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NEW BLOW IMPENDING 'GAINST GERMANS

AMERICANS EXPECTED TO STRIKE AGAIN

Allies Preparing for New Smash as Answer to Peace Proposals—Thought Either Lorraine Front or Rheims Sector Likely to Be Scene of Next Offensive—Tension Exists From Swiss Frontier to Sea—Americans Straighten Lines.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sept. 17.—Aerial activity in the region from Laon to Metz continued intense and possibly may be the forerunner of large-scale infantry operations on this front. French aviators have accounted for sixteen captive balloons and twelve enemy airplanes, while allied bombing squadrons have been drenching enemy railway junctions and other targets effectively. German artillery fire against the new American front southwest of Metz is very strong. The belief that the enemy is digging in in the Hindenburg line is strengthened by the fact that his heavy artillery bombardment has not been followed by infantry attacks.

New Blow Impending
 It seems probable that a new and mighty blow against the Teutonic armies in France will be the allies' answer to the peace proposals voted by Austria on behalf of the central powers.

From the sea to the Swiss frontier there is a tension which may forebode another development of Marshal Foch's masterly offensive. Local actions by which the allies have tried out the German positions and gained points of vantage from which to launch their next assault. General Pershing's first American army, standing before the fortress of Metz, has straightened its lines across the base of the St. Mihiel salient. It is known that there is a heavy concentration of men in this region and it is expected the Americans will not give the enemy much time to recuperate before delivering a new blow.

Activity in Vosges
 In the Vosges region there is great activity by the enemy, who evidently expects the Americans to attack the German lines to the west of the Rhine. In this sector the Americans are standing on German soil and an assault there would, if successful, carry the war nearer to the heart of Germany than elsewhere along the Rhine. The country to be traversed by an attacking army, however, is very rough and lends itself admirably to defensive operations.

Marshal Foch, however, may elect to strike to the west where the German positions have been seriously shaken by the American victory at St. Mihiel.

May Strike in West
 Such an attack probably would compel a German retreat from the region north of Rheims as well as a re-location of the enemy's lines around Verdun, which is a sector

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GERMAN SOCIALISTS THREATENS OPPOSITION

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 17.—Pieter J. Troelstra, the Dutch socialist leader, recently refused admission to England for alleged German sympathies, announces that he conferred Friday with Frederic Ebert, chairman of the social democratic party in the German reichstag, and that Ebert declared: "If the deliberations of the Prussian upper house, as I assume, will fall to lead to equal suffrage and if the government should not dissolve the diet, we should adopt an attitude of sharpest opposition to the government."

BRITISH CLOSE IN ON ST. QUENTIN FRENCH ON LAON

From Ypres to Rheims the British and French are Advancing Line in Local Actions—Flanking of St. Quentin Begun—French Making Progress Over Best Fortified Position.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sept. 17.—From Ypres to Rheims the British and French are carrying out local engagements with success. Between Lens and Ypres the British have pushed forward slightly, while northwest of St. Quentin they are pressing toward Le Verguier, which is on high ground and offers a good starting point for a flanking movement north of St. Quentin.

Mangin's Hard Fight
 WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE FIELD, Sept. 17.—(By the Associated Press, night.)—Creeping on all fours over plateau and up ravines dotted with German quick firers, the French are seeking hidden machine gun nests and reducing them with grenades.

General Mangin's troops are making one of the most courageous and most admirable fights of this war south of St. Gobain forest against what a high French officer has described as a "natural citadel that men have been perfecting for four years."

Take 600 Prisoners
 The French made 600 more prisoners in this region today under conditions of difficulty which can scarcely be appreciated except by persons on the ground. They gained a thousand yards over a front of two and a half miles, which would seem insignificant in proportion to the effort were the position less important. Every hundred yards of an advance made here weakens a pillar in the German resistance in St. Gobain forest.

An order signed by the general commanding a German division defending this position was found on a prisoner. The document pointed out how vital it was to hold the lines there. "If the height to the east of Laffaux remains in our hands," says the order, "it prevents the enemy from obtaining a view of both sides of the canal from the Oise to the Aisne."

LONDON, Sept. 17.—Last night witnessed a further closing in of the British lines northwest of St. Quentin. Field Marshal Haig today announced that the British had made progress in this area in the direction of Le Verguier.

