



# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



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## ALLIES CAPTURE STRATEGICAL TOWNS

### ALLIES PUSH LINES AHEAD ON ALL SIDES

GERMANS MAKING DESPERATE RESISTANCE BUT ARE BEING DRIVEN GRADUALLY BACK ALL ALONG—AMERICANS NEAR FERE-EN-TARDENOIS PENS SOUTH AND FRENCH PENS WEST—ENTIRE POCKET NOW UNDER ALLIED GUNS—BIG AMERICAN GUNS IN ACTION.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, July 26, 2 p. m.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Franco-American troops on the front northeast of Chateau Thierry moved their lines forward today. The allies along the front to the east likewise made progress at places, the Americans at one point attaining an objective a kilometer distant.

Clinging desperately to the hills and woods, the Germans are using their machine guns, their artillery and their air forces and quantities of gas in an effort to hamper the advance.

The Germans are using high explosive, mixed with gas shells. Americans estimate that 40 per cent of the German shells which fell on Thursday night and today contained gas. The German machine gun nests are numerous in the forest but the allies are gradually tearing them to pieces with heavy shells. The bombardment of the German lines continues mercilessly.

**Little Change Shown**  
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, July 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—There is little change in the operations on the southern arc of the salient south of Soissons. To the west, Oulchy-Le-Chateau has been taken. Farther south the Germans have been driven out of the positions they had taken on the north bank of the Marne.

The French and American troops are advancing farther in La Fere forest. The Germans keep up a heavy fire, especially from their heavy guns, against the French and American lines, but their efforts are ineffectual.

**Progress Is Steady**  
LONDON, July 26.—On all sides of the German salient the allies are reported today to be continuing to make progress, except on the heights behind Soissons. The German resistance to the French pressure has been very determined in this latter sector. The advances reported elsewhere are for the most part slight.

On the other side of the salient just to the west of Rheims the allies lost the town of Mery and Hill 204 to a German counter attack but retained Vigny and the greater part of the line thereabouts looking toward Fismes.

The allies in this sector hold Marfaux, Bouilly, St. Euphrasie and Courton wood.

Between the Ourcq and Chateau Thierry the Franco-American line now shows an advance beyond the line of a week ago of from six to eight miles.

**Near Fere En Tardenois WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN**  
(Continued on Page Six.)

### AUSTRIANS DEMAND FIXING OF WAR ARMIES

AMSTERDAM, July 26.—Austrian social democrats have introduced an interpellation in the Austrian lower house asking the government to negotiate with Germany to jointly fix war aims and peace terms, according to a Vienna dispatch to the Nieuw Ratterdamsche Courant. They assert that the government does not act sharply enough against the military party of Germany.

### YANKEES WIN BY ANNIHILATING HUNS AT EPIEDS

Tired of Counter Attacks, Americans Outflank Germans, Concentrate Artillery Fire Upon Them and Completely Obliterate Enemy and Town—None Left to Capture.

LONDON, July 26.—American troops met and conquered the enemy in a tremendous combat in the region of Epieds and Trugny, says Reuter's correspondent with the American troops in France.

The Germans fought well and checked the American advance for some thirty-six hours and three times wrested the village of Epieds from them. In the meantime the village grew constantly smaller under the ceaseless bombardment and finally disappeared, not even a large pile of bricks being left behind.

When the village disappeared the Germans were in possession. The Americans, tired of the ceaseless ebb and flow of the fighting there, had been taking the slopes on either flank, and forced the Germans to make their final massed attack.

Meanwhile the allied guns had been brought up and as soon as the Germans took possession of the village they concentrated a terrific fire upon it until the place smoked with its own red dust as though afire. When the guns ceased firing there were no Germans left to capture or even to bury.

At the edge of the wood beyond Trugny, the correspondent adds, the German machine guns stationed ten yards apart held up the advance a little longer. Making a feint frontal attack, however, the Americans crept Indian fashion, around the flanks and captured all the guns. Afterward the pace of the advance quickened. All the high ground north of Epieds was taken and the line carried beyond Courpail.

### DEATH RATE OF AMERICAN ARMY REMARKABLY LOW

WASHINGTON, July 26.—Satisfactory progress is being made by the American troops assisting the French and British in pushing the Germans' lines on the Soissons-Rheims salient, members of the house military committee were told today by Secretary Baker and General March, chief of staff.

