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LASSIGNY REPORTED IN FRENCH HANDS

HUNS DRIVEN BACK SLOWLY OFF HEIGHTS

Town of Lassigny Unofficially Reported to Be Taken—Fiercest Hand-to-Hand Fighting in Progress—Germans in Pleumont and Back in Trenches—Battle is the Machine Gun Against the Rifle—French Capturing Plateaus.

LONDON, Aug. 15.—The town of Lassigny on the southern part of the Picardy battle front, for which the French have been struggling over the hills to the west and south, has been captured by them, the Pall Mall Gazette today says it understands.

The reported capture took place this morning. The news of the fall of the town has not been officially confirmed. There was terrific fighting today on top of the Lassigny ridge, the Evening Standard reports. The French there were fighting their way stubbornly forward and this afternoon were pushing solidly down the far side of the elevation, the reports declare.

The Germans were said to be putting up the fiercest sort of resistance and the fighting, it was indicated, might last a day or two before the hill was finally cleared of the enemy.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 14.—(By the Associated Press, 1 p. m.)—The Germans now are in Pleumont, about a mile southeast of Lassigny, to which they retired, following a new advance by the French. General Humbert's army moved forward two miles yesterday and took the St. Claude farm, which makes the hold of the French on the southern part of the Thiesscourt plateau secure.

At Pleumont the Germans found positions all ready to receive them and were able to offer strong resistance. The enemy took Pleumont during the fighting early in June and their old trenches there are still organized with wire entanglements.

The entire region about Lassigny is cut by spurs and ridges which facilitate defensive operations. At Canary-Matz, two miles northwest of Lassigny the Germans are in the old trench positions where wire entanglements still remain. The enemy is seeking to unite parts of the old French with some of his own former positions and is continuing his efforts to hold on there.

Hard Hand to Hand Fighting

These tactics have again changed the entire character of the fighting, bringing the troops back to hand-to-hand encounters in the trenches.

The battle for the Thiesscourt area, however, is only a small part of the operation in progress and developments in other parts of the line may modify the situation before the battle is reopened here.

The Germans have had one advance. They have been falling back upon their supplies while the French have been obliged to bring theirs up over a difficult country.

So far, General Humbert's troops have had four days of constant fighting, fully half of which has been spent in gas-infested sectors. During all this fighting it was the machine gun

(Continued on Page Four.)

BRITISH CASUALTY FOR WEEK 8,620

LONDON, Aug. 14.—British casualties for the week ending today total 8,620, compared with an aggregate of 9,906 reported in the previous week. These are divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds: Officers 215; men 1,441. Wounded or missing: Officers 647; men 6,317.

NOYON NEARED AS FRENCH FIGHT WAY FORWARD

Picardy Battle Stagnant Save in Southern End Where Humbert is Forcing Enemy to Yield in Terrific Encounter—British Meet With Desperate Resistance.

PARIS, Aug. 14, 1:05 p. m.—General Humbert's army operating on the southern end of the Picardy battle line, is reported today to be progressing steadily toward Noyon. The desperate German defense of the Chaulnes-Roye road has caused delay in the storming of the Noyon position which is now said to be impending.

Progress Is Slow

PARIS, Aug. 14.—The battle in Picardy may now seem to be stagnant, but the French have pushed nearer to the Chaulnes-Roye-Lassigny-Noyon line to which the Germans are clinging desperately. It took the allies a fortnight to get the Germans from the Marne to the Vesle.

The ground between the Aves and the Oise is much more difficult than north of the Marne, being a labyrinth of small wooded hills in and out of which the troops have to worm themselves, surrounding and reducing each summit separately and successively. It is no easy task because the enemy laid out his positions long ago so he is able to defend them with groups of picked machine gunners who have orders—which they invariably obey to the letter—to resist until killed. Consequently every inch of ground requires not only great determination in overcoming, but experienced skill.

Tuesday's fighting put the French more than a mile north of Cambonne close to Attelle and Carmoy farms, which are two big machine gun nests.

Vigorous Resistance

The French left advancing on Lassigny, met with vigorous resistance north of St. Claude farm and north of Mareuil-La Motte. However, they succeeded in fighting their way through the woods and moved their line 800 yards northeast of Gury. North of Gury they reached the southern end of Loges wood and also penetrated the park belonging to the Chateau of Plessier-De-Roye. They also reached Beval, between Plessier-De-Roye and Thiesscourt.

