

GERMANS PREPARE FOR NEW OFFENSIVE

Attacks Against French Line Made by Soldiers in Shirt Sleeves.

"SHOCKERS" SOON OUSTED

One Detachment of 62 Grenadiers Kills More Than 200 Tautons.

By Associated Press.

GRAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRAUNCO, June 23.—There are signs on many parts of the French front that the Germans are either nervous concerning the French intentions or are preparing an offensive. A series of "feints" has been carried out by Field Marshal von Hindenburg at various points, principally around the Laon Plateau. One of the chief of these was an effort to cut a breach in the French line at Vauxaillon, where the German "shock" units temporarily ousted the French from a short trench system on the slopes of Mont Carnillet, on which it was important that both armies should possess observation posts.

French counter attacks immediately regained all the ground lost except a salient measuring a few yards, in which the German position is most precarious. On this occasion the German shock troops advanced in their shirt sleeves without packs, after a terrific bombardment in which every yard of the adjacent ground was searched by shells.

The German "shockers" as soon as they succeeded in their determined and courageous effort, turned over the trenches they had gained to the Seventy-eighth German Infantry, who, however, failed to hold them when called upon for a defensive effort. The corresponding British position in this sector to-day and found the French firmly established, while the Germans on the other side of the hill were deprived of observation posts, and thus their artillery was blind.

Another lively affair occurred in the vicinity of Mont Carnillet, where the Germans and French attacked almost simultaneously, the former with the object of recovering prominent points they had lost some weeks ago, and the latter with the intention of getting back above ground. As it happened, a unit consisting of only sixty-two French grenadiers and portable machine guns, occupied the position coveted by the Germans and only drove off the attacking forces but pursued them and captured a considerable length of German trenches, and in doing so killed more than 200 Germans.

On the Chemin-des-Dames also the Germans launched yesterday a number of attacks, some of which resulted in most desperate engagements. In the neighborhood of La Roivre farm the ground was covered with German bodies, while the only success the Germans achieved was to gain possession of a short section of a front French trench.

NIGHT ATTACKS FAIL.

Germans Again Unable to Dislodge French From Ridges.

LONDON, June 23.—Following the repulse of every one of a multitude of night attacks practically all along the Chemin des Dames the Germans to-day made no attempt to attack the French lines. The artillery fire continued heavy, but the Germans were apparently exhausted and there was no infantry fighting.

Last night's attacks resembled a general offensive by the Germans. Their efforts were directed against French positions near Vauxaillon, on the western end of the ridge and southeast of Plain, further east. Especially violent efforts were made near Froimont farm, in the region of their slight success yesterday. Every attack failed completely.

On the British front raiding activity continued great on the Ypres and Arras battle fronts and the artillery fire was also heavy there. The official statements follow:

French Day Statement.—The night was marked by violent bombardment, followed by a new series of German efforts against the points attacked on the preceding day, in the region of Vauxaillon on the one hand and southeast of Plain on the other. All these attacks were repulsed and the enemy, whose losses were serious, gained no advantage.

Attacks Broken Down.—The fighting was particularly spirited between Roivre farm and Froimont farm. The Germans, who enlarged their attacking front east of Epine de Chevregny, as far as to the north of Froimont farm, multiplied their efforts to capture these positions. Their attacking forces, broken up by our fire, were not able to approach our lines or detach from the salient penetrated yesterday.

Other efforts of the enemy, east of Chevregny, east of Cavalliers de Courcy and in the sector of Chambrettes, also were repulsed.

We penetrated the German lines at several points and took prisoners. French Night Statement.—On the Chemin des Dames the artillery action continued throughout the day, notably in the sector south and southeast of Plain and in the region of Craonne and Chevregny. There was no infantry action.

The Germans continued to bombard Rheims; to-day 1,200 shells fell in the town.

Belgian Statement.—Quite lively artillery fighting occurred near Dixmude and Poyegneule and in the Steenstraete-Het Sas zone.

On the British Front.—British Day Statement.—Our troops raided the enemy's positions north of Cavrille last night and captured several prisoners. A number of other prisoners were taken by us in a successful local operation in the neighborhood of Warnton.

