

opened fire. Two enemy companies were virtually annihilated. The Americans used machine guns, rifles and pistols and employed both the bayonet and the rifle butt with great effectiveness. The fighting in the streets was savage, but of comparatively brief duration. Then the Americans awaited the coming of other Germans, but they came not. So French and Americans together moved beyond the village.

Killed by Own Shells When the Germans learned that the Americans in Seringes were winning they used their artillery, and there is unquestionable evidence that numerous Germans were killed by German shells.

Some prisoners declared the orders were to hold on at all costs. Among the prisoners were men attached to the 5th Foot Guards from Lorraine and others who had been on leave in Germany, who said that the German people were thoroughly tired of the war and did not care who governed, so long as the war came to an end.

The Germans are now using high explosive shells simultaneously with gas shells. The high explosives are designed to drown the "pop" of the gas projectiles, which the Allies have learned to distinguish from the others. The percentage of gas casualties is low as a result of the discovery of the German trick, because the Allies generally anticipate attacks with gas.

(Noon)—Efforts made by the Germans to advance their lines against the Americans on this front last night and this forenoon were fruitless. The Americans were content to hold their positions along their slightly advanced line for the time. The German line, however, is reported gradually giving way both to the right and left.

There was hard fighting throughout the night, but no concentrated attack in force by either side. Both high explosive and gas shells were sprayed by the Germans over a wide area.

The air forces on both sides were busy this morning. One of the American observers was attacked by eight enemy machines, but escaped and returned to his base.

Much Ammunition Was Left Behind by Retreating Germans

LONDON, July 30.—Although the Allied gains during the past twenty-four hours may seem small, some of them have been exceedingly significant, telegraphs Reuters' correspondent at the American front in France. The chief feature of the recent fighting, he says, is the French advance from Oulchy-le-Chateau, which carried the villages of Grand Rozoy and Cugny and swept the Germans off of the Butte de Chalmont. This hill was a centre of enemy activity along the western side of the salient.

German guns situated on the Butte de Chalmont had been able to rake the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road almost as far as Villers-Clerges and had a cross-fire upon the advancing French and American troops in the valley of the Ourcq. The French now are able to harass from this hill the enemy's retreat and should be able to clear the angle between the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road and the railroad between Oulchy-le-Chateau and Fismes and the main road leading to the village of Seringes.

It will be a costly task to take the Nesles Forest, but there are alternative possibilities in the comparatively open ground to the westward. The railroad, which is the key to the Ourcq Valley, is in Allied hands. The correspondent writes that the enemy may certainly plume himself on the retreat according to plan, but it can scarcely be according to plan that the enemy has left behind so much ammunition. There is as yet no conception of the enormous figures to which these losses in materials of war will run. When the number of shells actually captured are added to the millions of shells exploded either by himself or by the Allied fire, some idea of his loss may be gained. The enemy has not only lost his ammunition, but his gunners have been warned to be sparing of ammunition and to fire only when necessary to support his infantry.

French Observers Note Plans for New German Withdrawal

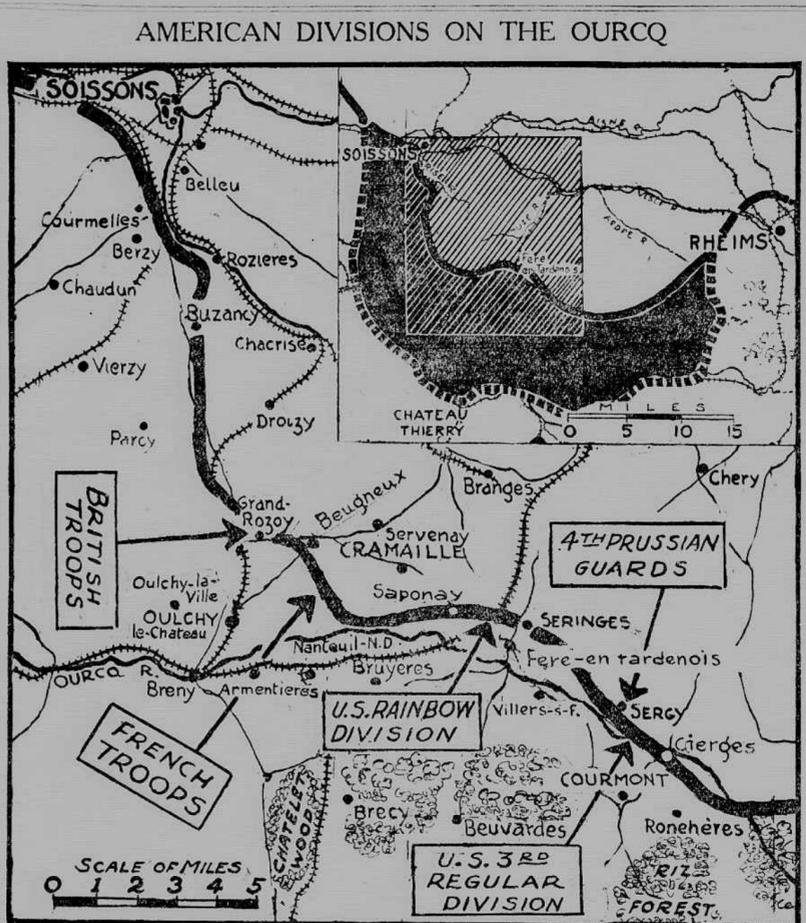
PARIS, July 31.—French aerial observers, says the "Matin," report that there are signs behind the present German withdrawal of preparation for a continuation of the retreat northward. The enemy is destroying much material, and big fires have been seen. The newspapers generally point out that the fighting is marked by brisk but vain enemy reactions. They believe that the German line of resistance has been reached, although the Allies were able to make additional gains.