The enemy still holds the greater part of Thiesscourt wood and the formidable plateau of Pleumont. The French now have advanced their line to within less than a mile and a half of Lassigny. It will undoubtedly require a tremendous effort to capture either Lassigny or Roye. The fall of Roye would automatically force the evacuation of Lassigny.

The army of General Rawlinson, which is holding the line just to the north of the French positions, is meeting most desperate resistance along its whole front. The Germans seem determined to retain the Chaulnes heights at all costs.

FIRST INDICTMENTS FOR SABOTAGE

SEATTLE, Aug. 14.—First indictments charging violations of the sabotage act, to be returned in this district, were returned by a federal grand jury here today against Leo Hendricks of Everett and Arthur Larson of Bellingham, lumber mill owners.

Hendricks is charged with causing large ship timbers to be cut too short for use, and Larson of driving nails into airplane stock with the alleged intention of ruining an expensive saw at the Morrison Mill company.

Assistant Attorney General C. L. Reames introduced the evidence in the cases.

AMERICAN FIELD ARMY IN FRANCE OF 1,250,000

General Marsh States That First Field Army Contains All Fighting Units Abroad—Use of Sammy as Nickname Frowned Upon—131st Infantry of 33rd Division Fighting.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—The 131st infantry of the 33rd United States division has been engaged in the fighting north of the Somme and particularly in the repulse of an enemy counter attack at Chippilly, General Marsh said today at his semi-weekly conference with newspaper correspondents. This regiment alone captured three officers, 150 men and seven 105 millimeter guns.

Salient Trimmed Away

The Picardy salient has been trimmed away on a front of 53 miles to a maximum depth of 15 miles, the chief of staff said, and the line on the Aisne-Marne front has remained stationary.

The 131st regiment is composed of Illinois national guardsmen and is attached to the 66th brigade of infantry in the 33rd division, commanded by Major General George Bell. The troops were trained at Camp Logan, Tex.

Discussing the work of the 28th division, comprising Pennsylvania guardsmen, in the Aisne-Marne salient, General Marsh said the only report upon its casualties received was that 400 men had been hit during four hours on July 3, in the advance to the Vesle.

The 28th division, General Marsh said, participated in the advance across the Oureq, July 26, when the attack against the German lines thrust the enemy back to the Vesle. The 28th was flanked on one side by the forty-second (Rainbow) and on the other by the third regular division. Its position in the line was between Sergy and Ronchères.

Field Army of 1,250,000

In connection with the announcement of the formation of the first field army August 10, General Marsh disclosed that there were then 31 American divisions in France and the field army included approximately 1,250,000 men.

It is assumed that General Pershing has taken over his own staff as the staff of the first field army. In that case, Major General James W. McAndrew is the chief of staff both of the army and of the American expeditionary forces.

The chief of staff took occasion to frown upon the name "Sammy" for American troops. No American soldier in France approves the use of that name, he said, nor do either the French or British understand why big, strong men like the Americans should be tagged with such a nickname. The British soldiers call their American comrades "Yanks."

General Marsh said no American troops had landed in Siberia as yet. He did not have available figures on the total embarkation for France which he will make public on Saturday.

CZECH SOLDIERS BEING EXECUTED

LONDON, Aug. 14.—Turmoil in Bohemia has resulted in the execution of 74 Czech soldiers and wholesale arrests in many raids, newspapers here reported today. The Hungarian garrisons have been reinforced and arms are being confiscated. Munich newspapers say it is believed that even a slight incident will bring about a general uprising in Bohemia.

LUNDENDORFF ASKED 20 AUSTRIAN DIVISIONS AND SECURED TWO

GENEVA, Aug. 14.—Twenty divisions of troops were demanded of Germany's allies by General Ludendorff during the retreat from the Marne, according to the Democrat which received the news from German sources. Austria-Hungary refused but after General Ludendorff had made threats, Vienna sent two divisions to the western front.

GERMANS BRING UP HEAVY GUNS TO HALT DRIVE

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 14, 10:30 a. m. (By the Associated Press). There was no change in the situation on the new Somme battlefield except for the fact that a considerably increased artillery fire indicates that the enemy has finally decided to bring up more of his guns.

Various small artillery actions have sprung up during the last few hours and are now active in firing on some points within the British lines such as Vauvillers, Framerville, Proyart, Lithons, Dernancourt and the forward areas south of the Villers-Bretonneux-Chaulnes railway.

The Germans have also subjected the valley north of Morlancourt to heavy gas shelling and have similarly treated Harbonnières and the Gressaires wood region.

