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THREE GREAT BATTLES RAGE IN FRANCE

HUN LOSSES 50,000 IN FOUR DAYS

Allies Take 15,000 Prisoners and 200 Guns—British Continue Advance Towards Mons While French Push North and East of Laon and Strike on 17 Mile Front From Sissonnes to Chateau Porcien, Advancing Over a Mile.

PARIS, Oct. 26.—The battle has flared up again and heavy fighting is now under way from Valenciennes to the Meuse. The Germans are fighting well everywhere but the allies continue to make substantial progress in the task of driving back the enemy on the Meuse line.

Although the recent fighting has been marked by no sensational developments it is having a cumulative effect which, apart from the ground gained adds considerably to the wreckage of men and material with which the Germans must reckon. The last four days the enemy has lost well upward of 15,000 prisoners and 200 guns. His total losses cannot be less than 50,000.

Three Battles in Progress
Strictly speaking there are three large battles in progress, all of which are being conducted with equal success for the allies. The first is being carried on by the British Third and Fourth armies, which, pushing on toward Mons, have reached the Valenciennes-Elson double track railroad. The second is the attack of General Mangin north and east of Laon, which has resulted in a gain on a front of eight miles for a distance of two miles. He has carried his line out of the swamps around Sissonnes. The third battle is being fought by General Guillaumat, on a front of 17 miles from Sissonnes to Chateau Porcien, where the Hindenburg line joins the Kriemhilde system of defenses. The average gain has been a mile, although at some points the advance has been greater.

French Statement
PARIS Oct. 26.—On the Serre front, French troops captured Mortiers after violent fighting. Between the Oise and the Serre rivers, the French maintained contact with the enemy. Between Sissonnes and Chateau Porcien the French carried their lines forward on a front of four and a half miles to a depth of two miles at certain points through the German position.

During the night there was heavy artillery fighting between the Oise and the Serre. Contact was maintained with the enemy all along the front reached yesterday.

On the south bank of the Serre river the French attacked the village of Mortiers, which fell into their hands after a violent fight in which they took 167 prisoners, including two officers.

Break Hermann Line
FRENCH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Oct. 26.—(Reuter's). General Debony's army between the Oise and the Serre is attacking General von Hutier's so-called Hermann position on a front of 15 miles. The Germans have converted the villages, generally situated on the crests of ridges, into fortresses and are resisting bitterly, knowing the safety of the German army facing General

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U-BOAT ACTIVITY AT LOWEST EBB

LONDON, Oct. 26.—German submarine activity reached such a low stage this week as to become almost negligible as a war measure, notwithstanding that many more U-boats are lurking in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The British admiralty looks upon this situation as part of the German peace offensive. It is believed at the admiralty that if Germany elects to fight to the end of her resources her greatest submarine effort may be expected late in December and in January.

GAINS BY YANKS MAINTAINED IN MEUSE SECTOR

Pershing Reports Heavy Fighting On Both Sides of Stream Resulting in Capture of Enemy Positions—Strong Counter Attacks Repulsed Except at One Point.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 26. (2 p. m. By the Associated Press).—The gains made Friday by the American troops east and west of the Meuse were maintained today in spite of violent enemy opposition and harassing artillery fire against the American front lines and areas in the rear.

On the extreme left the Americans have strengthened their hold on the high ground in the southern part of Bois-d'Ormont wood.

Heavy Fighting on Meuse
WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—Heavy fighting on the Verdun front is described in General Pershing's communication for Friday. Strong German counter-attacks east of the Meuse everywhere were repulsed except in the Belle woods, where four successive assaults forced a partial withdrawal by the Americans. West of the Meuse the American lines were further advanced in face of determined resistance.

The statement reads: "On the Verdun front the battle has continued with violence east of the Meuse. Late yesterday our troops enlarged their important gains south of the Consenvoye-Bancville railroad and occupied completely the Bois d'Ormont. Today the enemy counter attacked repeatedly with strong forces on the front from the Bois d'Ormont to the Bois d'Etraves. Enemy Repulsed.