Several military experts do not believe that the Germans have yet reached the end of their retreating movement. The "Echo de Paris" says the Germans have thrown five reserve divisions into the fighting, proving the importance of the German command in maintaining its present position, which is equally good for offense or defense.

The German Crown Prince has a number of good reasons for holding up his retreat. The "Echo de Paris" may desire to prevent the French from using the Soissons-La Ferté-Maclos railway; second, he may want to keep the French from capturing the strategic village of the Marne, within range of his heavy guns, and third, he may want to remove his material without too much damage to the Vesle line. The German command would be unable to use the Rheims-Soissons road if they retired to the Vesle. Also they would have their backs against the Aisne, which would not simplify the means of communication in the rear.

Americans Praised By "Daily Mail" for Intelligent Bravery

LONDON, Aug. 1.—"Nobody can contemplate without profound admiration the vigor and heroism with which the



As revealed yesterday by General Peyton C. March, two American divisions are in action on the Ourcq River front, as indicated on the map. The shaded area on the key map indicates the general region of the American positions in the Aisne-Marne salient, the total Allied gains since July 18 being shown in solid black.

Americans have fought in every stage of the battle since "The Daily Mail" correspondent with the American army on the front in France. "If bravery were the only test for winning our affections, then the Americans merit the highest possible esteem. But it is not bravery alone that has given the Americans during the last ten days their repeated successes. Directly as they fight, they nevertheless fight intelligently and profitably. There are units which have had much more experience in battle than others, but when the battalions which have manned quiet sectors are thrown into the furnace they fight as well as their more experienced comrades. There is one unit which since the German offensive began has won undying renown, fighting at one of the most important points on the line, although it had previously experienced only trench raids and gas attacks. Such an achievement gives a vivid indication of the fighting value of the Americans."

Allied Aviators on Whole Front Active; Drop Tons of Bombs

PARIS, July 31.—During the fighting on July 28 and 29 the Allied aviators were active along the whole front of the battle between the Aisne and the Marne, according to the Havas correspondent at the front. There were many aerial combats, during the course of which fourteen enemy bombs were dropped, shot down or forced to land and disabled. On July 28 French and British bombing planes dropped more than twenty tons of projectiles on cantonnements and roads in the Ardre and Vesle valleys and on railroad stations and military objectives in the same region. On July 29 and the following night thirty-six tons of bombs were dropped, fires and explosions being caused. The official war statement to-night said: "On July 30 Franco-British air squadrons brought down or put out of action eighteen enemy airplanes and set on fire one captive balloon."

LONDON, July 31.—The official communication dealing with aviation issued to-night says: "On July 30 haze and ground mist again interfered with observations, but nevertheless a large number of photographs were taken by us and more than eleven tons of bombs were dropped on enemy sidings and dumps. "Rather more enemy machines were encountered, fifteen being brought down and six being driven down out of control. Six of our machines are missing."

"During the night of the 30th two tons of bombs were dropped by us without losses. In addition to those already reported a hostile machine was shot down by infantry fire on the 29th instant."

BERLIN, July 31.—The official report to-day said: "Yesterday we shot down nineteen airplanes."

