

GERMAN ARMY HELD READY TO ATTACK WHEN FOE SPENDS FORCE

GERMANY'S JINGO PRESS IS JUBILANT

Gains of Offensive Counted and Harsh Peace Is Demanded.

PRaise BRITISH DEFENCE

Ludendorff Says Preparation for Offensive Began Two Months Ago.

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—The German newspapers are already counting the German gains without reckoning on an allied counter-offensive.

"It is self-evident," says the Cologne Volks Zeitung, "that after what is now happening we can no longer conclude peace on the terms we were ready to accept a week ago. The enemy must be brought to a submissive spirit and forced to everything we need in the future, especially in colonies and raw materials."

The Reichstag newspaper, Volksrecht of Berlin, says the German people greet the news from the western front with joy, merely because it justifies the hope that the events there will bring peace nearer. The newspaper protests against language used by the pan-German organs. Deutsche Zeitung, which satirized "Down with the Philistines who talk about conciliation. Down with the world of the peace god. The cry of vengeance and our truly German hatred of England is ringing with renewed force throughout the empire. Down with England."

The Volkszeitung of Cologne says that according to Gen. von Ludendorff, chief aid to Field Marshal Hindenburg, Emperor Wilhelm has been impressed by the terrible devastation in the battle area, remarking: "How glad we should be that our country has been spared such terrible things. Why did we succeed in keeping the fighting beyond our frontiers? Because before the war we always urged one to keep the fighting as far from the kind changes these things also will change, but first mankind must begin to change."

The days of 1914 seem to have returned. The impression is as if the era of the night of peoples had been revived. Streams of men, animals, weapons and munitions of all kinds rolled forward. From a high viewpoint one could see the smoke and flames snake over the valleys and the hills. When one is amazed it all one is thrilled with the greatest admiration for the perfect order and discipline.

"Transport with slightly wounded often pass. They report that the British offered an extremely tenacious resistance when the attack was begun. Partly to be taken in hand to hand, encounters, which occurred on all three days in the morning, mostly during a thick fog."

The course of the battle goes exactly as it was planned, and as it was hoped it would go. The infantry has completely entered the war in 1914, and this will bring further successes, although the enemy still strong and fights with determination.

"We have succeeded in changing the fighting from position warfare to warfare of movement, although the attacker has had to employ very special means in his favor. Undoubtedly the British use machine guns with much skill. For instance, the attack on the Somme, which started from trenches, in which machine guns are planted. Such installations cannot be observed by our artillery, and the enemy's machine guns cannot be reached. Our infantry had to take all these machine gun nests, scattered everywhere over the battlefield."

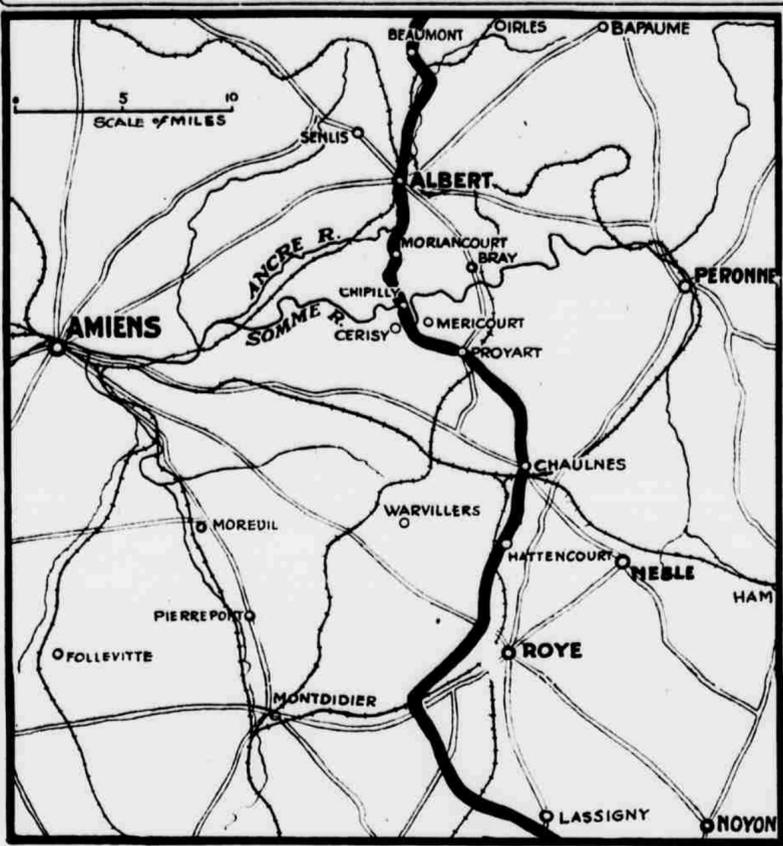
"A great battle has been fought and victory won, but nobody can say what will result from it," said Gen. von Ludendorff in an interview with the correspondent in front of the Toge's Zeitung of Berlin.

