



# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



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## AMERICANS TAKE 20,000 PRISONERS; FRENCH LAUNCH NEW DRIVE FOR LAON

### GREAT RUSH TAKES POILUS OVER THE TOP

Marshal Foch Launches New Offensive Aimed at St. Gobain Massif, Defending Citadel of Laon—Penetrate German Lines for Two Miles on Wide Front From Ailette to Aisne—British Occupied Principally in Repelling German Attacks.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sept. 14.—Marshal Foch has launched an offensive movement which seems mainly to be aimed at the St. Gobain massif, defending the German citadel of Laon.

The French this morning attacked on both sides of the river Ailette and in the region of the Aisne to the south and southeast.

General Petain's troops started with a great rush which took them into the German lines at points for a distance of one to two miles. Prisoners began coming back rapidly, 1,800 having been taken in one division of the front alone at an early hour.

The French pressure seemed to be particularly effective south of the Ailette where they captured the important height Mont Des Singes and the towns of Allement and Concy. Their advance here threatens the right flank of the Chemin Des Dames.

**Closing in on Laon**

This movement also represents a further closing in on the St. Gobain massif, which is accentuated by progress north of the Ailette, where the French are working into the upper forest of Concy, beyond the former German line.

On the Aisne front the French progress likewise was reported satisfactory.

On the British front Field Marshal Haig's forces appear to have been mainly occupied in beating off repeated German attacks on the important ground recently won from the enemy. All these German attempts, which were particularly persistent at Gouzenourt and Havincourt, were unsuccessful. The British have made progress, however, northwest of St. Quentin, where their lines now run east of Jeumont.

In Flanders British forces have occupied the town of Auechy-Les-La-Basse, only a little more than a mile from the town of La Bassée.

**Attack at Dawn**

LONDON, Sept. 14, 1 p. m.—French troops began a new attack at dawn this morning on both sides of the Ailette river and between the river Aisne and the Vesle river.

The attack of the French forces in the direction of the forest of Concy at the southern end of St. Gobain massif was progressing satisfactorily this morning.

(Continued on Page Six.)

### PRESIDENT PUNCTURES COTTON SPECULATION

NEW ORLEANS, La., Sept. 14.—Announcement by President Wilson that if found necessary a basic price would be fixed for cotton, caused a wild and sensational opening on the New Orleans cotton exchange today and in the first few minutes of trading prices dropped an average of \$11.50 per bale. As compared with closing prices yesterday quotations ranged from 227 to 235 points lower on the active months. It was the widest drop ever recorded here in a similar period of trade.

### ERA OF SLAVERY FOR ST. MIHIEL PEOPLE ENDED

Four Four Years Huns Had Made Life a Nightmare for Population, Deporting All Boys Over 10 and Forcing Old People Into Servitude—Gratitude to America Boundless.

AMERICAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Sept. 14.—(Reuters.)—Capture of St. Mihiel after its four years of martyrdom is regarded as one of the most striking incidents of its kind in the records of the war. The Germans left the town at 8 p. m. on Thursday. They had made life a nightmare for the inhabitants who had been unable to escape when the enemy occupied the city. All the boys from 10 to 16 years old had been deported and the old people forced to work for the conquerors.

**Gratitude Boundless**

The gratitude of the remaining inhabitants to the Americans was boundless. They were at last free to speak without fear of vengeance from the tyrants that had ruled over them.

The people had lost their ordinary war time look of weariness, and the drive into this queer, wrecked paradise of gladness was a notable experience. A French military band had come in over the first bridge and was playing the Marseillaise in the square, about which all the inhabitants had assembled. Their eyes were radiant and their bearing that of prisoners set free. They were volubly communicative and determined to treat as a hero any one wearing an American uniform.

**Town Partly Ruined**

The town was only partly ruined. That part adjoining the river was almost entirely gone, but scores of houses elsewhere had been scarcely damaged. The attack was such a surprise that the enemy was unable to undertake his usual work of wrecking. He laid hands, however, on everything he could carry out. Sheets and blankets were torn from the beds and loaded onto wagons, but it is possible that those wagons by this time are now in allied hands, since the enemy had only 12 hours to escape from one of the claws closing across the salient.

