoners taken in the advance began coming in.

The northern point of the front of attack is the town of Fontenoy, nearly a mile south of the river Aisne.

In the fighting on the front of the German offensive the French last night stopped the Germans in the face of violent attacks which the enemy launched southwest of Nanteuil-La-Posse, between the Marne and Rheims.

On the front beyond Rheims, east of the Vesle river an attack by German guard units was completely repulsed.

Strategic Move

This morning's attack represents what apparently is an important strategic move by General Foch to counter the German blow further south along the Marne and on the line to Rheims.

The sector in which the attack was launched includes part of the front held by Americans. The American line extended east of Belleau wood and on northward at least as far as Torcy, probably some two or three miles within the area mentioned.

The French-American stroke seems to have made important initial progress and is endangering the entire huge salient created south of the Aisne.

It is along the line now under attack that the notable series of operations which immediately preceded the start of the present German offensive was carried out by the French and Americans.

Front a Logical One

Marked gains were made by the French day by day in the region southwest of Soissons and further south along the front edging the forest of Villers-Cotterets. The Americans for their part took possession of the entire Belleau woods, captured the village of Vaux, close to Chateau Thierry, and advanced their lines to positions where their guns commanded the villages of Boursches, Belleau and Torcy, along the Clignon river.

This front has been pointed to as the logical one for an offensive stroke by General Foch, as its success would pinch off the entire Marne salient and if carried thru rapidly would inevitably result in the capture of large numbers of the enemy and quantities of his guns and material.

It cannot be told as yet whether such a broad objective has been determined upon by the generalissimo.

NASH ASSISTANT TO AIRCRAFT CHIEF RYAN

WASHINGTON, July 18.—John D. Ryan, director general of aircraft production, has selected E. W. Nash, of Kenosha, Wis., to be his assistant in production and engineering.

FOCH TAKES AGGRESSIVE FIRST TIME

Allied Blow Lengthens Battle Line to 105 Miles, Widest Front Yet Engaged—Germans Make No Headway in Marne-Rheims-Champagne Offensive, Heavy Attacks Being Crushed and Will Now Have to Abandon Efforts.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, July 18.—General Foch, the allied commander in chief, has taken the aggressive on an important scale, attacking this morning on a 25 mile front between the Aisne and the Marne—the westerly side of the Germans' Marne salient.

From various sources come reports that the battle is progressing favorably to the allied forces, which presumably include American troops.

Few details of the battle are available, the main facts officially stated being that at various points along this front progress of from two to four miles has been made and that prisoners have been taken.

Like Letter V

The battle line when the German offensive paused at the Marne early in June closely resembled the letter V with the acute angle blunted. Since their attack on Monday morning the Germans have made progress which has changed the form of the line to that of the letter U the right leg of which is shorter than the left.

From Fontenoy at the tip of the left leg to Rheims, on the end of the right is about 37 miles. The distance from the Aisne to the present battle front south of the Marne is about 25 miles.

It is along the left leg of the U that the allied onslaught began this morning. Behind the allied lines is the forest of Villers-Cotterets, with a network of strategic wagon roads and three railway lines. In front of them there is an important railroad line running southward from Soissons to Chateau Thierry, presumably used as a supply artery for a large proportion of the enemy troops along the Marne river. This railway was about four miles from the allied front when the attack was started today.

105 Mile Battle Line

Measuring from the Aisne, around the Chateau Thierry salient and thence to Maasiges in the Champagne the eastern limits of the present struggle, the length of the battle line is about 105 miles, which is the widest front that has been in active battle on the western front since the early days of the war.

Official reports show that the German stroke against the Marne-Rheims-Champagne line had not gained further ground overnight. At

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BECKER STEEL SEIZED BY U.S.A

WASHINGTON, July 18.—Taking over by the government of the German-owned Becker Steel Company of America, with a plant at Charleston, W. Va., was announced today by A. Mitchell Palmer, allied property custodian. With the company comes to American manufacturers a secret process for the production of "high speed" steel, heretofore held exclusively by the Germans.