The text of the statement reads: "Our troops made progress yesterday in the direction of Le Verguier, northwest of St. Quentin. We improved our positions slightly yesterday and during the night northwest of Hulloch and northeast of Neuve Chapelle (Flanders front)."

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 17.—(By the Associated Press.) The advance of the

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HAIG CONGRATULATES UNITED STATES ARMY

LONDON, Monday, Sept. 16.—Field Marshal Haig today issued a special order of the day for the information of British troops in France. It reads: "To General Pershing, Sept. 16, 1918. Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces. "All ranks of the British armies in France welcome with unbounded admiration and pleasure the victory which attended the initial offensive of the great American armies under your personal command. "I beg of you to accept and to convey to all ranks my best congratulations and those of all ranks of the British armies under my command."

ENEMY PLANS WITHDRAWAL ON LORRAINE LINE

Evidence Accumulates That Germans Intend to Retire Behind Hindenburg Line—Burning Towns Along the Moselle—Quiet Day on Front With Patrol Actions at Haumont.

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES IN LORRAINE, Sept. 17.—(By Associated Press.) 3 p. m. An American patrol in a raid made early this morning in the general region of Haumont, northwest of Thiancourt, captured five non-commissioned officers and killed seven other non-commissioned officers.

The German prisoners said they had received orders to hold their positions unless strongly attacked. The non-commissioned officers were from an officers school in the vicinity of Conflans. They said they had been ordered to the front for practical experience.

In addition to the towns along the Moselle which would fall into American hands should the enemy withdraw behind the Hindenburg line and which he is burning, other fires have been started by the Germans. The towns of Dommarin La Chaussee and La Chaussee, both on the Hindenburg line, are in flames.

Prepared to Retire
 AMERICAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN LORRAINE MONDAY, Sept. 16.—(Evening Reuters.)—Evidence is accumulating that the enemy intends withdrawing behind the Hindenburg line in Lorraine if he is pressed any further. He is burning towns along the Moselle.

Prisoners taken report that the entire artillery of the 31st German division was captured in the American operation on this front.

This division was used to bear the brunt of the attack in the lunge in the salient east of St. Mihiel, it was appears, was the 33th Austrian division. It was ordered to maintain a holding action until all the German troops were withdrawn. In consequence of this it suffered very heavy losses, especially in prisoners.

Monday Quiet Day
 WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN LORRAINE, Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p. m.—(By the Associated Press.)—Today was the quietest day on this front since the beginning of the offensive last Thursday. There was little infantry activity and only moderate artillery action.

Point-A-Mousson and Dienhaourt, four miles to the south, were shelled by the enemy, who mixed in a few mustard gas projectiles. The Germans apparently were digging themselves in behind the Hindenburg line.

Aviators Active
 American and allied aviators carried out extensive bombing raids on Eyonville, Frescatti, Le Sablon and in the direction of Metz today. Fires were observed at Salons. One of the American planes shot down a German balloon near Prey.

Lieutenant Richardson was attacked by an enemy machine bearing French markings. He was forced to land inside the American lines but was uninjured. An American balloon was shot down yesterday but the observer escaped safely by parachute.

NO EXEMPTION FOR MUNICIPAL BONDS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Provisions of the war revenue bill levying federal income taxes on future issues of state, county and municipal bonds were approved today by the house, a motion for their elimination being defeated 132 to 61. In adopting the section of the war revenue bill taxing the income of corporations the house today reduced the rate to 12 per cent on dividends paid, debts discharged and liberty bonds bought after last September.

BULGAR REGIMENTS ASSIST GERMANS ON WESTERN FRONT

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 17.—Bulgarian regiments have arrived at Maubeuge to co-operate with the German troops on the western front, according to the Echo Beige reports. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Unofficial reports that Bulgarian troops have appeared on the western front attracted attention here today, but the question of adding Bulgaria formally to the list of enemies of the United States will not be considered until there is an official report on this subject.

PRESIDENT STOPS BEER MANUFACTURE AFTER DECEMBER 1

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—President Wilson today signed a proclamation prohibiting after next October first the use of any foodstuffs in brewing beer and near beer except malt and hops. After December first brewers must cease brewing altogether. Food administration officials say there will still be enough beer in the vats to last from two to six months, and the sale of this will not be stopped.