The enemy did set fire to a few houses, but the inmates extinguished the flames.

The Germans looted both the banks during their occupancy. The inhabitants had depended largely for sustenance on the food furnished by the American relief committee.

### TRAIN HITS SLIDE, ENGINEER KILLED

PORTLAND, Sept. 14.—Hyde Johnson of Vancouver, Wash., engineer on a local passenger train of the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railroad, operating between Portland and Fallbridge, Wash., was instantly killed and J. B. Rhue, brakeman, of Portland, was seriously injured when the train plunged into a landslide at 9 o'clock last night, four miles beyond Lyle, Wash., according to a report made to the railroad headquarters here. The engine was completely overturned, but none of the passenger coaches left the rails. None of the train passengers were injured.

Fireman Deabo, who was in the cab of the engine, escaped without injury. A heavy rain had loosened earth and rock, causing the slide. The train crew had no intimation of the danger until directly upon the mass of rock.

The road was blocked until 10 o'clock today.

### U.S. TO EXERCISE WHOLE STRENGTH STATES MARCH

Statements That America is Not Going to Utilize All Resources Against Germans Pronounced Hun Propaganda by Chief of Staff Who Pays Tribute to Soldiers at St. Mihiel.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Elimination of the St. Mihiel salient by the first big American offensive and the consequent reduction of that sector by 22 miles, General March said today, is of extreme importance in that it gives the allies a much better base "for future offensive operations."

General March paid high tribute to the American forces which in less than two days wiped out this salient, the narrowest and most angular on the entire western front. The operations there, he said, not only were a tribute to the work of the staff, but to the individual soldier.

"It's hot stuff," he said warmly.

**Under New Staff**

No report has yet come from General Pershing identifying any individual unit which participated in the advance. General March, however, announced the composition of the staff, which under General Pershing, planned and executed the movement.

This staff is entirely different from the general staff of the American expeditionary forces which remained in its entirety at the expeditionary headquarters.

General March pointed out in connection with the Germans' claim that the St. Mihiel salient had been abandoned voluntarily that no mention was made by the Germans of the big loss of prisoners.

Capture of the salient was accomplished by quick sharp blows on both flanks, General March explained. The American troops advanced across a difficult terrain consisting of densely wooded hills intersected by numerous ravines.

**Enthusiasm in Army**

All reports from American forces at the front indicated high spirits and enthusiasm throughout the whole army. General March said the American soldier quickly became imbued with this spirit as soon as he landed, if he did not possess it before.

The arrival abroad of the fortieth division, composed of California, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado troops trained at Camp Kearney, Cal., was announced. Part now is in England.

**In War to Finish**

General March laid particular emphasis on the determination of the United States to continue to exert its whole strength against the Germans. He referred to recent publications which, he said intimated that America was not going thru with the war despite the enlarged military program. This suggestion, he declared, was "preposterous in its falsity."

It seemed incredible, the chief of staff said, that such propaganda

(Continued on Page Six.)

### FREQUENT RAINS FOR COMING WEEK

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday, issued by the weather bureau today are:

"Northern Rocky mountain and plateau regions: Frequent local rains during the week with somewhat lower temperature during early days; nearly normal thereafter.

Pacific states: Quite frequent rains are indicated in Washington, Oregon, and northern California; generally fair during the week. No decided temperature changes.

### LEADS NEW DRIVE.



GENERAL MANGIN

This is a new picture of the French general who has made an imperishable name for himself by leading the French and American advance along the Aisne.

### CAMP LEWIS TO BE ENLARGED TO HOLD 60,000 SOLDIERS

CAMP LEWIS, TACOMA, Sept. 14. Plans for the building of 70 additional barracks, which will bring the total housing capacity of the encampment to 60,000 are in course of preparation by the quartermaster's department here.

Estimates on the cost, the probable location and other figures necessary before the construction of the buildings are ordered, will be decided on.

Additional buildings, including necessary warehouses and wash rooms, will bring the contemplated addition to the camp to 200 buildings, it was said by officers in the constructing department today.