No further counter attacks by the enemy are reported.

In the region of Bray, north of the Somme, as well as immediately south of the river, the British have been actively straightening and pushing forward their line. Northwest of Bray the British raided the enemy lines and found them unoccupied.

Except for a little increase in the raiding activity by both sides, the remainder of the British front is in a normal state.

DEFEAT CASTS GLOOM THRUOUT RHINE PROVINCES

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 14.—Altho Tuesday's Berlin newspapers regard the Anglo-French main thrust as parried, the journals in the Rhine country discuss the situation in a much graver tone.

The newspapers deem it necessary editorially to brace up the nerves of the people of the Rhineland provinces. The Cologne Volks Zeitung appears to interpret popular apprehensions when it speaks of "another impending ruthless Anglo-French attempt to break through the German northwestern front," and says that Germany follows the terrible struggle with bated breath. In the next column it inveighs against defeatism which is rearing its head in Cologne, Düsseldorf and elsewhere, even in Essen where the people may be heard grumbling: "Another defeat for us—we shall lose the war. We have nothing to eat, no clothes, no shoes; we shall starve and be utterly ruined."

As a cure for this state of mind the Volks Zeitung administers an antidote in the shape of an article about the enemy "wanting to murder, rob and enslave German men, women and children."

The Weser Zeitung of Bremen, with ill-concealed pessimism, regretfully admits in Tuesday's issue that the once decided American army is giving much more trouble than was anticipated.

MEXICO RESENTS BRITISH PROTEST OVER OIL DECREE

Carranza Does Not Recognize Right of Any Foreign Government to Object to Internal Regulations—Proper Procedure is Appeal to Courts—Haughty Attitude Shown.

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 14.—Replying to a protest from Great Britain against provisions of the oil decree of February 22 which was declared to be confiscatory and in violation of the rights of English companies holding oil claims, the Mexican government has declared that it does not recognize the right of any foreign government to protest against decrees of this nature. It holds that the Mexican government is free to adopt such fiscal legislation as is necessary. It suggests that recourse to the courts would be the proper method of determining whether the oil land decree is unjust and confiscatory. The Mexican reply follows in part:

Expresses Surprise

"Without judging the exactness of the qualifications of established taxes, the Mexican government can only express the surprise caused by the note and the protest of his Britannic majesty, were in the capacity of an independent nation in the legitimate exercise of her sovereignty, Mexico issued a decree against which the only recourse that Mexican laws concede is when courts judge to be onerous and confiscatory, taxes decreed by public power.

"The surprise of the Mexican government is legitimate, as would be that of any other government of a free country, including that of his Britannic majesty, if it found that acts of interior legislation such as the right of imposing contributions were called in question by the diplomatic protests of the countries of subjects affected by the imposition.

Haughty Answer

"In virtue of its freedom of fiscal legislation, it is opportune to declare that the Mexican government does not recognize the right of any foreign country to protest against acts of this nature coming from the right to exercise interior sovereignty, and in consequence cannot accept the responsibility which it is pretended will be charged to her account as supposed damages as a consequence of this legislation. Such a decision is founded upon the equality which the Mexican government desires should exist between Mexicans and foreigners regarding contributions decreed in its territory.

"The course to be taken by foreigners and nationals alike to free themselves from impositions which are deemed confiscatory consists in submitting the case before tribunals which are always found ready to administer justice applying the law, which justly guarantees individuals against confiscation of property. Furthermore, it is generally admitted that diplomatic representation should be the last recourse taken and only when the last resources have been exhausted."

YOUTHS OF 21 TO REGISTER FOR DRAFT AUGUST 24

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—Registration on Saturday, August 24, of all youths who have reached the age of 21 since the second registration last June 5 was ordered today by Provost Marshal General Crowder, under a proclamation by the president. The purpose is to add quickly to the almost exhausted class one to meet army draft calls in September.

About 150,000 young men will register. Most of them will qualify for class one, and therefore will join the army probably within a month after their names are recorded.

President Wilson's proclamation excepts the territories of Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico from the registration temporarily, but a later day will be fixed for these. Only men in the armed service are exempted from registration.

It was announced that the suggested date, September 5, would not be the day for the registration of men from 18 to 45, even if congress passes the bill, because several of the largest states in the union hold primary elections on that date.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 14.—Registration of youths who have reached 21 since June 5, 1918, will be held August 24, according to a telegram received from Provost Marshal General E. H. Crowder at state draft headquarters today. This registration, it was pointed out in the telegram, should not be confused with that pending under new legislation for some time in September.

