

BLOW BY GERMANS NORTH OF MARNE IS PROMPTLY REPULSED BY FRENCH

CROWN PRINCE ARMY NOW BELIEVED FACING INEVITABLE DEFEAT

Rumors Current in London That British Troops Have Made Advance in Direction of Fismes, Midway Between Rheims and Soissons, French Have Pushed Forward on Another Part of Aisne-Marne Salient By Which the Germans Are Put in a Most Precarious Position.

London, July 25—The Pall Mall Gazette says that rumors are current that British troops have made a great advance in the direction of Fismes, about midway between Rheims and Soissons.

It is also reported that French forces have advanced on another part of the Aisne-Marne salient and that the armies of the German crown prince have been placed in a position out of which extrication seems to be impossible.

With the American Army on the Marne Front, July 25, 4:30 p. m.—(By the Associated Press)—Franco-American troops this morning advanced their lines north of the river Marne more steadily. The Germans continued their retreating movement to the northward.

The French and Americans also made gains on other parts of the 55 miles of battle front. The Germans viciously resisted in a majority of cases.

Paris, July 25—More reserves are being thrown into the battle by the Germans, according to the latest advices reaching Paris, but these were unable to prevent the Allies from making appreciable gains on Wednesday. The important point of Oulchy le Chateau slowly but surely is being surrounded. If the Germans lost it it would be impossible for them to hang on to Fere en Tardenois.

Military observers here are convinced that Gen Von Ludendorff soon will launch a counter offensive. His objects will be, first, to clear the front between Soisson and Rheims; second, to lessen the demoralizing effect of a projected retreat to the Vesle; and, third, to have Germany regain the initiative.

Consequently, it is to his interest to prolong the present battle as long as possible, even at the expense of his treasured reserves, so as to keep the French occupied and give him time to prepare another blow.

London, July 25—British troops last night pushed forward slightly south of Rossignol wood in the Hebuterne sector, north of Albert. The official statement from Field Marshal Haig to day adds that a few prisoners and six machine guns were captured.

South of Villers Bretonneux the Germans last night pushed into one of the British posts. They were driven out by a counter attack.

On the western front of the Soissons-Rheims salient the Allied forces have advanced to an average depth of three miles on a 12 mile front during the last two days.

There were no new developments this morning in the battle area, according to advices from the field of the fighting received in London up to noon, but the situation was regarded as quite satisfactory for the Allies.

The reports show that the German high command has this far engaged 64 divisions in the battle, representative of groups of the German armies in Flanders to Alsace. These 64 divisions are nearly a third of the available German army.

The conclusion is drawn that the enemy is hard put to it for reserves, although Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, on the northern front, still has plenty of reserve divisions.

TEN DIVISIONS RUSHED TO AID OF CROWN PRINCE

Germans May Well Hesitate to Push More Men Into Salient Already Crowded Because of Food Conditions, Correspondent Says.

London, July 25—Nine division of reserves from the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and a division from the eastern end of the line have been rushed to the aid of the German crown prince between Soissons and Rheims says Reuter's correspondent with the American troops in France.

DESTROYER BUILT IN RECORD TIME

Washington, July 25.—A new world record in destroyer construction has been established at the Mare Island, Cal., navy yard, in the commissioning of the Ward, 71 days after her keel was laid, the navy department announced today.

The Germans may well hesitate to push more troops into the already crowded salient, seeing the difficulty they have of feeding those already there, the correspondent continues.

FIRE ON U. S. SUBMARINE IN MISTAKE FOR U-BOAT

BRITAIN TO SEND MEN TO ARMY IF STRIKE CONTINUES

War Cabinet Comes to This Decision Regarding Munition Plant Conditions.

GOVERNMENT NOT TO WITHDRAW EMBARGO

Events Now Rest Upon Conference of Engineering Trades Delegates.

London, July 25—The British war cabinet has decided that if the British munition strike continues the strikers of military age will be drafted promptly into the army, according to semi-official statements in the morning papers.

The government remains firm in its refusal to withdraw the embargo which ostensibly is the cause of the strike, although it seems that in some instances the embargo is used as a pretext to cover other grievances.

Events now are waiting upon the national conference of the delegates of the engineering trades which, it is understood, meets in Leeds today.

It is believed in some quarters that a majority of the delegates will insist on a ballot of its members before calling a general strike. This course is strongly supported by Alexander Thompson, Socialist and editor of the Clarion, who writes in the Daily Mail:

It is unthinkable that the conference will assume the tremendous responsibility of stopping the munition output of the whole country without a democratic vote by all the men and women concerned. The tactics of the young rebels who forced a strike in Birmingham and Coventry against the advice of responsible leaders make not for democracy or Socialism, but straight for anarchy and Bolshevikism.

Meanwhile dissension is created in the trade union ranks by the action of the strikers and in many parts of the country the conduct of the Coventry and Birmingham men is denounced hotly.