TWELVE GIRLS JUMP TO DEATH IN FACTORY FIRE

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 17.—All police reserves and ambulances in the city were ordered out to a fire which broke out this afternoon in the plant of the American button company here. Police reports were that many girls were jumping from the windows of the factory.

Twelve persons are dead, according to the first police report. The blaze is still raging and firemen and policemen are making rescues.

All the dead are girl employees, 10 of whom were trapped on the fourth floor, while two others, who jumped, died in an ambulance.

At least twelve, perhaps more, of the young women seriously, were injured, some of them seriously, the police reported.

After the fire was under control firemen began a search of the building.

CASUALTIES LIGHT DECLARES BAKER

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Newton D. Baker, American secretary of war, received the American correspondents this afternoon. He said that he would go to France for a few days but would return to London in about a week.

Mr. Baker was enthusiastic in his praise of the American troops in France. He described the wonderful dash of the Americans at St. Mihiel. Later he saw German prisoners coming in and remarked that the Americans managed them as if they had been doing it all their lives.

"The spirit and smiles of the Americans, even among the wounded," he said, "is inspiring. Our casualties were remarkably light, being for the most part minor wounds."

EXPOSE ACTIONS OF BOLSHEVIKI TO INJURE U. S.

Secret Activities of German Paid and Controlled Lenine-Trotzky Government Exposed in Documents Made Public—Bolsheviki Peare and Socialist Propaganda Against Allies.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Secret activities against the United States and the allies of the German paid and controlled Bolsheviki government are the subject of today's chapter of confidential documents from Russia given to the public by the American government.

One of the documents, a terse note from the German general staff to the Council of People's Commissioners, discloses that as long ago as November, 1917, when the Russian regime still was regarded as an ally of the nations at war with Germany, the Germans were busily requiring Lenine and Trotzky to furnish information regarding the amounts and places of storage of supplies received by Russia from America, England and France.

Moves Against America
 Others tell of the launching in January and February this year of a Bolsheviki peace and socialist propaganda against the United States, England and France, at the direction of the German intelligence service. This was at the very time that Sheidemann, powerful German socialist, and world socialism apostle, was in communication with his Russian brothers regarding the destruction of the traces of the party's business relations with the imperial government. The intelligence service required the Bolsheviki to send to the allied countries through neutral Europe "comrades" under assumed names and with false neutral passports to preach their doctrine of disorganization and to carry on campaigns of "counter revolution, sabotage, looting, etc."

U-Boats for Pacific
 Plans of the Germans for sending three submarines, disassembled, by rail overland to Vladivostok for service on the Pacific are disclosed in a communication of the German high seas fleet general staff to the commissars. Another of the naval communications reveals a scheme communicated in January of employing Russian ships on the Pacific under the Russian flag to carry agitators and "agents-destructors" to the United States, Japan and the British colonies in eastern Asia.

Personal notes from the German intelligence service to the commissars describing the assault upon and robbery of the Italian ambassador in the streets of Petrograd in February last in a vain effort to get possession of important papers believed to have been in the ambassador's possession. Other notes tell in detail of the watch kept on the American and other allied embassies.

Like the remainder of the documents of the series, those made public today are accompanied by notes explaining which are originals and which photographic copies, and by explanatory comments by Edgar Stevenson, who obtained the correspondence in Russia for the Committee on Public Information.

WANTS CABINET SEAT FOR AVIATION HEAD

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—With amendments eliminating the provision for a new cabinet officer and limiting the life of the proposed department to a year after the war, the bill of Senator Dew of Indiana to create a separate department of aeronautics was ordered favorably reported today by the senate military committee. It would set up a department with a head appointed by the president to have full control over aircraft production and operation by the army, navy and marine corps.

SERBS ADVANCE 5 MILES IN DRIVE ON BULGARIANS

Allies Capture 3,000 Prisoners and 24 Guns in Macedonian Offensive—Moving Forward on Front of 12 Miles—Jugo-Slav Division Reaches Kozjak—Casualties are Light.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sept. 17.—In Macedonia the allied forces continue their offensive against the Bulgarians with success. Important positions have been taken and more than 3,000 prisoners captured.

Allied pressure against the Germans on the western front shows no signs of abating. In the region of Metz the enemy is reported to be burning towns in the valley of the Moselle, probably in preparation for a retirement in this region.