German Press Looks Through Official Lens And Sees Success

AMSTERDAM, July 31.—The entire German press, the Socialist included, is obediently toying the line laid down by the German official communications regarding the retreat from the Marne. This line substantially is that General Foch's formidable attack to pinch off the whole of the Marne salient was in vain, that his great success in men have been bootless and that the initiative remains with the Germans. To this it is added that the German counter-offensive, which has been described as a "shortened chord," means a stronger front.

To the American official report of the capture of Seringes-et-Nesles, Sergy and Roneheres, the "Vossische Zeitung" of Cologne, appends this comment: "These localities are situated in the zone evacuated by the Germans days ago, undisturbed by the enemy."

A typical degree of subtlety is displayed by the military critic of the Berlin "Vossische Zeitung," Captain von Saltemann, who says: "We are now able to prove to Foch in his own words that he has not gained a victory. In his book, 'The Conduct of the War,' which he wrote under teaching strategy at the St. Cyr Military College, he showed himself a pronounced adherent of the theory of the offensive and the annihilation of the enemy. In putting into practice this idea, which Foch borrowed from Napoleon and to a greater extent still from von Moltke, he boldly conceived a task was to break through the German lines, roll them back, and make the

whole German system of defence totter. There was no middle course for Foch. Victory in the strictest sense of the word was positively imperative in this action. It was not his business to gain ground nor clear the Marne. His business was to cut through our defenses and get in our rear. It was win or lose. He lost, and must start the game afresh."

General Kibe, in the "Germania," angrily attributes the failure of the German offensive to the fact that the date on which it was to begin, July 15, occurred to be public property at home. He indignantly rebukes the "irrepressible tattling" by which news of military importance percolates to the enemy. He and virtually all the other critics agree that further hard fighting is imminent.

Hindenburg Now Promises Decisive Blow at British Line

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Official dispatches to-day from France tell how the German high command has caused to be published in the newspapers throughout Germany an official statement preparing the people to accept the defeat in the second battle of the Marne, but renewing the promise of a decisive blow against the Anglo-French front.

"After several days of desperate attempts to attenuate the gravity of the defeat of the German arms," says the dispatch, "Hindenburg and Ludendorff have decided to make a full confession."

"An official note, bearing the title: 'The Situation on the Front,' published in about the same terms in all the papers of the empire, tries to make the German public, profoundly deceived, accept the total failure of the am-

nounced enemy attack on Merris the place remained in his hands. North of Albert and south of the Somme there were strong artillery duels in the early morning. On the main battlefield between Hartennes and west of Fere-en-Tardenois there was no activity on the part of the enemy's infantry yesterday after their defeat of Monday. A violent partial attack was repulsed before Saponay (northwest of Fere-en-Tardenois).

Between Fere-en-Tardenois and the Bois Meupiere the French and Americans again attacked, deeply echeloned, toward midday. Their attacks broke down with sanguinary losses. Also in the wood itself the assaults of the enemy, six times renewed, broke down. Our infantry frequently pursued the defeated enemy and obtained firm possession of the front territory of their lines. Eastward of Fere-en-Tardenois the enemy in the evening and during the night renewed his costly attacks without success. Enemy partial attacks near Romigny (southeast of Ville-en-Tardenois) broke down. During the last few days we have captured more than 4,000 prisoners. This increased the number taken since the 15th to more than 24,000.

The Official Statements

FRENCH

PARIS (NIGHT).—On the whole front the day was marked by artillery actions.

Between Montdidier and the Oise an enemy raid, northward of Antheuil, obtained no results.

PARIS (DAY).—After a heavy bombardment the Germans attacked the new French positions east of Oulchy-le-Chateau. Our troops repulsed four enemy assaults and maintained their lines intact.

On the right bank of the Ourcq there were lively combats northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois. The village of Seringes-et-Nesles passed from hand to hand, but was finally taken by American troops in a counter attack.

A number of raids were made by the Germans near Mesnil-St. Georges, west of Montdidier; in La Pretre Wood, on the right bank of the Meuse, and in the Vosges. They were without result. Our troops made a successful incursion into the German lines northeast of Perthes-les-Hurlans (in Champagne) and brought back prisoners.

BRITISH

LONDON (NIGHT).—The hostile artillery was active during the day southwest of Albert, and has shown some activity also east of Rozebecq.

LONDON (DAY).—Several prisoners were captured by us during the night in successful raids and patrol encounters in the neighborhood of Lens, north of Bethune, and on the northern sector of our front. A hostile raiding party was driven off by our fire southeast of La Bassée.

