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GERMAN LINES GRADUALLY GIVING WAY

HUNS PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT FURTHER NORTH

Enemy Destroying Much Material—Americans Hold Slightly Advanced Lines, Repelling Violent Attacks By Germans—Feint Results In Extermination of German Force.

PARIS, July 31.—(Havas Agency.) French aerial observers, says the Matin report that there are signs behind the present German battlefield of preparations for continuation of the retirement northward. The enemy is destroying much material and big fires have been seen.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, July 31 noon. (By the Associated Press.) Efforts made by the Germans to advance their lines against the Americans on this front last night and this forenoon were fruitless. The Americans for their part were content to hold their positions along their slightly advanced line for the time. The German line, however, is reported gradually giving way both to the right and left.

There was hard fighting through the night, but no concentrated attack in force by either side.

Trap German Company
During the night the Americans made a pretense of retreating from a part of the town of Serignes. The Germans advanced into the town, on observing the supposed evacuation. Two companies of Americans then closed in and enveloped the German force, killing or capturing every man in it.

Both high explosives and gas shells were sprayed by the Germans over a wide area.

The air forces on both sides were busy this morning. One of the American observers was attacked by eight enemy machines, but escaped and returned to his base.

Hold All Positions
PARIS, July 31.—American troops maintain their position in the region of Serignes-El-Nesles which they carried after violent fighting, according to an official statement from the war office today.

The Germans made four attacks against the new French positions east of Oulchy-Le-Chateau. They were repulsed and the French line was held intact.

The French and the Germans carried out raids at a number of other points on sectors east and west of the Marne salient, but there was no change in the general situation at these points.

NO WORD FOR WEEK RECEIVED FROM FRANCIS

WASHINGTON, July 31.—The arrival of the allied embassy staffs at Kandalaska, Russian Lapland, was reported in Associated Press dispatches last night. The envoys went from Vologda to Archangel but they were not permitted to remain there, representatives of the soviet government sending them on Russian vessels across the White Sea to Kandalaska.

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Reports have reached the state department that Ambassador Francis and all the allied diplomats left Vologda, presumably for Archangel, July 23.—It is understood they were given some sort of choice as to their destination, but the information is so vague the department could not make a definite statement.

GERMAN RULER OF UKRAINE IS ASSASSINATED

Field Marshal Von Eichhorn Bombed By Russian Youth Dies From Loss of Blood—Act Is Instigated By Social Revolutionists—Hated as Tyrant By People.

AMSTERDAM, July 31.—Field Marshal Von Eichhorn, the German commander in the Ukraine and his adjutant, Captain Von Dressler, were killed by a bomb in Kiev Tuesday, says an official announcement received here from the Ukrainian capital.

The bomb was thrown at the men while they were driving to their headquarters from the Casino.

The bomb was thrown from a cab which drove close to their carriage as they were approaching the field marshal's residence.

The assassin and the cab driver have been arrested.

It has been established, the telegram declares that the crime originated with the social revolutionists in Moscow.

Assassin Laid to Rest

The assassin of Field Marshal Von Eichhorn was a lad of 23. He declared at the inquiry held after the crime, the advices state, that he came from the province of Ryznan, adjacent to Moscow, on orders from a communist committee, to kill the field marshal. He reached Kiev yesterday.

General Herman von Eichhorn, the German military dictator of Ukraine, had a brilliant career in the armies of the German empire.

He played an important role in the development of the German military machine.

When the great war broke out he was assigned to the Russian front, where he took part in several campaigns. He was in command of the German army which captured the Russian stronghold of Kovno in August, 1915. He continued to direct operations in southern Poland until Russia's collapse.

In April he was sent to Ukraine to supervise the establishment of a government for the new republic. Upon his arrival he placed the whole republic under German martial law and arrested members of the ministry who he said, were conspiring against the central powers.

Recall Demanded

The Ukrainian Rada demanded his recall but he was retained in Ukraine as virtual dictator.

He brought about the overthrow of the Ukrainian government in May and succeeded in placing in authority General Skeropadski, who had since been operating under orders from General Von Eichhorn.

General Von Eichhorn put into effect the confiscation of all stores of food held in the Ukraine. Ruthless measures were adopted against peasants who opposed the confiscation.

Late in May he sent an urgent appeal to Berlin asking that the troops be sent to meet the menace of an insurrection in Ukraine. It was later announced that a large number of troops were held subject to his call. They General Von Eichhorn asked that engineers, firemen and laborers be sent to him so that the railroads could be kept running.