"Although supported by violent artillery his attacks were repulsed with extremely heavy losses. Only in Bois Belline did he succeed in slightly pushing back our line. At this point after three assaults failed before the stubborn resistance of our troops, the fourth attack forced us to withdraw from the eastern part of the wood. Hostile forces which attempted to penetrate our positions northwest of the Bois Belline, were driven back after a severe struggle lasting throughout the day.

"West of the Meuse our troops have advanced in the face of determined resistance on the slopes northwest of Grandrieu and have entered the southern portion of Bois d'Ormont."

SAILORS REFUSE TO CARRY PACIFISTS

LONDON, Oct. 26.—(Reuter's).—Arthur Henderson, leader of the labor party and his secretary and a Belgian socialist, Camille Huysmans, were unable to go to France yesterday with Albert Thomas and M. Vandervelde because the crew of their ship refused to sail if they were aboard.

The men said that they would not sail with pacifists and pro-Germans. Mr. Henderson and his two companions left the ship and hailed a taxi-cab but the driver refused to take them and they had to carry their luggage to the station. Mr. Henderson subsequently stated in London that he was going to Paris to meet Samuel Gommers in connection with the organization of the world's labor conference after the war.

NEUTRAL COMMITTEE TO ASSIST BELGIANS

THE HAGUE, Oct. 26.—It is semi-officially explained in dispatches from Berlin that neutral residents of Brussels, who have gone to the front to investigate conditions there have been formed into a committee of inquiry. It is said their visits to cities near the battle line was made for the purpose of ascertaining what could be done for the refugees. They have communicated their report to the German authorities in Belgium and to the Belgian, French and British governments.

300 REPORTED LOST IN FOUNDERING OF CANADIAN STEAMER

VANCOUVER, B. C., Oct. 26.—Private advices received here today stated the Canadian Pacific Railway company's passenger steamer Princess Sophia, which grounded near Skagway, Alaska, Thursday, with 300 passengers aboard, foundered during the night with all the passengers and crew. Local Canadian Pacific offices could not confirm the reports.

MOONEY ASKS SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW CASE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—A review of the case of Thomas J. Mooney of San Francisco, was asked today in a petition filed by counsel for Mooney with the United States supreme court. Mooney is under sentence of death for murder in connection with an explosion which occurred during a "preparedness" parade.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 26.—The application for the writ of review filed by Thomas J. Mooney through his attorneys in the United States supreme court followed two separate refusals of the state supreme court to grant him a new trial.

Mooney's counsel contended in the California courts that his convictions were brought about through malfeasance and misfeasance practiced by District Attorney Charles M. Fickert and the San Francisco police department, but that such alleged wrong doing did not become evident until after his trial. The state supreme court held that it could not go outside the record in the case and affirmed the sentence of death. A writ of error was asked for and refused and the case was then prepared for the highest tribunal.

Mooney is in San Quentin penitentiary awaiting execution.

YAKIMA ENFORCES FLU GAS MASKS

YAKIMA, Wash., Oct. 26.—City officials today issued an order, that beginning 6 o'clock tonight, all clerks in stores, banks or public offices should wear masks and also forbade the street cars carrying more passengers than can be seated. Open air meetings scheduled for Sunday night will be permitted but after that, none may be held. There are now 150 cases in the city. There have been six deaths.

THE "MISSED" LINK



The Kaiser, the crown prince and the son of the crown prince. So unpopular is the crown prince that his dynasty, would pass over the crown prince and bestow the succession upon his grandson, Prince Wilhelm.

ALLIES REGAIN 7,000 MILES OF THEIR OWN LAND

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—Summarizing the situation on the western front today, General March said the Germans have evacuated or been driven out of 7,000 miles of Belgian and French territory since July 18.

During the past week 100 square miles have been freed from the enemy. General March added. All the coal fields in northern France have been reconquered except for a five-mile tract where the allies' advance is now being pressed near the Belgian border.