The enemy artillery has been active on both sides of the Somme, and has shown considerable activity about Merris and in the Kemmel sector.

GERMAN

BERLIN (NIGHT).—Quiet reigned throughout the day along the battlefield.

BERLIN (DAY).—There has been very lively reconnoitering activity in Flanders. As the result of a re-

AUSTRIAN

VIENNA.—In a successful raid in the Sasso Rosso region, in Northern Italy, we captured twenty-five prisoners.

hitious programme which was destined to develop into the investment of Paris and the ultimate crushing of the military forces of the Entente.

"Hindenburg's defence renews the promise of a decisive blow against the Anglo-French front," but says the physiognomy which the struggle presents on the front between Soissons and Rheims and in the Champagne, and the Franco-British counter attacks (one must note here with care the American intervention is omitted), has led to the necessity of preparing for some time the decisive blow.

"With this end in view 'new bases for subsequent operations and strategic regroupings' have to be created. While awaiting until preparations for the future operations are completed, the front has been forced to 'retire' in the northern direction of the Marne front."

"How far will this retirement be carried out? A retreat of about a dozen kilometers will perhaps be sufficient. It is not thought 'necessary to-day that Hindenburg should find himself under the obligation of withdrawing the front as far back as the Vesle.'"

"The German 'inferior front' is implied 'not to renounce its confidence in our Hindenburg on account of that.' The tone of this official note is significant. The impression caused in Germany by the defeat must have been very profound. Confidence must be seriously shaken for the high command to solicit fresh favors with a sort of humility that is scarcely habitual to it."

"The 'Badische Landes Zeitung' is trying to persuade its readers that the German retreat was a part of Hindenburg's plans and that he is still continuing to impose his will on Germany's enemies. In the 'Frankfurter Zeitung' Deputy Conrad Hausmann says von Kuelmann is more popular now than before his fall."

Sole Aim Now Is Annihilation, Says Gen. March

Continued from page 1

ional Army, will be abandoned. In the same connection General March announced that the twelve major generals and the thirty-six brigadiers necessary for the new divisions will be selected from all elements of the service.

This statement was taken to mean that both National Guard and National Army officers hereafter will be eligible for promotion to the rank of general officers, even in regular army divisions.

In response to a question General March said that where a division commander was selected to be a temporary corps commander the command of his division passed to the senior brigadier.

General March had nothing to reveal concerning the extent of the casualties suffered by the American forces in the recent fighting. He said, however, that General Pershing had been ordered to cable his casualties as received and that these would be given out here at once. He added that there would be no distribution of casualties over a long period hereafter.

Secretary Baker Explains Secretary Baker later explained the purpose of the unification plan announced by the chief of staff. The principal reason, he said, is to obtain a more perfect coordination within the army through making it possible to transfer officers and troops from one regiment, brigade or division to another without reference to the original composition of the unit.

Subsidiary reasons are to prevent further speculation in the part of French or British officers concerning the military difference existing between a captain who wore the insignia of a major and a captain who wore "U. S. N. A."

The impression also has existed in each of the subdivisions, Mr. Baker said, that promotion was more rapid in the regular army than in the national guard on the same footing so far as their temporary rank is concerned. The regulars, however, will retain their places in the permanent list, as fixed by law.

No Bag Expected The principal portion of General March's statement follows: "Whatever the enemy's objective was at the start of the offensive, whatever our hope was in the counter offensive on the flank of this salient, it is now perfectly evident that those aims have been set aside. The objective of each army is the other army, each one of them wants to kill as many of the other as possible."

"The holding back of the jaws by the Germans of the Soissons and near Rheims, has made it practically impossible for us to expect a bag. They have had two weeks now to withdraw from the dangerous points down near the crest of the Soissons salient, and each army is the other army. During the last few days the American forces on that salient have been increased by the arrival of the Forty-second Division, which is taking part in the fighting near Fere-en-Tardenois and Sergy. The American division in the vicinity of Roneheres and Clerges is our Third Division."

Six New Divisions "I have ordered the formation of six new American divisions in the United States. They will be numbered from fifteen to twenty and will be organized at Camp Meade, near Perry, Beaufort, Travis, Dodge and Sevier. These divisions will have as a nucleus, as the six divisions organized last month did, two regular infantry regiments, the field artillery arm of the Department to replace, as far as possible, every soldier at home who is fit for service abroad with the home guard of men of limited service. The regular regiments referred to will be the nucleus of these divisions."