A German raiding party was repulsed northeast of Ypres.

British Night Statement.—In the course of patrol encounters last night south of Armentieres Portuguese troops killed or captured a whole German patrol.

Beyond artillery activity on both sides at a number of places along the front there is nothing further of special interest to report.

section, was captured by storm. Our troops maintained its possession on a front of about one and a half kilometers and to a depth of 100 meters, notwithstanding three violent counter attacks in which the enemy suffered heavy losses. Fleeing occupants of the trenches were caught under our fire and we brought back 300 prisoners.

In the morning the French attacked to the west of Mont Carnillet and in the evening at Vauxaillon without obtaining any success. East of Craonne and on both banks of the Meuse our reconnoitering parties brought back prisoners.

Army Group of Grand Duke Albert.—Only the usual fighting activity occurred along this front. French reconnoitering troops were engaged north of St. Mihiel and east of the Moselle.

Since June 15 twenty-three enemy airplanes have been brought down during aerial battles and five by our defensive firing from the ground. Four captive balloons of the enemy also were brought down.

LENS KEY POSITION.

Germans Prepare for Desperate Defense of Town.

CANADIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, June 23.—Further resistance offered by the enemy to any further advance along the Souchez Valley in the direction of Lens indicates his intention to hold this position as a key to the remaining outpost protecting Lille and the great industrial district of which it is the centre.

Reference to the German hold appeared to be secure. The two ridges, Messines, about ten miles northwest, and Vimy, about eighteen miles southwest of Lille, were held in great strength and their impregnability was subject to frequent boasting. Now both Vimy and Messines ridges are firmly in our possession and to the northeast of Lille the advance has been pushed almost to the bank of the Lys, which is a poor defensive substitute for the commanding heights surrendered to the impetuous assault of Haig's army.

Progress in the south has been less spectacular but nevertheless important. The enemy's defenses are unquestionably crumbling beneath the unending shellings. In the picturesque phrase of an officer: "We have been throwing four-dryes and munition plants in the week of a small triangle of German trenches west of Reservoir Hill has been followed by most persistent efforts on the part of the Germans to recover the lost ground. On the front south of the Souchez stream the enemy has been equally 'unquiet.' Gas shells have been freely used by both sides. This involves the frequent use of gas masks. The gas shells are more often discharged by night than in the day time.

Other parts of the line prisoners have been captured who were recently serving in eastern Europe. There is a marked increase in the number of British and American prisoners. Recently a few boys have been captured of the 1919 class—that is immature lads of 18.

U. S. GUNS 'BLIND' ANOTHER U-BOAT

Periscope Shot Away and Vessel Perhaps Destroyed in Mediterranean.

AN AMERICAN PORT, June 23.—Following close upon the report that an American merchant ship on her return voyage to this port had sunk or badly damaged an enemy submarine, which was confirmed by the Navy Department to-day, came the story of an encounter between another American vessel and a U-boat in the Mediterranean in which the U-boat lost her periscope and may have been sunk by the American gunners.

REPORTS ON SINKING.

Commander of Gun Crew Tells of Battle With U-Boat.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Confirmation of the sinking of a German submarine by the navy gun crew of an armed American merchantman, mentioned in yesterday's despatches, was received to-day by the Navy Department in a report from Chief Boatman's Mate O. J. Gullickson, commanding the gunners.

The report was made public by Secretary Daniels immediately upon its receipt. After describing the unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the steamship the report said: "A periscope was sighted off the starboard beam and fire was immediately commenced from the forward guns at about 2,000 yards range. The ship was headed toward the periscope. All shots were falling very close to the periscope. Suddenly a shot from the forward gun hit just in front of the periscope, making the submarine submerge, and a light blue smoke came up from the stern of the submarine. The periscope appeared again at a range of about 600 yards, when a shot from the after gun hit it squarely on the water line, making small bits of steel fly and causing commotion of bubbles in the water. Apparently the submarine was either sunk or badly damaged as nothing further was seen of it."