General Von Eichhorn was born on Feb. 13, 1848, at Breslau. He entered the army in 1866.

BRITISH CASUALTIES FOR JULY, 67,291
LONDON, July 31.—British casualties reported during July totaled 67,291. This compares with total casualties reported in June of 141,147.

The losses for July are divided as follows:
Killed or died of wounds: Officers 521; men 8474.
Wounded or missing: Officers 1527; men 56,759.

HIGH COMMAND TO BREAK NEWS OF BIG DEFEAT

German High Command Announce Retirement for Strategic Purposes and Promise a Decisive Blow Against Anglo-French Front—America Ignored in Statement.

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Official dispatches today from France tell how the German high command has published in the newspapers throughout Germany an official statement preparing the people for the defeat in the second battle of the Marne, but renewing the promise of a decisive blow against the Anglo-French front.

"An official note published in all the papers of the empire," says the dispatches, "tries to make the German public accept the total failure of the ambitious program which was destined to develop into the ultimate crushing of the entente."

"Hindenburg's defense renews the promise of a decisive blow against the Anglo-French front but says the physiognomy which the struggle presents on the front between Soissons and Rheims and the Champagne in consequence of the German attacks and the Franco-British counter attacks (one must note here with what care the American intervention is omitted) has led to the necessity of postponing the decisive blow."

Promise Operations.

"With this end in view, new basis for subsequent operations, proceedings for displacements and strategic regroupings have to be created. Whilst awaiting preparations for future operations, they have been foredoomed to retire in the northern direction of the Marne front."

"How far will this retirement be carried out? A treatment of about a dozen kilometers will perhaps be sufficient." It is not thought necessary today that Hindenburg should find himself under the obligation of withdrawing the front as far back as the Vesle.

The German "interior front" is implored not to renounce its confidence in our Hindenburg on account of that.

Press Is Obedient.

AMSTERDAM, July 31.—The entire German press is obediently toeing the line laid down by the German official communiques regarding the retreat from the Marne. This line substantially is that General Foch's formidable attack to pinch off the whole of the German Marne salient was in vain, that his great sacrifices in men have been bootless and that the initiative remains with the Germans.

To the American official report of the capture of Serignes-El-Nesles, Serigny and Roncheres, the Volks Zeitung of Cologne appends this comment:

"The localities are situated in the zone evacuated by the Germans days ago, undetected by the enemy."

AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS IN ITALY

WASHINGTON, July 31.—The American combat troops are reaching Italy in excellent and splendid spirits, said a cablegram from the American Red Cross representatives with the Italian third army, received today at headquarters here.

The American troops were received at their base by the Italian commanding general and staff and many airplanes flew overhead dropping slips of paper bearing the printed words: "Viva Wilson."

Italian hands acted as escort.

RUSSIANS ORGANIZE TO ASSIST ALLIES

LONDON, July 31.—A union of patriotic Russians has been founded in England with the object of facilitating the military and economic assistance of the allies to Russia.

FAMOUS HUNGER STONE WARNS HUNS OF COMING FAMINE

PARIS, July 20.—(Correspondence of the A. P.) The famous "hunger stone" in the river Elbe, near Tetschen, which according to the popular belief in Germany, predicts a famine when seen, is visible for the first time since the beginning of the war.

The stone lies in the bed of the river and has never been visible save at exceptionally low tide. On the stone is chiselled in old German:

"When ye see me, ye will weep."

HUNS BAYONETTED WOUNDED YANKEES IN SERGY BATTLE

LONDON, July 30.—The Daily Mail's correspondent with the American army on the Aisne-Marne front, telegraphing Monday night, emphasizes the severity of the fighting on the Serigny-Serignes sector. He says the Prussian Guards suffered heavily in repeated attacks against the Americans, who piled up enemy corpses on their front.

The correspondent says for some time Monday the Germans dominated positions on the heights beyond Serigny, the Americans being in the valley. It was said here that the fighting Monday afternoon was most intense. The Americans had no cover, and were obliged to lie in street gutters for shelter, but with the bayonet and machine guns they stormed the heights.

"Sergy changed hands nine times," the correspondent continues, "but tonight it is in American hands. The bitterness of the fighting is shown by the fact that the Americans have only taken a few prisoners. The men are exultant over having defeated so severely the fresh guard divisions."

