

German Air Raiders Kill Many in U. S. Hospital

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GERMANS PRESS ON TO MARNE

Foch's Lines Hold Near Soissons and Rheims

NURSES AND BABIES KILLED WHEN GERMANS DROP BOMBS ON AMERICAN HOSPITALS

Air Raiders on Morning of Decoration Day Also Wreck Three Ambulances—Wounded All Carried Safely to the Cellars.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Thursday, May 30 (Associated Press).—German airmen made a pretentious raid on the area behind the American lines in Picardy last night. Bombs were dropped on all sides of one of the largest hospitals in a town many miles to the west of the front. American and French wounded soldiers were carried to cellars and caves by American nurses and members of the American Red Cross.

Only a few persons were injured by flying glass, as most of the windows in the hospital had been shattered by bombs dropped the previous night. Several private houses were wrecked and a number of civilians, including several babies, were killed and injured.

That the raid was planned on a much larger scale than recent ones over this territory is evidenced from reports made by many Americans in villages over which the raiders passed. The Germans came in wave formation and then scattered widely. One squadron dropped bombs a few hundred feet from an American field hospital and at the same time one of the long-range guns shelled a village a few hundred yards away.

The first alarm was sounded at 11 o'clock. The dropping of bombs and the firing of many anti-aircraft guns began almost immediately. Later there was a brief pause, after which the raiders returned, to remain almost until dawn.

A new American evacuation hospital had been opened only yesterday in a certain village. A bomb fell in front of it last night and shattered windows, but none of the patients was injured. In some instances the bombs fell within thirty and forty feet of a hospital building but, fortunately, there were no direct hits. A French nurse, her mother and two little sisters were killed in a house a short distance from a hospital. Another nurse was standing on the upper floor of the hospital ministering to patients when a piece of bomb struck her, piercing her lung.

Five American nurses were in the same hospital. They were Miss Natalie Scott of New Orleans, Miss Helen Spaulding of Brooklyn, Miss Mary McCadish of Atlanta, Miss Blanche Gilbert of Cleveland, and Miss Constance Cook of San Francisco.

While the raid was in progress they went about cheering the patients. Although many serious cases of sick and wounded were aggravated because they had to be moved, the nurses had to carry them to the lower floors and the cellar.

"It was an exciting time," said Miss Scott, "but there was no panic. Some of our boys actually slept through it all although their beds were showered with broken glass."

Three American ambulances were caught in the raid. Sergt. Elhan Wells of San Francisco, who was driving the first ambulance, said:

"Our three ambulances were har-

AMERICANS CHECK FOUR DRIVES IN DAY ON CANTIGNY LINE

German Tanks and Infantry Run Away From Fire of the U. S. Artillery.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 31 (Associated Press).—Four German counter-attacks yesterday against the American troops at Cantigny, west of Montdidier, were repulsed after sharp fighting. Machine guns were especially active during the day. A wounded German captain was captured. In one of the counter-attacks the Germans tried to use tanks. The enemy infantry had no more than shown itself than the American artillery opened a heavy fire. Both the foot soldiers and the tanks were driven back in disorder.

The 52d German Reserve division, from which the Americans took prisoners in the fighting at Cantigny, is commanded by Gen. von Lerne and Stange. This officer served on both the Russian and western fronts and came to Cantigny between May 12 and May 15. His division participated in the German offensive on the Marne River, which, in May, 1915, pierced the Russian front in Galicia.

The new American positions in Cantigny are being improved constantly. The Americans have not budged an inch since they gained the town. Every time the enemy artillery starts a bombardment the American gunners retaliate and smother the opposition fire.

German artillery last night severely bombarded the American positions of the Americans. They fired 4,000 high explosive shells in a brief space of time. Several attempts were made by the Germans to come over, were repulsed with heavy losses by the Americans.

Enemy airmen were active last night and this morning, bombing villages behind our lines without regard to military objectives.