Front Extended
 So successful was the first thrust of the Serbian and French troops in the Sokol region of the Macedonian front that the attacking front has been extended to more than twelve miles, on which the allies have advanced northward more than five miles. Several series of ridges have been given up by the Bulgarians who also have lost the village of Gradeshnitsa. A Jugo-Slav division is fighting with the allies and has reached the important height of Kozjak, northeast of Sokol. The allied movement apparently is aimed at the clearing of the Vardar valley and the threatening or capture of Prilep, an important railway junction and supply base north of Monastir. A Serbian official statement says the allied losses have been quite small.

LONDON, Sept. 17.—Serbian and French troops continued the offensive in Macedonia and have progressed more than five miles, according to a Serbian official statement received here. The advancing allies have occupied an important series of ridges. The allies have captured more than 3,000 prisoners and 24 guns. Casualties have been slight.

The allies are moving forward on a front of more than 12 miles and have taken the village of Gradeshnitsa, 26 miles east of Monastir. A Jugo-Slav division is fighting with the Serbs and French and has reached the most important position in the region.

Offensive Successful
 The official statement, which is dated Monday, reads: "Our offensive continues with complete success. The front pierced had been widened to include the remainder of the village of Gradeshnitsa and extends over a front of more than twenty kilometers. "The whole of the ridge of Sokol is in our hands as well as the ridges of Truaviska, Rovoaska and Brazdashta. We have advanced more than eight kilometers. "Up to the present the French and Serbian troops have taken more than 3,000 prisoners and more than 24 guns. Our casualties have been quite small.

"A Jugo-Slav division has reached Kozjak (5,085 feet and northeast of Sokol) the most important position in this region. Our advance continues."

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BULGARIAN ADMISSIONS

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Sept. 15.—Franco-Serbian troops in an attack on the Bulgarian lines in Macedonia early

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RADIO BALLOON TALKS OVER CONTINENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The highest radio aerial in the world, the cables of a captive balloon, is in use at the New York navy yard. It was announced that the vari has been in communication with the wireless station at Areddia, Cal.

PEACE OFFER OF AUSTRIA IS REJECTED

President Says Terms Have Already Been Outlined under Which America Will Consider Peace and No Proposal for a Conference Will Be Considered—Lodge Endorses President's Curt Refusal—No Bargain for a Decision.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The United States, as was fully expected, has unconditionally rejected Germany's peace offer. In doing so the government has spoken for all the cobelligerents.

Almost immediately after receiving the Austrian government's note from the minister from Sweden, Mr. Ekengren, Secretary Lansing last night issued this formal statement:

"I am authorized by the president to state that the following will be the reply of this government to the Austria-Hungarian note proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents:

Offer Rejected
 "The government of the United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the imperial Austria-Hungarian government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

Mr. Lansing's statement was given out within half an hour after he had received the Austrian proposal.

Lodge Endorses Proposal
 WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Unqualified endorsement of President Wilson's rejection of Austria's proposal for secret and non-binding peace discussions was given in the senate today by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, republican floor leader and ranking minority member.

Senator Lodge said the president's prompt and curt refusal was right and wise and that he was sure it would receive universal approval. America's position is becoming so plain, the senator declared, that even the central powers soon will begin to understand it. Germany, having brought unnumbered woes upon an innocent world and appealed to the lust of conquest, he concluded: "She shall not now resort to talk and bargain for a decision. We mean to put her in physical bonds."

Complete Victory First
 He said he believed the president's action would put an end to loose and feeble talk helpful to Germany about Austro-Hungarian peace offers. "When Prussian militarism is crushed and the Germans throw up their hands," said Senator Lodge, "then the United States and her allies will tell the terms of peace they are

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NEGRO CAPTURES HUN MAJOR AND MONOCLE

PARIS, Sept. 7.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—During the recent American advance from Chateau Thierry, a Red Cross captain met an American negro soldier marching toward Chateau Thierry, following closely behind a German major. The negro had transferred his pack from his own back to the back of the German officer, and had also transferred the German major's monocle to his own eye. Thus equipped the black warrior was parading triumphantly through the road. As he passed the Red Cross captain, he called out: "I say, look here what this nigger done got."