

ALLIES STILL CONFIDENT OF STOPPING BIG GERMAN DRIVE

GERMANS APPARENTLY HELD ON THE CENTER LINE OF THE ADVANCE

ON THE WEST FRENCH TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN EASTERLY OF SOISSONS—PRESSURE ON BOTH ALLIED FLANKS HAS COMPELLED WITHDRAWAL—GEN. FOCH NOW HAS SITUATION WELL IN HAND—BELIEVE WEIGHT OF GERMAN BLOW HAS BEEN SHIFTED.

There has been no letup as yet in the German drive south from the Aisne and both the French and the British have been forced to give further ground. Confidence is expressed in Paris, however, that the Allied reserves, now rapidly coming up, will soon turn the scale and stop the enemy advance.

Apparently the Germans already are held in the center of their advance, along the Vesle river, in the vicinity of Fismes, where the point of the German wedge has been thrust. The pressure on both the Allied flanks, however, has been such that both have been compelled to fall back.

On the west the French lines have been withdrawn to the easterly outskirts of Soissons, which town is about seven miles south of the nearest point of the battle line as it existed before the new German drive was begun on Monday. This considerably broadens to the west the front on which the enemy is advancing.

On the east the Franco-British line has been pulled back from above St. Thierry, northwest of Rheims, where it rested yesterday, to the heights south and southeast of that town. This also has the effect of widening out the front of the enemy thrust.

The bringing of Soissons into the battle area may indicate that the weight of the German blow has been shifted in this southwesterly direction and is exerted along the railroad that leads to Paris from that town. The possibility of the trend of the enemy push being turned in this direction has been forecast by the commentators.

The Americans west of Montdidier have further proved their worth by resisting another German counter attack on the new positions won by the American troops yesterday when they drove in to a depth of nearly a mile and captured the village of Cantigny. The Germans were repulsed in their second effort, as in their first, and suffered heavy losses.

Around Fismes, about half way between Soissons and Rheims and the center of important Allied communications, a desperate battle is in progress. Berlin claims the Germans have crossed the Vesle on either side of Fismes, but the French still are in the town and are holding to it stubbornly while the reserves come up.

On the right, northwest of Rheims, the British are maintaining a commanding position on the Massif of St. Thierry, north and west of the town of St. Thierry. French troops on the left have stopped the German onrushes by strong counter attacks and are holding firmly to the high points of Neuville sur Margival and Vregny, north of the Aisne, and the heights between Ciry Salsogne and Vasseny, which dominate the Vesle. Heavy fighting continues all along the front from south of Pinon to almost north of Rheims.

Overwhelming numbers enabled the Germans in their first attack to penetrate the Allied lines to beyond the Aisne and capture more than half a score of villages and 15,000 prisoners. The greatest advance was made in the center, four miles to the Aisne and then six miles to the Vesle, a total of 10 miles. As in the offensives in Picardy and Flanders, the enemy advance has assumed the form of a blunt nosed wedge with its apex less than three miles in width lying between Bazoches and Fismes.

Notwithstanding their success in pushing the Allies from the Chemin des Dames and the heights of Craonne to beyond the Aisne and into territory untouched by fighting since early in the war, the enemy has not succeeded in widening the "elbow" about Montdidier nor in changing the Allied line in Champagne east of Rheims. Direct highway and railroad communication between Soissons and Rheims has been broken by the Germans, but neither of these shell-devastated cities appears to be in immediate danger.

Observers assert that 48 hours more probably will witness the halting of the forces of the German crown prince. The French reserves are moving forward swiftly and General Foch has the situation well in hand. American troops in their first assault against the Germans in Picardy have scored a brilliant success. Striking the enemy where he had been repulsed on the previous day, General Pershing's men advanced their line to a considerable depth on a front of one and a quarter miles, captured the town of Cantigny, west of Montdidier, and took 200 prisoners. Heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans, while the Americans suffered relatively small casualties.

In the capture of their first town from the Germans the Americans carried out the operation in less than three-quarters of an hour and many of the troops who participated had aided in repulsing the Germans on

AMERICANS SUCCESSFUL IN SEVERAL OPERATIONS

ITALIANS FIGHT AMID GLACIERS ON MOUNTAIN TOP

Win Brilliant Victory in the Tonale Region 12,000 Feet in Air.

SPECIALIZED TROOPS ENGAGED IN CONFLICT

Important Austrian Munition Depot Blown Up and Telegraph Lines Taken.