The site for the addition will be on the east side of the Pacific highway, a mile and a half from the present main camp. This location is close to the water main and is located advantageously from a drainage viewpoint. The new buildings, it was said this morning will cost \$1,250,000, the barracks being capable of housing 150 men each.

### YANK ADVANCE SCARES GERMAN'S

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—An official dispatch from France today says there are evidences of excitement everywhere across the German border and quotes the following from the Mulhausen Tageblatt:

"The American offensive in upper Alsace and the long range gun supposed to be intended to reduce to ashes the towns of this country is badly alarming the inhabitants. Even people of a high rank tremble at the news like little children listening to ghost stories. Of course, the evacuation of Mulhausen and the whole of Alsace is again in question and it is said that all measures for the actual evacuation of the grand duchy from Baden to Feiberg have already been taken."

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Threatened labor difficulties at the Bethlehem, Pa., steel works have been averted by a promise from the company to obey an order from the war labor board to put into effect immediately the board's award in the wage controversy.

### WOMEN WEEP HAILING YANKS AS DELIVERERS

Civilians of St. Mihiel Region Held in Bondage for Four Years Kiss Baker's Hands and Embrace American Soldiers—155 Square Miles of Territory Regained in 26 Hours.

AMERICAN ARMY IN LORRAINE, Sept. 14.—(By the Associated Press.)—The civilian population of St. Mihiel almost wholly feminine because of the removal of males of military age, welcomed Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war and General Pershing and Petain when they visited the village a few hours after it was captured.

Aged women and girls crowded about Secretary Baker and the two generals accompanying him to pay homage to their deliverers. It was not merely curiosity; it was an emotional outburst following almost four years of the conqueror's oppression. The word was passed about that the small civilian was the American secretary of war whose armies had accomplished their relief and from half destroyed houses and from points far removed from the center of the village inhabitants hurried to get a glimpse of the visitors.

**Women Weep Thanks**

A military band was brought up from the rear; the Marseillaise was played and the civilian's restraint broke down completely. Women crowded forward ostensibly to shake the secretary's hand, but instead they kissed his hands and wept and then they joined in a chorus of thankfulness. There were no speeches, but many times Secretary Baker responded briefly to expressions of gratitude.

Thirty-six hours of fighting netted General Pershing's forces approximately 155 square miles of territory in the St. Mihiel salient, which had been in German hands since the autumn of 1914.

Following American troops through captured villages, the correspondent found on every hand evidences of long control by the Germans. Bills for supplies had been paid with currency on which the Germans had printed French monetary terms.

**People Isolated**

The inhabitants of the salient were almost ignorant of events in the last four years, knowing only what their captors had told them. Here the sad stories heard in the whole of the reclaimed districts of France were accentuated by the long years of German control which had isolated the people from news of relatives and of world happenings.

Every American entering the villages experienced the same reception as that given to Secretary of War Baker and General Pershing and their party. Aged men and women seized and kissed the hands of the officers and correspondents, crying and laughing, the curiously aged children imitating their elders unknowingly.

From their captivities, however, the greeting was deeper and the French patriots and troops following were even more affected than those who had been delivered.

Later in the evening General Pershing and Secretary Baker resumed their journey in others sections of the reclaimed region.

### BETHLEHEM STEEL PROMISES TO BE GOOD

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Threatened labor difficulties at the Bethlehem, Pa., steel works have been averted by a promise from the company to obey an order from the war labor board to put into effect immediately the board's award in the wage controversy.

### FRENCH REGARD YANK VICTORY AS MASTER STROKE

"American Army Gains Genuine Victory at High Speed" Says Military Critic—Wounded Men Describe Fighting as of Severest Sort—Americans "Terrible Adversaries."

PARIS, Sept. 14.—The American army's recent drive in the St. Mihiel section in the world war is regarded by the French press and public as a master stroke. Further details showing the extent of ground gained and the great number of prisoners taken in two days on a relatively small front have more than borne out early expectations.

**Genuine Victory**

"The American army has gained a genuine victory at high speed," says Colonel De Thompson, military critic, who pays tribute to the American staff and troops for their having in such a brief time attained such high standard of efficiency.