The telephone facilities of the expeditionary army are fully meeting the strain placed upon them in keeping the moving troops supplied and in bringing up heavy guns and ammunition, the representatives were told.

While without information as to casualties in the present battle, Secretary Baker said the percentage of men killed in previous fighting had been remarkably low. Figures furnished the committee members showed that the death rate in battle has been eight per thousand while there was exactly the same proportion of deaths from diseases among the expeditionary forces.

The officials said this undoubtedly was the lowest death rate among troops at war in the history of the world.

General March said that the American forces were too busy pressing their offensive to even attempt to estimate the German dead.

### BATTLE RAGES FOR POSSESSION MARNE WOODS

Franco-American Push North of Chateau Thierry Becomes Struggle to Oust Germans From Stretches of Forests—Heavy Guns Throw Shells Across Pocketed Area.

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, July 26.—(By the Associated Press, 8 a. m.)—The Franco-American push north of Chateau Thierry has resolved itself into a battle for the woods which abound in this region. The Germans are fighting a rear guard action with their artillery and machine guns, retiring gradually before the allied forces. The German infantry is not in evidence.

The indications early today were that the enemy was making preparations for a further withdrawal. He has been endeavoring to hold the northern half of the forest of Fere and of the forest of Ris, but the allies are making headway in the work of ousting him from the remainder of the woods.

**Use Heaviest Guns**  
The allies moved up their heaviest guns early in the day and were throwing shells into the German lines as far as Saponay (5 1/2 miles northeast of Oulchy-Le-Chateau) and beyond Fere-En-Tardenois, (2 miles south-east of Saponay.) The districts to the south were also being peppered by allied shells.

The Germans have been using much "sneeze" gas, but ineffectively. The poplar and oak forests of Fere and Ris are filled with underbrush and the allied forces are having a stiff job to get through them but are continuing to push night and day. The German machine gunners and artillery are desperately contending for every inch of ground.

This morning the battle in the woods was still in progress.

### CZECHS TO FIGHT AUSTRIA FOREVER! ASSERTS DELEGATE

AMSTERDAM, July 26.—"The Czechs declare they will hate and fight Austria forever and, God willing, they will in the end destroy her completely because Austria embodies a century old crime against the liberty of mankind," said Deputy Stransky, Czech socialist, in moving in the Austrian lower house an indictment of the ministers for their decree ordering the partition of Bohemia.

"The highest national duty of the Czechs is to harm Austria wherever and whenever possible," continued Stransky. "This we owe to the Czech people and to our loyalty to the Bohemian crown which loyalty can only be put in practice by betraying Austria. Therefore, we are determined to betray her whenever we can."

### ROOSEVELT VISITS ALLIED NAVAL BASE

QUEENSTON, Wednesday, July 24.—After an inspection of the allied destroyer base with Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the American navy department stated to the Associated Press correspondent that he had been greatly impressed with the putting together of the British and American naval units into one efficient anti-submarine operating force without either losing any feature of its identity.



HAPPY  
General Mangin is the happiest man in the world. Premier Clemenceau said so after visiting him at the front. Why shouldn't he be? He's leading the French army that is flinging back the Huns between the Aisne and the Marne. General Dequette is helping him.

### WESTERN UNION TWICE INDICTED FOR MAILING WIRES

NEW YORK, July 26.—The Western Union Telegraph company was indicted by a federal grand jury here today on charges of having transmitted messages by mail.

Two bills were filed against the Western Union. One accuses the company of having violated the federal law which forbids the establishment of private express for the carriage of letters between points to which the government operates mail service. Eight counts in this indictment cover routes taking in New York and Boston, New York and Philadelphia, New York and Washington and New York and Baltimore.

The second indictment charges violation of the federal code which forbids transmission of letters by such private express routes. The bill involves the company's alleged system of sending night letters by private messengers instead of by wire.

The indictments are against the company only, the officials not being named. The company is expected to enter a plea on Monday.

Federal attorneys alleged that 346,417 messages were carried by messengers between August 2, 1917 and June 15, 1917. The maximum penalty that could follow conviction would be fines aggregating \$17,320,850.