Rome, Monday, May 27—The brilliant victory of the Italian in the Tonale region was won in fighting on ground about 12,000 feet above the sea level, amid melting snow and everlasting glaciers. The battle was remarkable on account of the highly specialized troops engaged and the mechanical devices applied.

The vast wastes of Tonale mountain dominating the Camonica plateau and the approaches to Paradise pass, had been neglected by both sides as a field for offensive operations, but now becomes more important.

Among the results of the Italian attack were the blowing up by artillery fire of an important Austrian munition depot and the capture of two telegraph lines which ran through Paradise pass. The Italians were assisted greatly by a violent artillery fire. It required heroic efforts by the Alpini to carry the guns to the mountain tops.

PESSIMISM OF RUSSELL WAS UNWARRANTED

Hartford, May 29—Connecticut's coal situation is expected to improve with little delay. Thomas W. Russell, federal fuel administrator for this state, who sent word to the anthracite committee of the national fuel administration, on Saturday, that he would resign his post unless he should receive definite assurances of relief for the coal situation in Connecticut, received today a telegram from William T. Grier, secretary of the committee, which contained the following statements:

"You should receive during June one-twelfth of the entire shipments for 1916 plus 50 per cent. "Do not think your pessimism warranted and feel situation is improving and will continue to do so."

Definite figures to show what quantities of coal the anthracite committee expects to send into this state during the present coal year are expected, the administrator said, to be in his hands within a day or two.

PLENTY OF ROOM IN WASHINGTON

The United States Board of Civil Service Examiners has announced that there are plenty of rooms available in Washington at the present time, for government workers who are employed in that city. A room and board, which includes two meals a day can be secured for about \$40 a month.

INSANE PATIENTS ARE BURNED IN HOSPITAL

FIRE IN WARD OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ASYLUM COSTS MANY LIVES—RUN BACK INTO BLAZING BUILDING.

Columbia, S. C., May 29—Fire early today destroyed a ward at the state hospital for the insane, resulting in the burning to death of at least 16 patients.

Eleven other patients are missing and five were severely burned, one of whom afterward died. The ward devoted to idiots and the mentally defective, contained 45 patients, of whom 34 had been accounted for early today. Some of the patients are said to have run back into the burning building after having been taken out.

ATTORNEY MARA WITHDRAWS AS SING'S LAWYER

Alleged Opium Smuggler Refused to Listen to Local Attorney's Advice.

CASE OPENS IN HARTFORD COURT

Was Caught at Railroad Station Here by Detective Washburne.

Thursday, May 30

Attorney George F. Mara who defended Gee Sing, the alleged opium dealer, who was caught in this city several weeks ago by Detective George Washburne, yesterday at the trial before Judge Edwin S. Thomas of the United States court, withdrew as attorney and a Hartford lawyer took up the Chinaman's case. It is understood that Mr. Mara gave up the case because Gee Sing would not follow his advice.

Collector of Port James L. McGovern and Charles H. Lane, agent of the Department of Justice, testified before a grand jury at Hartford yesterday. The jury returned two counts against the Chinaman.

The Hartford lawyer told the court that it was his intention to test the constitutionality of the law under which the government are holding and intend to prosecute him. The court, after conferring with James L. McGovern, Collector of Port, who is taking the matter up for the government, gave the Chinaman's counsel until June 20 to report his intentions whether he will have his man stand trial or plead guilty to the charges against him.

It will be remembered that the greatest opium haul ever made here was made when Detective Washburne picked Gee Sing, up at the local railroad station, as he was about to take a train for New Haven. The Chinaman carried a bag and upon opening it at detective headquarters about \$3,000 worth of dope, pipes and all the utensils, in addition to a roll of bills containing about \$7,000.

Gee Sing was taken in custody several times on suspicion but was never caught with the goods until his arrest in this city. When he was arrested by Detective Washburne he was told that he was wanted for stealing diamonds. The real reason was conveyed to him upon his arrival at police headquarters. The local police turned the man over to the Department of Justice, who in turn gave the case to the Customs Department, who are pressing the case. It is the aim of the Customs officials not to let the matter stand as it is now they are going after the men higher up.

Brockmeyer Given Divorce From Wife

Because his wife had been too friendly with other men Austin A. Brockmeyer, a wealthy Greenwich resident was granted a divorce yesterday from Estelle M. S. Brockmeyer. Some rather sensational testimony was given during the hearing. Mr. Brockmeyer was granted the custody of three minor children but Mrs. Brockmeyer will be allowed to see them once a week. The Brockmeyers were married in 1905 and lived together until 1915 when the wife deserted her husband.