The general praised the British for their tenacious resistance, and continued: "The British believed they could rely on the strength of machinery. The employment of tanks and great numbers of machine guns is typical of their methods of warfare."

The German infantry, the General adds, had only one night's normal rest during five or six days of battle. "It is a battle like this," he remarked, "the infantry must risk his life not only once, but continuously, from trench to trench."

Gen. Ludendorff gave forward to the attack on the British front in France, he trained far behind the lines, even behind the Belgian frontier, according to the German press, which is visited daily by the Emperor and Crown Prince. Emperor Wilhelm has appointed the German Crown Prince, Chief of the staff, General von Hindenburg, in recognition of the good work of his troops on the western front. In a telegram to the Crown Prince, the Emperor says: "The fine and great success which the troops of the German group under your command have achieved these days in the battles against the British army gives me a welcome opportunity to express to your highness my hearty recognition by appointing you Chief of the staff Grenadier Regiment. I am convinced that the brave and war-proved troops will always be worthy of its princely chief."

Where the Great German Drive Has Been Checked



The Germans are no longer advancing in mass with a solid front, but such gains as they make are in isolated places and in the most important of these the British and French counter attacks have become more powerful than the German attacks. This is especially true of the middle section of the battlefield where the British have regained the villages of Morlancourt and Chipilly, and have advanced to Proyart. At two points north and south of Albert the Germans succeeded in crossing the Ancre, but were thrown back. A very heavy force attacked the French west of Roye and compelled them to give ground. This fighting apparently was between Roye and Montdidier. A little further south, about Lassigny and to the west of Noyon, powerful attacks were repulsed by the French.

ENEMY IS CHECKED, MAURICE DECLARES

British Military Director Believes Situation Is Less Critical.

LONDON, March 27.—The situation today is less critical than it has been in the last few days.

In these words Major-Gen. Frederick B. Maurice, Chief Director of Military Operations at the War Office, summed up the situation on the western front in an interview today with the Associated Press. Then he added:

"The course of the battle goes exactly as it was planned, and as it was hoped it would go. The infantry has completely entered the war in 1914, and this will bring further successes, although the enemy still strong and fights with determination."

"We have succeeded in changing the fighting from position warfare to warfare of movement, although the attacker has had to employ very special means in his favor. Undoubtedly the British use machine guns with much skill. For instance, the attack on the Somme, which started from trenches, in which machine guns are planted. Such installations cannot be observed by our artillery, and the enemy's machine guns cannot be reached. Our infantry had to take all these machine gun nests, scattered everywhere over the battlefield."

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Germany Forecasts Franco-British Drive

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Official French despatches received here today say the newspapers in Germany are preparing the people for a Franco-British offensive, forecasting the entry of a powerful army of reserves.

NO U. S. PRISONERS TAKEN AT LA FERRE

Americans Got "a Severe Lesson" in Drive, Says German Newspaper.

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—The part reported to have been played by American troops in the attempted relief of the British flank near La Fere is referred to briefly by most of the German war correspondents, but so far no mention has been made of the presence of American among the prisoners.

Wilhelm Hoeler of the Berlin Tageblatt says the Americans now have an opportunity to find out what really means. The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says the fact that the Americans got "a severe lesson" is "especially gratifying to us."

Another correspondent says the untold bravery of the Americans proved no match for the furor Teutonic.

The military correspondent of Vorwarts says: "After the first surprise the enemy pressure along the entire front naturally is growing stronger. Threatening attacks compel the enemy to reckless action. South of the break through front he, therefore, is collecting strong reserves for the present offensive counter-attack."

"Attacks of combined allied forces yesterday against the pivot of the German attacking front near La Fere were particularly heavy. These counter-attacks did not find us unprepared. It testifies to the superior foresight of the German command that the British, in which American troops certainly participated only symbolically, were not only beaten off, but were thrown back into the Oise Canal by an energetic blow."