### COMPARE FIGHTING OF POILUS AND YANKS

LONDON, July 26.—Comparing the work of the French and American troops in the battle now going on, Reuter's correspondent at American headquarters, writes:

"The French have had four years of hard study and the lesson most laid to heart is the value to France of live Frenchmen and dead Germans. When sacrifices are required we are quite ready to make them, but the object is to kill and pay little for killing. They admire the reckless valor of the Americans but their own methods are somewhat slower and more subtle. Each gets to his objective, but the French leave fewer men behind."

### SEA CAPTAIN THINKS HE SAW HUN U-BOAT SUNDAY

BOSTON, July 26.—The captain of a coal steamer now at this port believes he sighted a large German submarine off Fire Island, N. Y., last Sunday at noon. He was confident she was a German, he said, as her superstructure was different from that of American undersea boats. She was lying on the surface a mile distant. He estimated the length of the submarine at between 300 and 400 feet.

### CREDIT PETAIN WITH PLANNING ALLIED SMASH

Idea of Meeting German Offensive By Abandoning Advance Posts, and Holding Principal Line With Small Forces and Then Smashing Flank of Enemy With Counter Attack.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN FRANCE, July 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—A retrospective glance at the entire battle since the Germans tried to cross the Marne in their great effort to break up the French armies shows that the crown prince, thinking the French exhausted by the terrific defensive battles they had fought during March, April, May and June, had decided to launch a fresh offensive. He was so confident of success that he did not endeavor to hide his preparations.

When Generals Von Einem, Von Boehn and Von Eben started the attack on the night of July 14 they expected to overcome all resistance and easily capture Montmirail, Epinay and Chalons. General Petain, however, had prepared another plan which was presented to General Foch on July 12, and which was approved the following day.

**Strike Counter Blow**  
The idea was to abandon advance posts and hold the principal line of resistance with only the absolutely essential forces and in the meantime prepare a counter offensive on the German flank when the enemy troops were fully engaged in battle. Eastward of Rheims the execution of General Petain's plan was favored by strong positions but to the westward of that city the problem was complicated because of the organization of the ground held by the French had not been completed.

When the battle opened, however, and opposing plans were put to test, that of General Petain proved itself superior. The French, Americans, British and Italians co-operated and completely upset the crown prince's grandiose project. The result was the utter defeat and discomfiture of the German armies which were obliged to employ many divisions which had been reserved for later blows.

**Blow Well Prepared**  
The allied counter offensive was remarkably well prepared and executed. It struck at the right place and at the proper time. The Germans are now very anxious regarding the positions of their great army between the Aisne and the Marne. It is for this reason that they are fighting with desperation.

The present moment for them is one of the most critical of the war, since the allies possess the initiative and the rapidly increasing American army enables them to undertake operations which would otherwise be impossible.

The fighting continues severe, as the ground which the Germans occupy is very suitable for a defensive battle, but their resistance is costing them dearly. Their difficulties are being augmented every day and it is probable that they will be compelled to think hard before starting any other offensive, even if its objective is only to relieve the situation.

### RECREATION FUNDS TO BE MERGED

WASHINGTON, July 26.—Plans under which all organizations seeking by popular subscription funds for providing recreation and amusement for soldiers would unite to carry on a combined campaign are under consideration by the war department. The object is to eliminate overhead expenses and competition among the six separate organizations carrying on work among the soldiers.

The plan provides that government recognized organizations, cooling their campaigns, would receive the same proportion that their lodges bear to the whole amount to be raised.

### WILSON DECRIES MOB SPIRIT AS UN-AMERICAN

President Addresses Countrymen Denouncing Mob Action and Lynch Law—Asks Americans While Fighting for Democracy Abroad to Preserve It at Home.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—President Wilson today in a personal statement addressed his fellow countrymen, denouncing mob spirit and mob action, called upon the nation to show the world that while it fights for democracy on foreign fields it is not destroying democracy at home.

The president denounced most emphatically mob action of all sorts, especially lynchings, and while he did not refer specifically to lynchings of negroes in the south, it is known that he included them in his characterization of mob spirit as "a blow at the heart of ordered law and humane justice."

The president's statement in full follows:

#### President's Statement

"My fellow countrymen: I take the liberty of addressing you upon a subject which so vitally affects the honor of the nation and the very character and integrity of our institutions that I trust you will think me justified in speaking very plainly about it.