General March pointed out that the Franco-American lines from the Meuse to the Oise stand nearly parallel to the great railway line near the Belgian frontier and constituted a threat against that line through its entire length.

ITALIANS ENLARGE GAINS IN OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED FRIDAY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—Violent fighting continued today on the Isonzo where the Italians with the British co-operating launched a new offensive against the Austrians yesterday. A Rome dispatch to the Italian embassy says the Fourth army has frustrated attempts of the enemy to reconquer territory lost yesterday and has enlarged its gains.

SERBS RAPIDLY REOCCUPYING ALL OF SERBIA

LONDON, Oct. 26.—Kragujev, sixty miles northeast of Nish, has been occupied by the Serbian troops, says a Serbian official statement issued today. In the same region the Serbians have crossed the Teraitia river.

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES ON THE SERBIAN FRONT, via Saloniki, Monday, Oct. 21.—(By Associated Press). With the capture of Nish sufficient rolling stock was taken to establish railway communication from the Serolian front to the sea.

The enemy, in addition to showing his intention of evacuating Serbia as quickly as possible, apparently desires to give evidence of a more conciliatory spirit. At the important gold mine near Zajetcher which was abandoned last week, the machinery has been found intact. It was in charge of an Austrian superintendent who was left behind with instructions to turn the mine over to the Serbians.

GERMAN FEELING DIVIDED ON PEACE

BERNE, Oct. 26.—The feeling in Germany in regard to President Wilson's new note apparently is much divided. The conservatives, military and junker papers on the one side are crying that the president intends to subvert and annihilate Germany. The liberal papers on the other side, express appreciation at the president's effort toward worldwide pacification.

The reactionary elements are struggling desperately for their traditional privileges and traditions, but their opponents express confidence that the liberals in the reichstag and the government are sufficiently powerful to master them. The vote of confidence in the reichstag is regarded as unfavorable to the conclusion of peace.

WILSON'S PEACE POINTS DEBATED BY REICHSTAG

Solf Says Program Will Be Loyal Fulfilled—Denies Cruelties in Evacuated French and Belgian Towns—Only Men of Military Age Deported.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—The German government is not contemplating at the present time any further note to President Wilson, says an Exchange despatch from Copenhagen. It is probable that the government will make a declaration in the reichstag to the effect that Germany is awaiting peace conditions of the allies.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 26.—Dr. Solf the German foreign secretary, speaking in the reichstag Thursday said: "As for Alsace-Lorraine, it is clear as they were expressly mentioned among President Wilson's fourteen points, we agree to renunciation of these questions. Having accepted Wilson's program as a basis of peace we will loyally fulfill the program in all directions and at all points."

Speaking in the reichstag on Thursday, Dr. Solf, German foreign minister, said that Spanish Minister Villalobar, representing Polish and Belgian citizens, a Commissioner Van Bree, of the Belgian relief organization visited Tournai, Valenciennes and Demain on October 18 and reported that the German military authorities had done everything in their power to relieve the condition of fugitives and residents in the bombarded towns.

Tried to Protect People
Dr. Solf also said it had been reported to him that German authorities had tried to protect the people of those cities against plundering and that efforts had been made to safeguard food supplies and save art treasures.

Only men of military age had been removed forcibly, Dr. Solf asserted, and even then executions had been made in the cases of physicians, clergymen, firemen, policemen and those employed in supplying food.

Referring to questions asked on the previous day, he said the government repudiated any doubt of its honesty to carry out the principles laid down by President Wilson.

Having in response to the president, taken his stand on his message, the government is resolved to act accordingly," he said.

Alsace-Lorraine
The question of Alsace-Lorraine is purely a German internal question, declares Karl Hauss, the new governor of Alsace-Lorraine, in a statement published in the Strasbourg Gazette. The statement is a reply to declarations made in the reichstag by Dr. Ricklin, a deputy from Alsace-Lorraine, and amounts to a government manifesto. It is issued in agreement with other deputies in Alsace-Lorraine.