On the Clyde there seems no sign of sympathy with the strikers and work there is continuing smoothly. The same may be said of many other centers.

On the other hand 8,000 notices to cease work on Tuesday were handed in in Manchester, where the Amalgamated engineers have a membership of 15,000.

DECISIVE TURN IS MARKED IN WAR FRENCHMAN SAYS

President of Chamber of Deputies Army Committee, Sums Up Observations.

Paris, July 25—The army committee of the chamber of deputies has received very favorable reports from members with the armies in the field on the operations now going on. Rene Renoult, president of the committee, thus sums up the observations made:

The powerful German offensive, prepared in secret for more than a month and led by 50 divisions, was in a few days, almost in a few hours broken up and then victoriously swept back. It is to the peerless valor of the French soldiers and their American, British and Italian comrades and to the science of the military chiefs who proved unquestionable mastery in the conception and execution of the operations that the results were obtained.

This certainly marks a decisive turn in the war, justifying the profound satisfaction and the great hopes felt by the army committee.

Submersible Operating In New England Waters is Damaged by Shot.

NO ONE INJURED, REPORT DECLARES

Craft Has Reached Port and Can Be Repaired In Short Time.

Washington, July 25—Mistakenly evidently for the German submarine that has been operating off the north Atlantic coast, an American submarine of the latest type was fired on and slightly damaged by an armed vessel in New England waters last Tuesday. No one on board the submarine was injured and the craft has reached port safely.

The navy department's announcement today did not reveal the identity of the armed vessel, but it was understood that it was an Allied transport. Unofficial reports were that the submarine had been running submerged and came to the surface near the armed ship. The latter opened fire and had scored a hit before the American craft made known its identity.

The scene of the attack was not far from the waters in which a German submarine recently appeared and when the American submarine came to the surface the captain of the Allied vessel assumed that it was an enemy vessel preparing to attack him.

Only one shot hit the submarine, which quickly made known its identity when the Allied ship began to fire. The shell struck on the deck near the conning tower, denting several plates. It was announced that the vessel could be repaired in a short time.

The navy department later issued this formal statement: "The navy department is informed that a United States submarine was fired on by mistake by an armed merchant vessel on July 25, off the American coast. One shell penetrated the outer hull of the submarine, but did not explode. No material injury was done, only a small section of shell plating being damaged. No one aboard was injured and the submarine proceeded to her base under her own power."

REPORT FRAUDS IN ARMY CONTRACTS

Washington, July 25—Fraud and gross profiteering have been uncovered in many contracts for army shoes, shirts, leggings, overcoats, and other soldier supplies and equipment as a result of investigation by army intelligence and department of justice agents, it was learned today.

FOCH WITHIN 3 MILES OF FEREN TARDENOIS

Town Is Meeting Place of Eight Roads, and is Center of German Communications In This Region.

French Headquarters in France, July 25, via Ottawa—French troops now are within three miles of the town of Fere en Tardenois, which is the meeting point of eight roads.

STETTINIUS IS IN PARIS TO CONFER

Paris, July 25.—Edward R. Stettinius, second assistant secretary of war of the United States, who now is in Paris, will take part in the inter-Allied munition council. Afterward he will make a tour of inspection on the American front and then visit the French and British armies and, perhaps, the Italian front.

Among the advisers accompanying him are Samuel M. Felton, director of railroad supplies; W. S. Gifford, of the council of national defense; and Charles Day, of the emergency fleet corporation.

PETRELLI WILL BE NUNCIO TO CHINA

Rome, July 25.—Pope Benedict has appointed the Most Rev. Joseph Petrelli, apostolic delegate to the Philippines, as papal nuncio to China.

MANY DIVISIONS FROM EAST FRONT FIGHT FOR HUNS

Germans Enabled to Place 210 In West After Russia's Defection.

With the French Army in France, July 25—(By the Associated Press)—Owing to the defection of the Russians from the Allies, the Germans have been able to place 210 divisions on the western front this year. From January to July 24, just over six months, these divisions have been engaged about 430 times, so that each has been thrown into battle at least twice during the half year.

With operations becoming more frequent this proportion is rapidly increasing.

When the present battle began the Germans had 28 divisions on that part of the field westward of Rheims as far as Chateau Thierry. Now the front has been widened by the Allied attack from the latter city to the Aisne and the Germans have hurried more forces into the line, bringing the total now engaged on this part of the front to more than 40 and placing a considerable strain on the enemy's resources.

They still have reserve divisions concentrated at some places behind their lines, but many units comprised by these divisions have been sorely tried already this year and it is questionable whether they are all sufficiently recuperated to participate in a new attack, should the German staff decide to order one to retrieve the defeat of the Crown Prince.

AMERICAN DOWNS TEUTON AVIATOR WITH RIFLE BALL

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne Front, July 25—(By the Associated Press)—An American in a mess outfit shot down a German aviator during the Franco-American offensive south of Soissons, hitting the enemy in the head with a rifle bullet.