"Following out the same policy, we have ordered the transfer from the cavalry to the field artillery arm of the service of fifteen National Army cavalry regiments, numbered from 301 to 315. These men have been in the Army of the United States and have had a good deal of training and are now going to be utilized for service abroad. These regiments will form part of the field artillery for the new divisions now being organized."

Rainbow Boys Win Highest Praise for Bravery at Front

"The courier of America's bravest manhood."

"That was the characterization applied to the boys of the Rainbow Division when they arrived in France and ever since they have been more than raking good on that title.

There latest exploit is simply the fulfillment of the pledges to mothers and sweethearts during the long summer nights at Camp Mills last year—the further fulfillment of the trust the entire nation placed in this most picturesque of all the fighting units sent out to hurl America's defiance at the Hun.

Won Praise from Mann Made up of the crack regiments of twenty-seven states, the Rainbow Division was trained by Major General William A. Mann, now stationed at Governor's Island, in command of the Department of the East. To New York, this contingent has been particularly dear.

This was because among its units were included the "Old Fighting 69th," besides quotas of picked men from the 14th, 2d, 7th and 71st National Guard regiments.

These men were among the first of the National Guard troops to be sent to France.

"The Rainbow Division was the finest outfit I ever commanded," said General Mann, when, last January, he returned to this country after seeing his pupils safely across. "They will make good."

For a time the Rainbow boys remained out of the fighting, completing their training on French soil. Early in February they were declared fit for front line duty, and were sent to Lorraine. Since then they have sustained many losses and innumerable hardships, but, according to every dispatch, have every day been hearing out their old chief's prediction and the belief of New York and the nation at large.

To Confer on Prisoners Berlin Willing to Arrange Exchange of Captives With U. S.

LONDON, July 31.—The German government has given a favorable reply to the invitation of the American government to convene a conference to arrange for the exchange of military and civilian prisoners, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam, quoting a Berlin dispatch.

All Germany Now a Vast Hospital, Wounded Aviator Confides to Nurse

By Wilbur Forrest (Special Cable to The Tribune) (Copyright, 1918, by The Tribune Association)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMIES, July 31.—Some idea of the enormous cost to Germany of the present campaign was given to-day by a German aviator who was shot down, badly wounded, and is now in a French hospital.

The aviator received the kindest treatment from an aristocratic French nurse who lived much in Germany before the war. "Tell me the truth about the situation in Germany," she said to the aviator, who had thanked her for her treatment.

"I'll tell you the honest truth," he answered. "This reminds me of Germany, Germany which is now one vast hospital."

The foregoing is in sharpest contrast to the treatment by enemy doctors of twenty-one Allied wounded, including Americans, captured in a dressing station near La Bourdonnerie during the battle on the Marne banks. All except a French officer have now been rescued by the Allied advance.

Their affidavits assert that the German doctors refused to dress their wounds, took their gas masks and rations away, and left them without food and water for four days, suffering torture, while hundreds of German wounded brought to the station were properly cared for. An officer protested against the Germans' refusal to give antiseptic treatment and on the third day he disappeared.

Military Comment

By William L. McPherson Copyright, 1918, by The Tribune Association (The New York Tribune)

IN ONE of his illuminating talks on the West front situation General March, the American chief of staff, said yesterday that the objectives of the two armies fighting in the Soissons-Rheims salient had "been submerged in a greater struggle, the object of which on each side is the destruction of the opposing army."

This is one way of accounting for what has seemed to be a highly confusing element in German strategy. The German High Command was undoubtedly nettled at being caught off its guard by Foch's brilliant counter-offensive. Ludendorff has fought his way out of a trap with much deliberation and vindictiveness. He has lavished precious German reserves in order to save his face. The Great General Staff has flooded Germany with grotesque misrepresentations of what has been going on in the Marne salient since July 18 last. Now it has engaged the services of the receptive corps of German military critics for a campaign of camouflage and exculpation. The aim of all this propaganda is to delude the German public into thinking that the retreat from the Marne was only another voluntary strategic retirement, such as the retreat from below the Marne in September, 1914, was long represented to be.

To cover up a great defeat—moral as well as strategic—the German High Command has refused to cut losses in a bankrupt enterprise, and has fought bitterly and recklessly to stave off the inevitable. It has been unwilling to recognize unreservedly the strategic objective of such a retreat—an objective which the apologists in the German press are now exploiting as the sole reason and justification for it.

