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ALLIED ARTILLERY SWEEPS POCKET MAKING HUN'S POSITION CRITICAL

CRISIS IN GREAT BATTLE EXPECTED AT ANY HOUR IS LONDON VIEWPOINT

Believed That No Army Can Long Stand Concentrated Artillery Fire From Three Sides—Allied Pressure Strong But Advance Is Slow As Enemy Resists Desperately—Additional Prisoners Number Two Thousand—Franco-Americans Hammer At Southern End of Pocket.

London, July 27.—The crisis in the colossal battle now raging in the Soissons-Rheims pocket is expected hourly.

Military experts believe a decision must be quickly reached—that no army can long stand the hail of artillery fire and the constant hammering of French, American, British and Italian infantry to which the entire group of the German crown prince is being subjected.

While the result of the allied pressure can be felt on all parts of the enemy front, gains are being recorded only on local sectors, owing to the desperate German resistance. The most important of these are reported north of Chateau-Thierry, between the Marne and Rheims and east of Rheims. The latest official statements add nearly 2,000 to the total of prisoners taken by the allies.

By Webb Miller.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
Paris, July 27.—(10:30 a. m.)—French and American artillery is subjecting the entire Soissons-Rheims salient, within which 400,000 Germans are concentrated to the most terrific bombardment of the war.

Hundreds of thousands of shells of all calibers are being hurled upon troop concentrations, ammunition and supply depots, and lines of communication from the battle front to the rear-most areas.

This deluge of fire and steel is being directed particularly at Fere-En-Tardenois, the most important German concentration center, which is now almost within grasp of the Franco-American troops.

Missy-Sur-Aisne, five miles east of Soissons, also is under heavy bombardment, rendering practically useless the big Aisne river bridge there, which the Germans have been using for north and south traffic.

The crown prince's order, commanding his armies to stand and fight, which was reported Wednesday by the United Press has changed the Soissons-Rheims battle from a German retreat into one of the most bitterly contested engagements of the war—and one with more far-reaching possibilities than could have existed under an enemy retirement.

Voluntary retirement of the German

armies to the Oureq line or even to the Vesle would have had a most depressing effect on German morale but would have been practically devoid of strategic results, other than showing the enemy farther from Paris. The determination of the boches to fight it out, however, subjects the flower of their southern army to the danger of great disaster, which becomes more and more menacing as the allies carve away at the east and west sides of the salient, while the Franco-Americans drive northward on the southern end.

GAIN IS ANNOUNCED.
By John De Gandt.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
Paris, July 27.—(4 p. m.)—Franco-American troops are driving at the southern extremity of the Soissons-Rheims salient between Vernuil and Châtillon-Sur-Marne. They have tightened this tip of the pocket until it is only eight kilometers (less than five miles) in width.

French and American aviators, bombing the main highway south of Fismes, blocked all traffic for eleven hours.

The Germans, after their retirement north of the Marne, clung to the north bank between Jaulgonne and Oeuilly for some time, their artillery and machine guns.

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BATTLE DIES DOWN AS FOCH HOLDS HIS YANKEE UNITS BACK

Von Hindenburg's New Defensive Tactics Are Now Being Developed

By J. W. T. Mason.
(United Press War Expert.)
New York, July 27.—General Foch is now holding back his American units in the Aisne-Marne combats. Very little scope is being given them for strong aggressive fighting and the battle, in fact, is dying down for the most part to artillery bombardments.

General Foch knows the supreme value of the Americans for bringing the war to a successful ending. He is showing them to be sacrificed in exchange for territorial gains that are not of large strategic importance. The time for America's pre-emptive part in the war has not yet come. The Rhine cannot be reached with the Aisne-Marne salient as a starting point, and it is only by operations in the directions of the Rhine that decisive results can be expected from the Americans. The intensity of the German resistance between the Aisne and the Marne is providing a unique opportunity for studying the new characteristics of Von Hindenburg's defensive strategy.

There can be no doubt that the German general staff has drawn up a highly intricate strategic plan for the defense of German territory against America's forthcoming major offensive. An inkling as to the nature of these plans is obtainable from the character of the present fighting.

It is, therefore, a highly essential part of the work of General Foch's staff to make a careful study of the methods Von Hindenburg is now using south of the Aisne. There is no doubt that some of the German defensive tactics are new and are worthy very careful analysis.

The continual advance of the Franco-Americans toward Fere-En-Tardenois is threatening to Von Hindenburg's plans but how he is meeting this danger is a matter for close examination by the allies. Between the Lorraine border and the Rhine are a number of German supply stations similar in importance to Fere-En-Tardenois. These stations will have to fall to the Americans before the Rhine is reached. If they are captured quickly once the American offensive starts, it will be partly due to the revelation of Von Hindenburg's new defensive strategy now being drawn from him at Fere-En-Tardenois.