The gun crew under Gullickson's charge consisted of: First Lieutenant, N. Howard C. Gurnetow, Cleveland, Ohio; Freddie Wilson, Highwood, Ill.; George A. Glutting, Newark, N. J.; S. O. Beam, Bridgeport, Ill.; Victor M. Burns, Fayetteville, Ark.; Edwin M. Hausman, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William R. Blackmar, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Robert R. Hopkins, Shelton, Conn.; Sylvester J. Niehaus, Washington, D. C.; Charles W. Poles, Jamestown, R. I.; and William A. Metzger, Lake Forest, Ill.

GERMANS' CONTENT.

May Submarine Campaign is Progressing Favorably.

COPENHAGEN, June 23.—The *Blatnik* chief says it has been informed by a German naval personage that the decrease of submarine sinkings in May may be explained as due to a decrease in tonnage at sea. The German, declares this authority, torpedoed proportionately more ships than in previous months and in some areas more than the German preliminary estimates.

The number of the submarine lost in May, as in previous months, it is asserted, did not reach ten.

The Norwegian steamship *Laatofa* has been sunk by a German submarine, says a Norwegian Foreign report. The crew was rescued.

GERMANS' RESERVE STOOD OFF ROUT

Repington Explains Why Allies' Drive Did Not Crush Foe.

JOFFRE PLAN WAS UPSET

Teuton Losses Heaviest of War in Second Part of Arras Battle.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

LONDON, June 23.—Col. Repington, the military expert of the *Times*, reviews the spring offensive on the western front in part as follows:

"At the close of the winter campaign the allied armies were in great strength and splendid spirit. They were numerically superior to the enemy, and the advantage in armament was marked, but the Germans were also strong. Their losses on the Somme had been made up, and the number of their divisions increased, while many heavy guns had arrived from the Russian front. From these resources the German higher command was able to mass a general reserve of some fifty-two divisions in early April, and it was clear to many from the first and became clear to others later that such superiority as the Allies possessed was insufficient to promise a decisive victory, though much was hoped from a reasoned, limited offensive by making full use of superior armaments and improved tactics.

Officer Worked Out Project.

"The allied plan was based upon a project of Marshal Joffre's, formed before he relinquished the supreme command. It aimed at an attack on a broad front by the British and French armies combined. Before the date came around the Germans began their retreat from Arras to Solson, the German decision to retreat was probably formed in December, 1916, as a result of the hammering on the Somme and Ancre, which had left the German armies in front of our fourth and fifth armies in no position to resist a fresh assault."

After recalling the stages of the battle of Arras, Col. Repington proceeds: "Had the British commander in chief thought of his own armies and his own plan alone, he might well have been content for he had gained the famous Vimy Ridge, gained immensely enhanced facilities for observation and caused the enemy heavy loss in men, material and prestige; but the French armies, after preliminary success on the Aisne, had been arrested, and it was vitally important that we should continue to hold and wear down the enemy on our front. We had to attract the German reserves to our front and the artillery could be brought forward, the attack was recommended."

Change in Fighting.

Dealing with the second stage of the Arras battle Col. Repington writes: "The character of the fighting completely changed. The enemy had had time to bring his reserves and his reserves of guns into the fight, and had received orders to conduct the defence aggressively regardless of loss. On the whole front the hostile trenches were

full of troops and machine guns, and counter attacks of a determined character followed each other in rapid succession. As we had superior artillery, the best of ground and excellent observation the German losses were immense. "In this hard and bitter fighting the hand to hand battle swung this way and that, but not one of the German attacks effected anything serious. While the battle still raged it was the writer's opinion, which he found was shared by Field Marshal Haig, that the Germans never had suffered such losses on one front in so short a time since the ever memorable first battle of Ypres."

GERMAN CROPS SHRIVEL.

Nation's Hunger Grows as Drought Continues.

COPENHAGEN, June 23.—The period of intense heat continues, according to reports from Berlin, over the greater part of Germany, the only exception being in the western section. The drought in Denmark has been broken by prolonged rains.