AMERICAN AIRMAN FIGHTS 5 GERMANS AND BEATS THEM

Lieut. Edward Rickenbacher Also Saves Lieut. James A. Meissner of Brooklyn.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Thursday, May 30 (Associated Press).—There was much aerial activity on the front northwest of Toul to-day and two, if not three, German machines were shot down.

Lieut. Edward Rickenbacher, the former automobile racer, not only brought down one machine, but rescued Lieut. James A. Meissner of Brooklyn, after his machine had been damaged. Single-handed, Rickenbacher attacked two Albatross biplanes and three monoplane. After he had fired a hundred rounds to one of the biplanes it fell, crashing to the ground. The Lieutenant turned and attacked another, which sought safety in flight. Meanwhile the remaining German machine had descended too low for Rickenbacher to attack.

As he was returning to behind the American lines Lieut. Rickenbacher saw four German airplanes coming toward him. He turned and saw Lieut. Meissner, who was flying high, attack one enemy machine just as a second hostile airplane attacked Meissner. Meissner's machine collided with one of the enemy and a wing of the American's machine was torn. Meissner immediately turned toward home when a third enemy machine, seeing that he was crippled, took to the air.

Rickenbacher made a long dive and drove off the German with his machine gun, saving Meissner. The combat took place east of Thiaucourt. In another fight two American pilots were forced to withdraw because their guns became jammed just as they attacked the enemy. Another pilot encountered five hostile machines and had fired six bursts without apparent damage and the enemy machines retired.

Later five Americans saw two enemy machines over Apremont. They attempted to get away as the Americans came up, but two Americans got on the tail of one of the enemy machines. Hundreds of bullets were fired into the fuselage of the German airplane and it crashed into a wood. The other enemy machine was chased down by an American and it was seen to overturn as it reached the ground. The results of several other combats have not yet been reported.

An American aviator was captured by the Germans in No Man's Land after his machine had been damaged in a fight between five American machines and a German squadron. The American aviator was last seen going into the enemy trenches under cover of German rifles.

TWO PLANES FLY TO CUBA.

Naval Machines Probably Started From Port on Lincoln Coast.

HAVANA, May 31.—Two United States naval hydro-aeroplanes arrived to-day at a Cuban port, having flown from an American post.

The airplanes probably started from some point on the Florida coast, where they had recently taken flight.

Crashed to Death in Ferry Slip.

Edward Heald, flying to-day upon the strip of the north side of the foot of 14th street (Hoboken), where the ferryboat Orange docks, was on his way upon filling the hold for his boat from the water. That he did not notice the boat's approach, it was credited to death. Heald was a well-known boatman and had been in the Hoboken ferry for many years.

Aisne Battle Line Between Soissons and Rheims, And Location of New German Blow to the North



The fighting front runs as follows: From Chavigny, north of Soissons, it describes a circle west of that city and rejoins the river Crise south of Soissons. Then it goes to Berzy, follows the Soissons-Chateau-Thierry Road until near Hartennes, where it bends southeast to Grand Rozy. Thence southward, leaving Muchy-le-Chateau, it passes Nanteuil-Notre Dame and advances toward the Marne to Courcy, Brecy, Courpail and Lecharmel, which marks its extreme southern point. Through Vezilly, Brouillet, Savigny and Thillois it runs northward to the environs of Rheims.

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AMERICANS RAID GERMAN LINE ON 500-YARD FRONT AT TOUL

Engineers Blow Up Enemy Entanglements and Inflict Losses in German Ranks—Aviators Shoot Down Another Plane.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 31 (Associated Press).—American forces northwest of Toul carried out a successful raid against the German lines late last night. The Americans went over the top along a front of 500 yards. At the same time the American artillery opened fire. The men advanced behind the barrage, while the aviators pounded the enemy lines and rear areas.

Engineers blew up the enemy entanglements. The results of the raid were such that the Germans sustained losses.

Two prisoners were taken by the Americans. One of them attempted to escape on the way across no man's land, and was killed by a Massachusetts aviator.