Ludendorff, they say, intending soon to attack on another front, where the situation is more promising for an offensive, cannot afford to let himself be pinned down "under locally unfavorable conditions" to a dead sector like the Soissons-Rheims salient.

Foch has realized his strategic objective. He has completely smashed the German drive for Epernay and Chalons. He has disrupted plans of the German High Command for the rest of the 1918 campaign. He has snatched the initiative away from Ludendorff. He can afford to continue the fight in the Marne salient or to break it off, as it may suit his purposes. Probably it suits him to have the Germans stay south of the Vesle, tied down there to an uneasy defensive.

But Ludendorff does not seem to have realized the real objective of his retreat. His position south of the Vesle is nearly as uncomfortable as was his former position between the Ourcq and the Marne. He has not rid himself of the burden of maintaining lines which it will be awkward for him to hold, if he means to carry his attack to some other part of the front. He is, therefore, fighting below the Vesle for political rather than military reasons. If he thought he could square himself with the German public he would probably pull back without further delay to the Vesle or to the Aisne.

He has, of course, an opponent who is hanging on to him like a bulldog. He has also stores which may not yet have been transported in their entirety to a safe base in the rear. But he has not done what other leaders have done when they had no choice but to retreat. He has not cut wear and tear and exhausting losses by economizing on

the defence and letting the situation gradually stabilize itself.

In this respect Foch's operation against the Marne salient has run a different course from that of any previous West front offensive this year. Two weeks ago to-day the Allied counter-offensive began. It has been making steady progress ever since then. And it is not clear yet that it has ended. It has not ended for the Germans in the sense that they have at last reached positions where they can settle down in security, or which fit in with their further plans either for offence or defence.

From the front from Soissons to Rheims there was a comparative let-up in the fighting yesterday. But this may not mean at all that the battle has been broken off. The situation is still unstable. The severed threads of German strategy in the West have to be pieced together again. At what point does Germany want to continue her fight? By what new stroke is she going to recapture the initiative? And, while she is struggling with this problem, the spectre of a new front in the East is looming up. The assassination of von Eichhorn in Kiev is only another evidence that Germany's footing in Russia is becoming more and more hazardous. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is now only a memory. How long can Germany hope to keep dismembered Russia tranquil, and so be free to utilize almost all her waning military strength in France?

Americans Escape Barrage in Woevre

Sectors Evacuated Before German Infantry Attacks; Foe Loses a Plane

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 31.—Aerial activity was greatly increased to-day owing to the fact that the weather, after several weeks of storms, cleared. American aviators undertook reconnaissance mis-

ions chiefly, but the pursuit machines also were up. Two American fliers attacked two German scouts over Montsec, in the Woevre, and drove one enemy plane down.

The Germans put over a heavy barrage in the Woevre sector this morning. It lasted more than half an hour, and it is probable that they sent the infantry across behind the barrage. But their fire was entirely wasted, as the positions had been evacuated.

The destruction of a German balloon on July 29 has been a credit, and another was brought down yesterday.

Secret Order Reveals Dire Need of Enemy

Oulchy is the same kind of battered wreck as are most of the villages and towns fought over in the last fortnight. Unexploded shells, torn and bloody equipment, soldiers' bodies—still friend and foe, but mostly foe—still huddled on the bundles where they fell, and occasionally a group of dead horses and shattered wagons, all testify that the enemy made no voluntary retreat from Oulchy.

The scene was terrible, but it was tempered somewhat by those neatly shocked wheatfields on two sides of the village. These fields extend to the ridge of heavily wooded hills to the west, where the enemy peers back on the fields of his labor at a badly needed "swag" that he couldn't carry along.

There was enough here alone to make the Germans lose much of their faith in "Gott mit uns," and they couldn't be blamed much this afternoon—could they?—for venting their spite on the Tribune correspondent with several crashing bursts of shrapnel. These were wasted, however, as the appearance of this story in the Tribune indicates.

North of Oulchy-in-Ville on Monday morning captured Butte Chalmont, a high hill overlooking the crest from where the enemy looked down on Oulchy to-day. The new Allied position is a good sign that the Germans will soon be forced to leave the crests which are being mastered with Allied gunfire. Then the killed Jocks that saw outside Oulchy to-day can go in and clean up the village.

Some wools are wool; others are part wool! Ours are all wool—and we prove it by chemical test! Only natural that the "highest type of tailoring" should go with "the finest fabrics."

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