Mrs. Stegler Sues For Divorce From Husband

Atlanta, Ga., July 27.—Declaring that her husband had been connected with Count Von Bernstorff, Van Papen and Boyed in German spy plots against the United States and that he was now interposed as a German spy at Port Oglethorpe, Mrs. Anna Stegler today filed a suit for divorce against Richard Peter Stegler, formerly of New York.

Mrs. Stegler alleges in her petitions that at the time of her husband's arrest as a German spy he tried to use her as a shield to gain his liberty by saying he had married an American girl, a native of Georgia. She also declares that through Stegler's alleged spy activities her name was brought into public print and her picture published, that she was forced to register at the police station as an alien enemy, and that all her property had been confiscated by the United States government.

ABE MARTIN

Fifty Naval Flying Boats Are Completed

Washington, July 27.—The first order for fifty naval flying boats placed with the new aircraft factory at Philadelphia has been completed and the greater part of the machines are now flying over British waters.

This was revealed today by a letter from Secretary of the Navy Daniels to Constructor Coburn, U. S. N., congratulating him on the record made in building the plant and getting it operating in less than a year. The reports of Chief Constructor Taylor show that forms for the first boats were laid October 12, though the plant was not completed until November 28.

Looks like Uncle Sam will have to give Russia some tried and true recipes for good government.

RAINS HINDER ARMY OPERATIONS IN MARNE REGION

Conditions Of Roads and Terrain Is Equally Bad For Both Armies

GERMANS RELY MAINLY
ON MACHINE GUN DEFENSE

Italians Report Repulse Of
Strong Enemy Attacks on
Albanian Positions

By Fred S. Ferguson
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the American Armies in France July 27.—(9:37 p. m.)—Heavy rains in the entire Marne region have slowed up operations, but have rendered the Germans' position increasingly difficult.

The enemy at present depends largely upon his ability to maneuver. The restriction of movement within the narrowing salient—rendered more difficult by the allies' ceaseless artillery fire and airplane bombing—is thus added to by the action of the elements.

The allies, too, are hampered by rains, but their communication lines have not been cut up so badly as have those of the enemy.

The number of prisoners and captured machine guns is steadily mounting. It develops that a signal corps cannon holds the honor of finally capturing Epieds. Following the terrific American shelling, after the Germans' last occupation of the village, a patrol was preparing to enter the place to determine the strength of the boche survivors when a cannon rumbled up. The driver announced he had just been thru Epieds and had seen a single boche. The Americans then swept through the town and beyond.

Machine guns continue to constitute the Germans' chief method of resistance. The gunners are under orders to remain at their posts until they are killed or captured.

After the Americans had passed one line of machine guns yesterday evening, some boches who were so well hidden they couldn't distinguish what was going on about them, emerged in search of rations. They stopped right out into the midst of a platoon of doughboys. Corporal Lynch joined the ranks of American heroes yesterday. Sent out to do liaison work, he picked up seven boches beyond the front line. While he was returning he captured another.

Austrians Repulsed

Rome, July 27.—Repeated enemy attacks on Italian positions in Albania were defeated yesterday with heavy losses, the war office reported today.

"On the Semeri river, in Albania, near the Kusi bridge, fighting continued yesterday," the statement said. "The reinforced enemy repeatedly attacked but was always beaten, with very heavy losses. We took 100 prisoners and some machine guns.

General Pershing Reports

Washington, July 27.—Capture of Le Chamel by American forces Thursday, was reported today by General Pershing.

"Yesterday between the Oureq and the Marne our troops captured Le Chamel," said the communique under date of July 26. "In the region of Verdilly one of our aviators shot down a hostile machine."

"Further reports have been received of the fighting which took place from July 21 to 23, in the region northeast of Chateau-Thierry," said section B. "American troops played an important part in the struggle which ended in our line being advanced to a point about five miles from the town. The enemy fought rear guard action with great stubbornness, defending the ground foot by foot and using a large number of machine guns. He resisted but could not stop our advance. We captured Epieds and Trugny. The next day struggle became more bitter, the Germans counter attacked with violence. Epieds changed hands four times and remained German; Trugny changed hands three times and remained ours. One of our divisions, up to the evening of July 23, had captured three cannon, one trench mortar, 15 machine guns and large quantities of ammunition and other materials. On the 24th our troops returned to the attack with vigor and it drove the enemy out of Epieds and back into the forest Fere four miles beyond."

AMERICAN SOLDIERS ON ITALIAN FRONT— GEN. MARCH REPORTS

Chief Of Staff Gives Out Official Information Today—Reviews Operations Along Marne And Tells of Disposition Of American Forces In France—Germans Now Forty-Nine Miles From Paris At Nearest Point, Allies Having Driven Them Back Eleven Miles.

Washington, July 27.—The American fighting forces, trained in France, have reached Italy, Chief of Staff March announced today.

At the same time he announced the formation of two new army corps in France—the fourth and fifth, and stated that the allied lines in the present offensive have been reduced from 74 to 64 miles.