Commissary wagons were en route to a site back of the lines when the German swooped down low and attacked the wagon train with a machine gun. The young soldier leaped from a wagon as the enemy fire came near and shot him. The machine fell nearby.

A German lieutenant and 18 men who were captured by the Americans were questioned concerning the remainder of the battalion. The officer replied:

"Those 18 are all that are alive." The lieutenant added that he was glad to be a prisoner.

SOUTH OF MONTDIDIER 30 PRISONERS TAKEN IN SURPRISE ATTACK

From Region of the Ourcq and to West of Rheims Violent Artillery Actions Are Reported—Gen. Pershing in Yesterday's Communique, Reports That American Forces Made Further Progress in Attacks and That Forces Penetrated Enemy Position to Between One and Two Miles Northwest of Jaulgonne.

Paris, July 25—On the north bank of the Marne the Germans last night launched a counter attack in the region of Dormans. The war office, in announcing this movement, reports that the enemy temporarily occupied the little wood to the north of Treloup and the village of Chassins. These positions, however, were recaptured by the French soon afterward.

Violent artillery actions are reported from the region of the Ourcq and to the west of Rheims. The text of the statement follows:

"South of Montdidier a surprise attack allowed the French to capture 30 prisoners.

"On the north bank of the Marne, in the region of Dormans, the Germans during the night launched strong counter attacks. The enemy succeeded in occupying momentarily the little wood 1,500 metres north of Treloup and the village of Chassins, but returning to the aggressive, our troops retook these two points a short time later.

"In the region of the Ourcq and west of Rheims there were violent artillery actions.

"There is nothing further to report."

With the American Army, on the Aisne-Marne Front, Wednesday, July 24—(By the Associated Press)—With their lines of communication reduced by operations on their flanks and their rear north of the Marne being constantly punished, the Germans have been forced to give up more territory. The French and American troops rested tonight some distance in advance of the points where they started this morning.

The German retirement under pressure is believed to indicate that Gen. Von Boehm, the commander of the armies within the salient, has had enough punishment to convince him of the advisability of taking new positions.

Washington, July 25—Further progress by the American forces in their attacks between the Ourcq and the Marne is reported by Gen. Pershing in his communique for yesterday, received today at the war department.

Northwest of Jaulgonne, American forces penetrated the enemy positions to a depth of from one to two miles.

(By the Associated Press) German rear guards have again hurled themselves at the pursuing Allied forces on the northern bank of the Marne. Before the momentum of their blow the Allies were obliged to withdraw from the little wood to the north of the town of Treloup and were forced back out of the village of Chassins, a little farther east.

The successes of the Germans was, however, short lived, for they were immediately driven back by a renewed attack by the Allies.

Northward, along the line toward Soissons, and to the northeast, toward Rheims, there have been heavy bombardments but no infantry fighting is reported.

As the days of heavy fighting continue on the battle field north of the Marne it becomes increasingly apparent that the German retirement is well under way. This withdrawal is apparently conducted in an orderly, if not deliberate manner, being covered by such rear guard actions as that reported at Treloup and Chassins.

A study of the map of the region where the struggle is going on shows that along the line from Jaulgonne northwest to Oulchy le Chateau, just north of the Ourcq, or even farther the Allies have pressed ahead during the last two days. As nearly as the location of the contending forces can be determined at present, the Germans have been forced back or have retired over much of this line a distance of nearly three miles since Tuesday.

North of the Ourcq river the situation is obscure, owing to the lack of details given out through official reports or press dispatches. It may be said, however, that for the moment the line from Soissons southward to the Ourcq has reached a state of equilibrium and that the deadlock between the offense of the Allies and the defense of the Germans will probably continue until the former bring up sufficient fresh troops to break the line at some vital point.

The progress south of the Ourcq, however, has placed in jeopardy the village of Fere en Tardenois, which is one of the most important German bases in this region. At last accounts the French and Americans were almost directly south of this place.

Military critics in Paris incline to the view that Gen. Ludendorff, the German commander, will probably launch a new attack on some other sector of the front in an effort to gain a local success to gloss over his failure at the Marne. He might by this means, also, wrest the initiative from Gen. Foch and force the latter to remove some of his troops from the Soissons-Rheims area. It seems to be agreed that the logical point to expect such a German attack is somewhere along the British lines.

The British, in the meantime, are not idle. They have been conducting raiding operations in the Hebuterne sector and have repulsed attempted German raids along the the Amiens front. The enemy artillery has been active at Arras and Lens, vital points of the British line.

WILSON SEES POLK ABOUT SIBERIA

Washington, July 25—President Wilson had a lengthy conference with acting Secretary Polk today at the state department. It was understood that the Japanese reply to the American proposals for extending military aid to Russia through Siberia was discussed, although officials declined to say whether the reply had been received.