Berlin on Wednesday experienced heat exceeded only three times in seventy years. Little rain has fallen throughout Germany and particularly in the east. It is reported that the yield of fruit and vegetables, compared with peace times, the return is disappointing. Extra plantings probably will not result in any increase in the total production.

Some relief is expected with the arrival of the first early potatoes. These are delayed, however, as Hungary, the principal source of early supply, has also suffered from weeks of drought. The old potatoes have been almost exhausted. Hamburg and Altona, for example, will be able to furnish none next week. Residents of Hamburg are being allowed to pay for fish with meat cards instead of money.

MANY DIE IN EXPLOSION.

Total Casualties at Blowitz, Austria, May Exceed 1,000.

AMSTERDAM, June 23.—More than 1,000 persons were killed, injured or are missing in consequence of an explosion in munitions factories at Blowitz, according to an announcement made in the Lower House of the Austrian Parliament by the Minister of Defense. The casualties were given by the Minister as follows: Dead, 136; missing, 170; wounded, 625. Of the wounded 520 received slight injuries.

No previous reports of the disastrous explosion at Blowitz have come out of Austria. Near Pilsen, Bohemia, where the Pilsener beer is brewed, there is a town named Blowitz, which is also spelled Blowitz and Bolewek.

Twelve Greek Ships Sunk.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—An official despatch to-day reported that a total of twelve Greek merchant ships, representing a tonnage of 31,543 and valued at \$1,592,000, had been torpedoed and sunk by German and Austrian submarines since April 2.

The Store is closed at 5 P.M. On Saturday, June 30th, it will be closed at 12 Noon.

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Men's Wearing Apparel American-made Uniforms Leather Goods, Toilet Articles, Etc., for the Military Camp Equipment especially appealing to men who are preparing for service under the colors, have been assembled in comprehensive assortments.

An Important Sale of Summer Hosiery for Men and Women will be held to-morrow (Monday) and will present 50,000 pairs of new Hosiery of selected qualities at Special Sale prices.

- WOMEN'S SILK HOSE: In black or white; with lisle tops and soles, per pair 95c. In black, white, and a choice of several colors; with lisle-interlined tops and soles, per pair \$1.10 & 1.50. In black, white, pink, bronze, gray and navy blue; all-silk, with Richelieu rib, pair \$1.65. In black, white, pink, silver, bronze and navy blue; all-silk, of unusually fine quality and very sheer, per pair \$2.50.
- MEN'S HALF-HOSE: Ribbed silk, in colors only, per pair \$1.75. Silk, with lisle soles; in black, white and colors, per pair \$1.00. Lisle (silk-finish), in black only; very durable, per pair 55c. (Three pairs for \$1.50). Summer-weight Lisle, in black, white and colors, per half-dozen pairs \$1.85.

Exceptional Value will be offered to-morrow (Monday) in Women's Milanese Silk Gloves remarkably low priced. Two-clasp Milanese Silk Gloves, in white only, per pair 78c. Mousquetaire Milanese Silk Gloves (sixteen-button length), in black, white, black stitched with white, and white stitched with black, per pair 78c.

A Special Sale of Women's Summer Morning Frocks prettily made of ginghams, cotton voiles and cotton tissues, will present excellent values to-morrow at the extremely low prices of \$2.25, \$2.90, \$3.75 & \$4.50. Included in this Sale will be Garden and Sports Smocks made of cotton materials, specially priced at \$2.10 & \$3.25 (Second Floor). Misses' Crepe de Chine Dresses in a number of pretty styles, some suitable for sports wear, will be offered to-morrow at the exceptionally low prices of \$11.75 & \$14.25 (Second Floor).

A Special Sale of Bathing Costumes for Women, Misses and Children will afford on Monday an unusual and timely opportunity for economical buying. WOMEN'S BATHING COSTUMES: Of black satin, \$10.50 & 14.50. Of black mohair, 7.75. Of black silk poplin, 6.85 (Combination included). MISSES' & CHILDREN'S BATHING COSTUMES at very special prices. (Department on the Third Floor).

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