Gain Eleven Miles.
The Germans, formerly 38 miles from Paris, are now 49 miles away at the nearest point.

The fourth army corps, under General Hood, just formed, consists of the 83rd, 87th, 29th, 90th and 92nd divisions. (The last a colored division.)

The fifth corps consists of the 6th, 38th, 70th, 85th and 91st divisions.

Americans In France.
American forces in France now number 1,253,000 men, members of the senate military committee were told by March previous to his talk with the correspondents.

This shows that 53,000 men were sent across in the last week, a falling off of nearly 40,000 men in the previous week, shipments, due to sending over needed supplies and equipment.

The 32nd division (Michigan and Wisconsin), was noted as now located in the Vosges, in a quiet sector.

American divisions in the Franco-American offensive remain the same as last week.

Officers in Command.

Temporary commanding officers for the first five corps are as follows: First, Liggett; second, Bullard; third, Wright; fourth, Reed; fifth, Bundy.

The division commanders are: 83rd, Glenn; 89th, Winn; 37th, Farnsworth; 29th, Morton; 90th, Allen; 92nd, Ballou; 6th, Erwin; 36th, W. R. Smith; 70th, Hodges; 79th, Kuhn; 35th, Kennedy; 91st, Foltz.

March said that during the last few days American combatant forces have

YANKEE FLYER BRINGS DOWN GREAT HUN ACE

Lieutenant Avery In First Aerial Battle Conquers Captain Mendkoff

By Frank J. Taylor
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the Americans in France, July 26.—(Night)—Lieutenant Walter Avery of Columbus, Ohio, in his first air battle, brought down the noted German ace, Captain Mendkoff, north of Chateau-Thierry yesterday.

The rival aviators came together while patrolling alone. For twenty minutes Mendkoff made futile efforts to gain an advantage by tricky maneuvers. Then Avery got on the Germans' tail and damaged the plane so that it was forced to land within the American lines.

When Mendkoff learned this was Avery's initial fight he was enraged. He stalked and refused to talk. Mendkoff is credited with sixteen victories, including an American. He is one of the only

(Continued on page three)

War Summary of United Press 1455th Day of the War: 10th Day of Counter Offensive

Soissons-Rheims front—The determination of the German crown prince to fight it out in the Soissons-Rheims pocket is expected to force a decision in the great battle very shortly.

While infantry operations apparently are limited to comparatively local actions at present, the wall of steel about the German army can be said to exert a very obvious pressure at all points and the 400,000 boches within the pocket are being subjected to the heaviest artillery bombardment of the war. The fall of Fere-En-Tardenois is believed to be a matter of hours. This city in addition to being a great concentration and transportation center is the strongest enemy defensive point on the southern end of the salient. Its capture, it is believed, will necessitate a German retirement to the Fismes line, along the Vesle river, about ten miles northward.

Paanders front—British and German artillery engaged in a duel in the Labasse canal sector.

England—British casualties published in official lists this week totaled 12,893.

Italy—American fighting forces have arrived from France.

Austria-Hungary—Austrian socialists demanded that the ministry take steps toward immediate peace negotiations, alleging that "an early peace is absolutely essential to the life of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Serious disorders have broken out in Prague as the result of famine conditions.

Turkey—Turkish socialists are agitating for the downfall of the Turkish middle classes and capitalists.



"Roll of Honor" From "Over There"

General Pershing's Official Report

- Washington, July 27.—General Pershing today reported 168 casualties, divided as follows:
- Killed in action 64; died of wounds 20; died of disease 5; died of airplane accident 1; wounded severely 69; wounded, degree undetermined 14; wounded slightly 2; missing in action 2
- The list follows:
- Killed in Action**
Lieutenant J. W. Lowan, Chicago
Sergeants—
G. A. Amole, Pittsford, Pa.
W. C. Arnold, Harrisburg, Pa.
W. B. Johnson, South Minneapolis, Minn.
A. E. Nelson, Hopkins, Minn.
C. D. Sweetser, Seranton, Pa.
Corporals—
C. B. Farnsworth, Providence, R. I.
S. A. Graves, Kerens, Texas
J. W. Herdman, Johnston, Pa.
- P. R. Lund, Revere, Mass.
D. L. Owens, Point, La.
E. C. Richeson, Danbur, Cal.
G. G. Singer, Buck Creek, Ohio
B. Spiker, Scotts Bluff, Neb.
S. Stroun, New York City
R. Wholhan, Bohwin, Pa.
G. E. York, North Minneapolis, Minn.
Wagoners—
J. H. Rowe, Port Carbon, Pa.
P. V. Mease, Lebanon, Pa.
C. Rowe, Witten, S. D.
Buglers—
E. W. Leonard, Wareham, Mass.
E. B. Pennington, Mount Arbon, Cincinnati, Ohio
Privates—
L. S. Brown, Easton, Pa.
D. E. Buck, Framingham, Mass.
P. Chalfoux, Lowell, Mass.
L. J. Chestang, Mobile, Ala.

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