American aviators shot down another German airplane to-day on the front northwest of Toul. It was within the American lines.

280,000 DRAFTED MEN TO BE CALLED IN JUNE

List of Apportionments Withheld Until Camps They Will Be Sent to Are Decided On.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Official announcements were made to-day that 280,000 men will be called to the colors during June. They will be ordered to report June 24, but it has not yet been determined in what camps they can be assigned, as the list of apportionments is for the present being withheld.

HEAVY GUN FIRE HEARD NEAR BELGIAN COAST

Lasts for Five Hours, Accompanied by Terrible Explosions and Great Flares.

LAMSWATER, England, May 31.—Heavy gunfire was heard in the region of the Belgian coast for five hours last night. There were also terrific explosions and a great flare accompanying each one.

Ramsate is situated just south of the mouth of the Thames River, 25 miles east of London. It is about 30 miles from Ramsgate across the English Channel to Calais.

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GERMANS STRIKE NEW BLOW NORTHWEST OF SOISSONS, DRIVING THE FRENCH BACK

Western Outskirts of the Town Are Still Held—Chateau Thierry on the Marne Is Threatened, but Paris Believes It Will Be Held.

PARIS, May 31.—Although the German centre has advanced to Le Charnel, two miles north of the Marne and is threatening Dormans and Chateau Thierry, both on the river, the French left is still holding the outskirts of Soissons. On the right the French in a counter attack recaptured Thillois, two and a half miles west of Rheims, showing that the wings of Foch's armies are still holding their ground.

One of the chief points of German attack to-day was in the Ailette River region, between Coucy-le-Chateau and the Oise River, indicating an effort to consolidate the Aisne and Picardy battle fronts. The French War Office announces that before this attack the French, fighting stubbornly, have withdrawn from Blerancourt and Epagny, which is six miles northwest of Soissons. Blerancourt is five miles northwest of Epagny and about eight miles southeast of Noyon.

[Seemingly, this is an effort to drive toward the Oise, to the westward, in an effort to flank the Allied forces below Noyon, on the southern portion of the Picardy front.]

In advancing on the centre of the Aisne front the Germans pushed south of Fere-en-Tardenois, according to the latest advices reaching Paris, but neither Chateau Thierry nor Dormans have yet fallen into their hands. There is reason to hope that Chateau Thierry, the population of which has fled, will be saved.

While any progress by the Germans on French soil, with the inevitable trail of ruin and desolation, strikes French hearts sorely, the unswerving confidence with which the general public views the situation is most remarkable. No doubt is felt as to the outcome, and there is no weakening in the resolve to fight on to the end.

Activity by the German artillery in the Villers-Bretonneux sector, east of Amiens, and in the Albert region to the north, is reported. There has also been lively gunfire from the enemy lines on the Flanders front, between Festubert and the Clarence River.

The German advance has been so rapid they have been unable to move up their heavy guns, and they have suffered heavy losses accordingly from Allied fire. Berlin officially claims the capture of 35,000 Franco-British troops, with great war booty, guns of all sizes, munitions depots, rolling stock, hospital establishments, medical supplies and an airdrome with machines on the ground, ready to start, as well as the capture of the long range guns which the French employed in Flanders to bombard Loos.

NEW BLOW STRUCK BY GERMANS BETWEEN PICARDY AND SOISSONS

French Give Up Some Ground in Ailette River Section—Allies Gain Near Rheims.

[FRENCH REPORT] PARIS, May 31.—Following is the text of the statement issued to-day by the War Office:

"The Germans extended their effort on their right as far as the Oise by violent attacks in the region of the Ailette. The French fell back, fighting, on positions to the north of the Blerancourt-Epagny line.

"In the region of Soissons and further south the German attack broke down before the heroic resistance of the French, who maintained their position in the western outskirts of the town and along the road to Chateau Thierry.

"In the centre the Germans succeeded in making a slight advance in the regions north of the Marne. Further east, as well as northwest

RACING RESULTS, Page 2
ENTRIES, Page 4

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