To say that last night's American official report repeated an achievement far in excess of what had been expected is no disparagement of the American army, but the moral effect in France seems in consequence of this to measure well up with the military results attained.

American soldiers in Paris are lionized by the people, who stop them on the streets and grip their hands in congratulation over the victory.

**Severest Fighting**

The first groups of wounded at an evacuation hospital behind the battlefront today from St. Mihiel sector forgot their sufferings in joy over the hearing the Germans had been given, says the correspondent of La Liberte. A captured German officer declared Americans were "terrible adversaries," the correspondent says.

Wounded men in talking of the engagement described the fighting as of the severest sort, especially in the series of dense woods scattered and along the railroad line. Scarcely two hours after the attack was launched Germans started a counter attack with three divisions which, however, were unable to stop the American advance.

"The American troops," adds the correspondent, "showed magnificent bravery and disregard of danger."

**Praise Americans**

Editorial writers are generous in praise of the American effort. "This operation," says the Echo De Paris, "does honor to the enterprising spirit of the American leaders and the incomparable ardor of their troops."

The Petit Parisien says:

"It is the first time the American army alone has launched an offensive on a great scale, but it will not be the last. From the showing it has made the Germans have been able to see that they have to reckon with a most ardent, enthusiastic and audacious troops."

### NAVY ENLISTMENTS TO BE REOPENED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Volunteer enlistment or induction into the navy of men with special qualifications will be reopened under an agreement reached today.

It is understood the plan provides that the navy shall select the men needed for its special branches, the remainder to come through the regular draft process.

Navy recruiting stations will be reopened to co-operate with local boards in securing skilled men and to serve as mobilization centers for drafted men allotted to the navy.

### YANKS CUT 22 MILES OFF BATTLE LINE

Having Eliminated St. Mihiel Salient, Americans are Continuing Advance—Base Secured for Operations Against Metz Which is now Target for Airship Attacks—Over 20,000 Germans Captured and More Surrounding to be Counted Later.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sept. 14.—The Americans, after eliminating the St. Mihiel salient, are continuing their advance. From Pagny across the Moselle river from German territory, the new front extends in almost a straight line to the vicinity of Hattenville, where it advances slightly toward the northwest to Fresnes. This reduction of the front line from some 40 to 20 miles, places at the disposal of the allied commanders an enormous force of men for future operations in this sector or on other fronts.

Further straightening of the line is probable. The Americans at this stage of the drive command positions favorable for a direct invasion of German territory, if such a course should be decided upon. Although the important German fortress of Metz is in no immediate danger, its outlying fortifications are within easy range of American heavy guns at Pagny.

**Metz Airship Target**

Metz itself furnishes an excellent target for allied airmen, who already have taken advantage of the opportunity and dropped many bombs on railway stations and military stores in the city and vicinity. With its strong outer protection of fortifications a frontal attack on Metz could hardly be expected but an outflanking movement by the Americans on the west, or by the French and Americans from the south would force the Germans to evacuate both the fortress and the territory surrounding it.

In their haste to get out of the salient with as little loss of men and military supplies as possible, the Germans left the railroad from Verdun to Commercy, Toul and Nancy virtually intact. The capture of this line of railway adds greatly to the facility of troop movements towards Verdun, which has been a great handicap to the allies in the past.

**Capture Over 20,000**

In the first few hours of their operation as a distinct unit the Americans have driven the enemy out of some 30 villages, many strongly fortified positions prepared during the four years of their occupation of the salient and are reported to have captured more than 20,000 prisoners and large quantities of guns and other military material. Prisoners are still coming to the rear and no attempt has yet been made to estimate the quantity of enemy supplies captured.

On other fronts the allies continue their pressure against the German lines. Cambrai and St. Quentin are in danger of being outflanked by the British and French.

**France Renounces TREATY WITH SWISS**

PARIS, Sept. 14.—Dispatches from Geneva state that the French government has renounced the Franco-Swiss commercial convention of 1906, owing to the entente policy to put an end to all commercial treaties in which the most favored nation clause exists, with a view to preventing the enemy from benefiting after the war.