"I allude to the mob spirit which has recently here and there very frequently shown its head amongst us, not in any single region, but in many and widely separated parts of the country. There have been many lynchings and every one of them has been a blow at the heart of ordered law and humane justice. No man who loves America, no man who really cares for his family and honor and character or who is truly loyal to her institutions, can justify mob action while the courts of justice are open and the governments of the states and the nation are ready and able to do their duty.

"We are at this very moment fighting lawless passion. Germany has outlawed herself among the nations because she has disregarded the sacred obligations of law and has made lynchings of her armies. Lynchings emulate her disgraceful example. I, for my part, am anxious to see every community in America rise above that level, with pride and a fixed resolution which no man or set of men can afford to despise.

#### Champion of Democracy

"We proudly claim to be the champions of democracy. If we really are, in deed and in truth, let us see to it that we do not discredit our own. I say plainly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives any sort of countenance is no true son of this great democracy, but its betrayer and does more to discredit her by that single disloyalty to her standards of law and of right than the words of her statesmen or the sacrifices of her heroic boys in the trenches can do to make suffering peoples believe her to be their saviors. How shall we commend democracy to the acceptance of other peoples if we disgrace our own by proving that it is after all, no protection to the

(Continued on Page Six.)

### ANTWERP FINED MILLION FRANCS

AMSTERDAM, July 26.—Antwerp has been fined a million francs and the Burgomaster has been deposed by the Germans because of recent happenings in the city, says the Belgique Dagblad. A number of activist prisoners of war from Goettlingen were half killed by inhabitants for carrying on anti-Belgian propaganda. Doctors refused to attend the men whom they called "traitors" and were consequently deported to Germany.

### AMERICANS PRESS AHEAD ON GERMANS

Villemontore and Oulchy-le-Chateau Captured—Fere-en-Tardenois Under Allied Guns—Serious Loss Suffered By Enemy—Allied Guns Rake All Portions of Salient—70 German Divisions Engaged and Loss Is Estimated at 200,000.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, July 26.—Villemontore, a little more than five miles south of Soissons, has been taken by the French and Americans, while farther south they have captured Oulchy Le Chateau and swept on east of the town.

Between the Ourcq and the Marne the Americans are pressing hard against the enemy's lines and have taken the southern half of La Fere forest, which brings them up to about four miles directly south of the vital town of Fere-en-Tardenois, the center of the roads leading back out of the Marne salient and through which the German forces along the southwestern sectors of the line must retreat.

Ris forest, farther southeast toward the Marne, is also being emptied of the Germans.

#### Loss Serious Blow

Villemontore is on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road. It is southwest of Buzancy, which has been reported unofficially to have been taken by the allies. Its capture marks a new step in the process of closing the mouth of the bag in which the Germans are struggling.

The fall of Oulchy-Le-Chateau takes from the Germans the pivot upon which their retirement farther south has been swinging. Its loss to the enemy, who defended it sternly, is a serious blow. In their advance eastward of this town the allies are near Hill 150 which is the dominating height in that region and which would give the allies an observation point over long reaches of the Ourcq.

There is nothing known as to British progress on the line from Geux and Mery-Premy, west of Rheims. The rapid advance of the British there indicates that their progress should continue.

#### Allied Guns Rake Salient

The German retirement is quite evident on the western side of the Marne salient, but southwest of Rheims, nothing has been heard as to an enemy withdrawal.

Allied guns now command every point in the pocket.

Seventy German divisions are reported to have taken part in the fighting already and the enemy losses are estimated at 200,000. More than 25,000 prisoners have been taken by the allies as well as 500 guns and thousands of machine guns.

German attacks near Mteren in the Lys salient, and near Hebuterne, north of Albert, are reported from London. Both enemy onslaughts were repulsed.

Berlin reports that all allied efforts were frustrated Wednesday. Its brief report on Thursday's fighting declares that were "vigorous local actions," between Soissons and Rheims.

### FRISCO FAIR SITE FOR SHIP BUILDING

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26.—Negotiations for the transfer of 256 acres of ground, the site of the Panama Pacific International exposition in 1915, have been opened between officials of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation Ltd. and the directors of the exposition, it was announced here today.

Plans proposed would embrace the erection of a plant employing 15,000 men for the building of ships.