"The Americans found their wounded in Serigny had been bayoneted. The Germans placed machine guns in the church and also in the Red Cross buildings. The most probable reason for the counter attack is that the enemy found the allied advance too rapid and that it necessitated bringing in the guards into action to gain the time necessary for an orderly retreat."

WAR EXPENSES AHEAD OF BRITONS BUT TAXES LESS

WASHINGTON, July 31.—America's war expenses now are about 50 per cent higher than Great Britain's, it was shown today by comparison of treasury reports and a newly issued British official statement. Owing to the shorter time the United States has been in the war, however, individual burden of taxation in this country is only about one-half as much as in England.

The monthly cost of the war to the United States now is about \$1,500,000,000, while Great Britain's expenses are about \$1,000,000,000 a month. The United States is spending about \$50,000,000 a day, or more than \$2,000,000 an hour. The nation's war debt is now a little less than \$12,300,000,000, as compared with Great Britain's \$36,675,000,000.

Before the war, both nations collected about the same amount of taxes every year, approximately \$1,900,000,000. Now Great Britain collects \$3,270,000,000 and the United States about \$4,000,000,000, but the population in America is double that of Great Britain.

SLAUGHTER SOLE OBJECT OF BOTH BELLIGERENTS

Object of Allies and Germans in Soissons-Rheims Salient Row Is to Kill as Many Men as Possible Says General March—No Chance to Bag Prisoners—New Divisions.

WASHINGTON, July 31.—The sole object of the allies and the Germans in the Soissons-Rheims salient now is to kill as many men as possible. General March, chief of staff said today at his semi-weekly conference with newspaper correspondents. Whatever objective either side had at the beginning, the general said, has been submerged by developments in the fighting.

General March pointed out that the salient has been greatly flattened thus virtually dissipating any hopes of the allies bagging large numbers of the enemy. The German withdrawal since last Saturday, he added, had reduced the length of the line another ten miles to 54 miles. The maximum German retreat in the center is 14 miles.

Arrival of the 42nd (rainbow) division and its participation in the fighting east of Fere-En-Tardenois was announced. The third regular division also was identified as in action at Serigny and Clerges, where the crack German guard divisions have been defeated in recent fighting by American troops.

Six More Divisions

General March announced the formation in the United States of six more divisions, numbered from 15 to 20 and to be located at Camps Logan, Texas, Kearney, Cal.; Beauregard, La.; Dodge, Iowa; and Sevier, S. C. As in the case of the six divisions announced last week, these will be built around the regular infantry regiments in each case.

General March announced also the conversion of 15 national army cavalry regiments, numbered from 39 to 53 into field artillery. These will comprise part of the artillery units for the new divisions.

General March had nothing to reveal as to the extent of the casualties sustained by the American forces in the recent fighting. He said, however, that General Pershing had been ordered to cable the casualties as received and that these would be given out here at once. He added that there would be no distribution of casualties over a long period hereafter.

Only One Army

The chief of staff said that in carrying out the new policy of "one army," the war department intends to put the letters "U. S." heretofore reserved for the regulars on the collar of every man serving in the military forces of the United States.

The sub-designations of "N. G." for National Guard and "N. A." for National Army will be abandoned. In the same connection, General March said that the major generals and thirty-six brigadiers necessary for the new divisions will be selected from all elements of the service.

NAVY CALLS OUT RESERVE OFFICERS

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Orders have been issued by the navy department calling in active service thousands of reservists for duty on ships constructed under the shipping board and navy building programs. The exact number of men transferred to the active duty list was not announced but it was said today that every man for whom space existed in the training camps has been summoned.

"Crickinthenecus"

LONDON, July 31.—Crickinthenecus is the name of a malady suffered by thousands of Londoners, said to be due to watching for air raids.

CZAR PROPPED AGAINST POST FOR EXECUTION

Former Russian Emperor Collapses When Notified of Death Sentence—Given Two Hours Time, He Asks for a Priest and Writes Several Letters—Tried to Speak as Shot.

AMSTERDAM, July 31.—Given two hours in which to prepare for the end, Nicholas Romanoff, former Russian emperor was taken out by his executioners in a state of such collapse that it was necessary to prop him against a post, says the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, which claims to have received from Russian sources an account of the emperor's last hours.

Nicholas was awakened at 5 o'clock in the morning of his execution. He was then taken to a room where the direction of the soviet council was communicated to him. He was informed the execution would be carried out in two hours.