ALLIED MUNITIONS COUNCIL MEETING IN PARIS TODAY

PARIS, Aug. 14.—The inter-allied munitions council meets in Paris today. The United States is represented by Edward R. Stettinius.

GERMAN U-BOAT SINKS TANKER OFF NEW YORK

New Ship Torpedoed Off Ambrose Channel at Gates of Harbor—Vessel Sinks in Three Minutes—Seven of Crew Killed in Engine Room When Missile Struck.

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—A German submarine, approaching the very gates of New York harbor, sank the oil tanker Frederick R. Kellogg off the Ambrose channel last night. Thirty-five members of the crew brought here today reported that seven others are missing. These survivors were picked up by an American steamship.

The Frederick R. Kellogg was a new tank steamship of 7,127 tons gross register, valued at more than \$1,500,000. Under command of Captain C. H. White she was on her way from Tampico, Mexico, to Boston with a cargo of approximately 70,000 barrels of crude oil.

The ship was owned by the Petroleum Transport company and was launched a year ago this month at Oakland, Cal.

Sank in Three Minutes

Torpedoed without warning at 6:10 last evening, the Kellogg sank in three minutes, said members of her crew on coming ashore today. The seven missing men who were in the engine room are believed to have been killed.

The survivors, in some small boats, rowed for three hours toward shore, when a freighter took them aboard.

Escapes Torpedo

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Aug. 14.—A German submarine off the tip of Cape Cod early last night fired a torpedo at the steam trawler Walrus, which missed by a narrow margin, Captain Clayton Morrissy of the Fishermen reported on arrival here today. Because of the fog Captain Morrissy said he was able to escape.

GLOUCESTER, Mass., Aug. 14.—Owners of the fishing schooner On Time, previously reported sunk by a German submarine, said today the vessel was safe in an Atlantic port.

U. S. ENVOY BREAKS WITH BOLSHEVIKI

Consul General Poole at Moscow Turns American Interests at Moscow Over to Swedish Consul and Asks for Passports Because of Bolsheviki Declaration of War Against Entente Allies—Flight of Lenine and Trotsky Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—Consul General Poole at Moscow, has turned over his duties to the Swedish consulate there, destroyed his code book and asked for safe conduct for himself and the other members of the office to return to the United States.

This information reached the state department in official dispatches from Stockholm transmitting the first word heard from Mr. Poole since he reported under date of Aug. 12 joining with the allied consuls in demanding an explanation of a statement of Lenine, the Bolsheviki premier, that a state of war existed with the allies.

Represented America

In the absence of Ambassador Francis, who is at Archangel, Consul Poole has been the American representative with the Bolsheviki government. He reported that in spite of assurances from Tchitcherin, the foreign commissary, he was apprehensive for the safety of the consulate and called upon the Swedish consul to take charge of American interests after destroying his code book as a supreme precaution.

The consul's dispatch tells in detail of events which transpired up to a week ago. Since then Lenine and Trotsky have fled to Kronstadt, and it is regarded as possible here that the Bolsheviki government at Moscow has been overthrown, in which case it is believed Poole would remain there on friendly terms with the new regime.

America Not Included

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 14.—The Bolsheviki government of Russia as late as August 6 considered itself at peace with the United States altho at war with Great Britain and France, according to a note delivered on that date by Foreign Minister Tchitcherin to Consul Poole at Moscow, as quoted by the German semi-official Wolff bureau. The Bolsheviki minister said he had placed at the consul general's disposal the Russian wireless station and asked Mr. Poole to inform his government that an unjustifiable attack was being made upon the Bolsheviki government. M. Tchitcherin protested against the allied landing in the north.

Reason of Exclusion

"These people who did not declare war against us, act like barbarians toward us, but we, who represent the oppressed poor, are no barbarians like these invaders. Our retaliation against those who shoot members of our soviet does not take the shape of similar acts against representatives of these governments.

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In his note to American Consul Poole, protesting against the British and French military action Tchitcherin said:

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"While we take this action toward the official representatives of Great Britain and France we take into con-

SENATOR GALLINGER AT DEATH'S DOOR

FRANKLIN, N. H., Aug. 14.—United States Senator Jacob H. Gallinger was reported today in a critical condition at a hospital here. He is suffering from heart trouble and physicians expressed anxiety regarding his illness. He is 81 years of age.