The statement of Herr Hauss declares that the future of Alsace-Lorraine must be decided by a vote of the population and that it is an internal question of Germany with which a peace conference could have nothing to do. It concludes by saying that a new era is opening for Alsace-Lorraine which will enable the two provinces to form a point of reconciliation between France and Germany, and to collaborate in establishing a compromise between two civilizations called to work in common.

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CLOCKS MOVED BACK TONIGHT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—At 2 o'clock tomorrow morning the United States will complete its test of daylight saving. At that hour clocks of the naval observatory here and other agencies by which time is regulated in this country, will be stopped for one hour, while the sun, which daily has been lagging further behind the nation's clocks, has a chance to catch up. At the same time the trains on all railroads of the country will stop by order of Director-General McAdoo and remain motionless for one hour and then proceed on their journey.

DISBANDING OF AUSTRIAN ARMY NOW IN ORDER

Official Statement Published in Vienna Papers for Demobilization—Peace at Any Price Popular in All Ranks—Safety First Principle Governs.

LONDON, Oct. 26.—An official statement that demobilization of the Austro-Hungarian army is being prepared is published by newspapers of Vienna an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says.

PARIS, Oct. 26.—In well-informed circles it is stated that the nomination of Count Julius Andrássy as successor to Baron Burián, the Austrian foreign minister, is above all, important from the viewpoint of a conclusion of peace and an application of the "safety first" principle in Austria. It is said that peace at any price is now popular at Vienna and Budapest.

Peace at Any Price
The Zurich correspondent of the Journal says that the new foreign minister is understood to be a partisan of direct peace negotiations with the offices of President Wilson. He says that the situation in Austria-Hungary is such that the monarchy will soon capitulate and throw itself on the mercy of the allies.

The Czechs are now masters of the situation at Prague, it is said. The Slovaks have decided to change the name of Pressburg to Wilsonville. The Ruthenians of Galicia have decided for a separate Ukrainian state comprising regions of Austria-Hungary inhabited by Ruthenians.

Anarchy in Hungary
It is reported that anarchy reigns in the ancient Danubian monarchy of Hungary. The correspondent says that in Austria no notice is being taken of decisions arrived at by Berlin.

Vienna newspapers are publishing articles relative to preparations for demobilizing the army. One newspaper says that two infantry regiments stationed at Karlowitz have revolted. Karlowitz is a village in Croatia-Slavonia, Hungary.

ZURICH, Oct. 26.—Prince Frederick Lobkowitz and Baron Nadherny who represents the strongest anti-German tendencies at Vienna have left that city for Switzerland charged with a mission about which no details are given, according to the Neue Journal of Vienna.

INFLUENZA CASES DECREASE AT FRISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 26.—The San Francisco health board reported 802 new cases of Spanish influenza and 22 deaths at 11 o'clock today, a decrease of 337 cases and 11 deaths compared with the report made at the same hour yesterday. Medical authorities attributed the decrease to the general wearing of masks and other preventative measures.

Orders have been issued that no outdoor church services be held tomorrow unless all attending wear masks. The same order was issued for concerts and other public gatherings planned for outdoors.

DEEP DENTS DRIVEN IN GERMAN LINES

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Oct. 26.—The Germans were fighting desperately today on the new line along the Scheidt canal and the Rhonelle river in the region of Valenciennes in which they had been forced by the British encircling movement north and south of Valenciennes. In spite of the determined resistance of an enemy.

"Shall We Dissolve Partnership or Fire the Boss?"



Here you see (thanks to the ever-ready artist) the four kings of Germany (who said "Four Deuces?") in session at Potsdam, called by Kaiser Bill for the first royal conference in years. There King Wilhelm II of Wurtemberg, Wilhelm the Damned of Prussia (boss of the concern), Ludwig of Bavaria and Friedrich August of Saxony. Some say the other three kings of Germany are likely to live Prussian Bill the boot.