Officials in Washington Pleased at Reports From Fighting Front.

FIRST OFFENSIVE MADE IN PICARDY

Yankee Troops Take Town of Cantigny From Huns In Brilliant Attack.

Washington, May 29—Reports of successful operations by American soldiers are coming to the war department, Secretary Baker said today. Details of the actions are expected in the regular official communications from Gen. Pershing.

The secretary made this statement when asked to comment on the situation in Europe:

"I cannot comment on the general situation. We are constantly receiving reports of splendid valor and successful operations by our American soldiers and I am very proud of the part they now are playing. The details of these actions will appear in the communications from Gen. Pershing."

War department officials are highly pleased at the conduct of the American troops in their first offensive against the Germans in Picardy. The attack that brought the capture of Cantigny, they pointed out today, was delivered with speed and precision, testifying to the hard hitting qualities of the Americans.

The quick consolidation of the ground won, noted by both foreign and American correspondents, officers said, gives satisfactory proof of the aptitude of American officers and men in learning the methods of modern warfare.

Some officers believe the American attack may forecast the launching of a counter offensive of large scope by Gen. Foch. They regard the time and place of the operations as right for a feeling out thrust as a preliminary to a counter assault in force.

The German claim of 15,000 prisoners in the new thrust on the Aisne front did not strike observers here as unusual, should it prove to be true. British official statements have shown that the front line trench system in this sector was overrun in the enemy rush, which appear to have penetrated to a maximum depth of about 10 miles.

An addition to Gen. Pershing's communique for yesterday, given out by the war department today, reports that two German patrol attacks on May 26 and 27 were repulsed by American troops.

Lieut. Rickenbacher and Campbell, American airmen, downed one enemy machine while fighting six of them.

Gen. Pershing cited an American sergeant, who although wounded, drove off an enemy patrol of four men.

The communique follows:

"Section B—Yesterday morning three of our planes encountered four hostile planes flying at 3,000 metres in the region of Montsec. In the fighting that ensued, Lieut. Douglas Campbell successfully attacked two of the German machines. Of these, one lost both wings and fell. This was referred to in yesterday's communique. In the same encounter one of our aviators was wounded, but succeeded in making a normal landing within our lines.

Yesterday morning in a sector recently taken over by our troops an American sergeant encountered a German patrol of four men, who had entered one of our trenches during the night. In fighting which ensued our sergeant, although receiving three wounds, succeeded in driving out the hostile patrol, which left grenades and wire cutters behind.

"In Lorraine, on the evening of May 26, a hostile patrol attempted to penetrate our lines. It was driven off with loss to the enemy with five killed. Of these, one was brought into our lines. One of our men was wounded.

"This morning Lieut. Rickenbacher and Lieut. Campbell attacked a group of six enemy planes and brought one down out of control."

Huns Laying Road On Mormansk Coast

Moscow, Friday, May 24—(By the Associated Press)—The Germans are laying a railroad from the Finnish frontier to Petchenga Bay on the Mormansk coast, according to an Archangel dispatch to the Nashe Slovo.

Premier Clemenceau made another visit to the French front.

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. is making balloons for the government at the rate of three a day. They cost \$50,000 each and have a speed of 42 miles an hour.

YANKEE BOYS ACT AS VETERANS GOING OVER TOP FOR FIRST TIME

MAKE FIRST OFFENSIVE IN CLOUDS OF MIST AFTER WAY HAD BEEN CLEARED—"MORE EXCITING THAN FOOTBALL GAME," ONE SAYS.

With the American Army in France, Tuesday, May 28—(By the Associated Press)—The American line now runs 450 to 200 yards east of Cantigny as a result of the successful attack today. The nearest German trench is several hundred yards east of where the Americans have dug in. The Germans, it has been found, had many outposts and machine gun emplacements in Cantigny.

America's first offensive blow was struck in a mist. The French tanks apparently did not have much to do as the American artillery already had prepared the way. A bright sun came out and shone on the Americans as they dug in their new positions.

As the Americans started out across No Man's Land there were many jokes about "eating Boche for breakfast." The Americans fought as if they were veterans and there was no hesitation when the officers sprang forward and shouted: "Come on, boys."

Several officers, describing the scene, agreed that the outstanding feature in their minds was the wonderful morale of the men and their absolute confidence in themselves. The Germans poured machine gun bullets all around the Americans as they were digging in, but no attention was paid to them as jokes and quips were handed back and forth.