The former emperor received the announcement of the sentence of death with great calmness. He returned to his bedroom and collapsed in a chair. After a few minutes he asked for a priest, with whom he was allowed to remain unattended. During this time he wrote several letters. When the escort arrived to take him to the place of execution, Nicholas vainly attempted to rise from his chair. The priest and a soldier were obliged to help him get to his feet. He descended the stairs with difficulty and once he fell down.

As he was unable to stand without support when the place of execution was reached, he was propped against a post. He raised his hands and seemed to be trying to speak, but the rifles spoke and he fell dead.

LIFE IN MOSCOW MORE BEARABLE THAN IN PETROGRAD

AMSTERDAM, July 30.—"Life in Moscow is now more bearable for the intellectual classes than in Petersburg," (Petrograd) says a special message to the Cologne Volks Zeitung "for Moscow's erstwhile rich have not, like the rich of Petersburg, become ragged curb sellers."

"The Muscovites—Bolsheviks and bourgeoisie—seem to have made up their minds to live peacefully at all events for the time being. The latter have become resigned to their fate, believing there is no power within Russia at present capable of rescuing them. They look abroad for salvation, some to Germany, but the majority to England."

"Meanwhile, both are cooperating after a fashion in the conduct of business affairs, in which the intellectual elements in increasing measure are finding good opportunities for utilizing their superior attainments. And there has been some sort of social reconciliation also."

"That powers that be are convinced that nothing short of fate can dethrone them and think that if they are able to hold on until the autumn crops, their position will be quite secured."

WOMEN OF ESSEN TO BANISH NEUTRALS

LONDON, July 31.—Women of Essen are determined that no more neutral workmen shall be employed at Krupp during the war because for every neutral who comes to work a German workman is sent to the front. The Amsterdam correspondent of the Daily Express says he learned that fact from Dutch workmen who have just returned from Essen.

GERMAN LINE BASE OF SALIENT FACES CAPTURE

Hurried Retreat From Roncheres and St. Gemme Probable to Prevent Outflanking By Allies to North—Germans to Retreat to Vesle River as Ourcq Stand Is Failure.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, July 31.—In spite of the tremendous efforts put forth by the Germans to check the pressure of the allies north of the Ourcq today finds the German positions there in grave danger. French, British and American troops, fighting their way forward east of Fere-En-Tardenois, seem to be in a position to compel a hurried retreat from Roncheres and St. Gemme, at the extreme bottom of the salient between Soissons and Rheims.

The allied line runs south from Soissons to Grand Rozoy and then it begins to turn east. It passes just north of Fere-En-Tardenois and continues to the apex of the new wedge at Nesles, where it turns sharply south toward Roncheres.

Continuous Battle

All around the salient there has been a continuous battle for two days, with the Germans launching repeated counter attacks. They have failed and the allies have gained important ground at vital points.

Immediately south of Soissons and west of Rheims the German lines are strongly held, but enemy efforts to improve his position in the latter region have broken down.

There now seems to be little doubt that the Germans will retreat to the Vesle river, any possibility of making a stand north of the Ourcq seemingly being lost.

In their advance the Americans drove a wedge into the enemy line and the allies are now in a position to drive the Germans back by flank movements both east and west of the head of the apex which lies near Nesles. From the Nesles region southward thru Clerges to Roncheres the German line is about four miles long and affords the allies an opportunity to drive the Germans from the region southwest of Ville-En-Tardenois without a frontal attack against the hills to the south.

No Prisoners Taken

Berlin says the fighting front was quiet Tuesday and that all allied efforts Monday were repulsed.

Some of Germany's divisions, the Fourth Prussian Guard and a Bavarian division, were opponents of American boys from the middle west and eastern states. The Americans had outfought them Monday in the battle for Serigny and defeated them again on Tuesday.

No prisoners were taken, so desperate was the combat. Machine gun and artillery fire forms the main part of the enemy defense.

German shell fire from Nesle forest, however, has had little effect against the Americans.

In Flanders the allied position has been improved further thru the capture of Morris by Australian troops.

CZECHO-SLOVAKS CAPTURE SYZRAM

LONDON, July 31.—The capture by the Czecho-Slovaks in a surprise attack of a large railway bridge at Syzram in the Volga region is reported in a Moscow dispatch transmitted by the Central News correspondent at Amsterdam.

This capture, the message says, secures to the Czecho-Slovaks in this region communication with Siberia.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—Miss Alice Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Wilson of Bullimore and a niece of the president, will be married at the White House to the Rev. Isaac Stuart McElroy, Jr., of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., Wednesday evening, August 7.