The demeanor of the men wounded in the action was found similarly cheerful when the correspondent visited the field hospitals this afternoon. He saw stretched out on their cots several of these Americans, for the most part only slightly wounded, who acted like schoolboys returned from a great day of sport, smoking cigarettes, eagerly relating their personal experiences and laughing loudly at the humorous incidents.

Lieut. George E. Butler, formerly an attorney in Indianapolis, who was acting like a schoolboy returned from a great day of sport, said that going over the top was like a man-euver in the training camp back home. The men were eager for it, he said, and some of them remained up in the trenches all night talking about the approaching adventure with cheerful anticipation.

"When we reached Cantigny," he added, "it was only a pile of bricks and stones. Our artillery had leveled the town. The German machine gun bullets were buzzing about like bumblebees, but our fellows did not pay any more attention to them than if they had been confetti."

"It was the finest example of team work I ever saw. There was not a hitch anywhere. The men cracked jokes and sang, but they were businesslike in their work."

Lieut. Albert E. Billings, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who also was slightly wounded, was brought to the hospital and was placed on a cot adjoining that of Lieut. Butler. As soon as their eyes met they clasped hands and greeted each other like long lost brothers.

"It was a great show, wasn't it?" Billings said. "Gee, I wish the folks at home could have seen it. I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Many of the American soldiers who took part in the successful attack against the German lines west of Montdidier today also participated in the repulse of the German raid

against the American lines on Monday.

One participant in Monday's attack is said to have been found today in a shell hole in No Man's Land with two wounded Germans as his prisoners. He was unable to get back to the American lines Monday night, so he stood guard over the Germans until the attack this morning liberated him and secured the prisoners to the Americans.

Lieut. Irving W. Wood of Oakland, Cal., said he did not see one American fall during today's attack. "It was more exciting than a football game," he added. "We have got the Huns on the run. All we need is more Americans and then we shall lick them."

The Americans penetrated the German positions to a depth of nearly a mile. Their artillery completely smothered the Germans, the roar of the American guns could be heard for many miles in the rear. Several fires are burning behind the German lines.

Twelve French tanks supported the American infantry. The German prisoners include men from a Bavarian and a Silesian regiment, some of them as young as 17 or 18 and others between 45 and 50. All are poorly clothed and appeared to be underfed.

The Germans trooped out of their dugouts when they saw the futility of resistance, their hands held up, shouting "kamerad." Apparently they were glad to surrender. One of them said he did not want to fight, but had been compelled to do so.

The garrison in Cantigny was all accounted for. The men either surrendered or were killed. Many German dead were strewn over the ground.

BRIDGEPORT ON LIST OF CITIES NAMED BY BOARD

Washington, May 29—Centers for the 20 industrial zones established by the War Industry Board for the manufacture of war materials were selected today. The aim is to have manufacturing plants in each zone as nearly as possible raw and partly manufactured materials, which are 304, 30402 and 30404 in 30400 centers, include Bridgeport, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

Production of bituminous coal for the week ending May 18, amounted to 11,732,000 tons.

"GOD HAS GRANTED US A SPLENDID VICTORY"

KAISER SENDS TELEGRAM TO EMPRESS OF BIG BATTLE NOW RAGING ON THE WESTERN FRONT IN FRANCE.

Amsterdam, May 29—Emperor William, who is on the field of battle south of Laon, on the Aisne front, has sent the following telegram to the empress in Potsdam:

American Doctors Among Prisoners

Amsterdam, May 29—A Wolff bureau telegram filed in Berlin on Tuesday in giving an account of the fighting along the Chemin des Dames briefly mentions that among the prisoners taken from the British were a number of American doctors.

Divorce proceedings against William A. Waite of Greenwich have been brought by Eujeanne L. Waite in the Superior court. Mrs. Waite asks the court to allow her alimony if a decree is granted. The couple were married on March 29, 1916. She wishes to resume her maiden name of Eujeanne Levinson.

"William (apparently Crown Prince Frederick William) has today attacked the British and French on the Chemin des Dames. The strongly consolidated height, after being subjected to mighty artillery fire, has been stormed by our glorious infantry. We have crossed the Aisne and are approaching the Vesle."

"Fritz, with the First Guard Infantry division, was one of the first to reach the Aisne. (This evidently is another reference to the Crown Prince). The 23rd division also has again distinguished itself. The British and French were completely surprised. Our losses are small. Tomorrow we shall make further progress."

"God has granted us a splendid victory and will help further. Greatings."