U. S. TROOPS PRAISED.

French Observer of Battle Speaks of "Valiant Support."

PARIS, March 27.—A French military commentator, writing in reference to the situation today, says concerning the Americans:

"At various points on the front our allies are bringing to the British their valiant support."

KAISER IN QUARREL.

Held Heated Talk With Ludendorff Before Battle.

PARIS, March 27.—Emperor William and Gen. von Ludendorff had a violent quarrel before the beginning of the great attack on the western front, according to a prominent Swiss, who has just returned to Zurich after some weeks in Germany and has been interviewed by the correspondent of the Temps. This man is quoted as saying:

"There was much discreet talk in Berlin before the present offensive campaign extremely violent scenes between Germany's leaders at General Headquarters. Gen. von Ludendorff spoke so violently and authoritatively that the Emperor, becoming very pale, arose from his chair and, pounding the table, demanded: 'General, are you or I Emperor of Germany?'"

Gen. von Ludendorff replied that he was only a soldier and more than any one else desired peace. He said he was convinced that his plan for an offensive victory lay in Lithuania or Courland.

RED HOT GUNS HALT SLAUGHTER OF FOE

French Batteries Mow Down Attackers as Long as Rifles Will Fire.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 27.—The French batteries of the front have been firing for a terrific rush to get between the French and British forces, with the object of defeating each separately, has failed up to the present and is likely to continue to fail. The fighting qualities of the allied soldiers have served to stay the impulsive advance, and today the Anglo-French line is still strong.

The next few days may change the situation entirely, as the Allies have had time to get their "maneuvering reserves" to take the offensive. Now they are expected to hold the railway embankment on the western outskirts.

"South of the Somme attacks in the Roye and Noyon areas are expected to be renewed, but French reserves are approaching."

"There have been two critical moments thus far in the battle raging in France. The first was on Saturday, when the enemy got across the Tortille river and nearly reached the line on the Somme. The second was on Monday when the British counter-attacks and a half tons of bombs on enemy reserves around Peronne and Bapaume. During the day long flying machines operated constantly and almost without intermission on the part of the enemy from the air. With their machine guns they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, and constantly interfered with his preparations."

"The opposing force on the whole front are as nearly equal as possible. The enemy, being on the offensive, gets his reserves on the second day. What we require is time to get up our forces to the right place. Every day the enemy is held in a tremendous advantage to us."

"The battle is far from over, and I would not like to say we are not likely to be faced with another crisis, but time will tell. The enemy is getting further from his railheads, and the area behind the line is getting more congested. His supply of men also is wearing thin. The farther the Germans advance and their troops in echelon, throwing in fresh men from the rear, the more exhausted the men carry full equipment and exist on iron rations. This process of handling troops is now growing difficult, and meanwhile Anglo-French reserves are getting nearer the battle with his preparations."

Gen. Maurice laid a map of the western front on the table in his quarters. A blue line represented the front as it was on the night of March 27, and a red line showed the position of the front on the morning of the 28th. A green line showed the position of the front on the morning of the 29th. The changes to-day included slight advances along the Somme, both north and south of the river, and a similar enemy push further south around Ercheux and Echelle-St. Aurin.

"During the night," continued Gen. Maurice, "the enemy attacked just north of the Somme and drove us back to Merri-court and Sully, but fresh allied troops arrived this morning and counter-attacks, regaining a considerable part of the ground the Germans had taken. On the remainder of the northern part of the front the line remains steady."

Palmer May Be Viceroy.

LONDON, March 27.—Emperor William has appointed his fourth son, Prince August Wilhelm, Prefect of Potsdam to learn civil administration, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam.

It is believed that this is a preliminary step to the Emperor's appointment to a viceregal post in Lithuania or Courland.

GREAT ARMY READY TO STOP THE ATTACK

Premier Clemenceau Says Moment for Use of Reserves Is Near at Hand.

CONFIDENT OF OUTCOME

After Visit to Front He Tells Deputies Enemy Already Is Slowing Up.

PARIS, March 27.—Premier Clemenceau told the Army Committee of the Chamber of Deputies today that the moment was near when the reserves of the Allies would enter into action. The great battle now being waged in France would then take on a new phase, and, he added, there was every reason to hope that the enemy would not retain the benefit of the gains made at such a bloody price.

There was a settling down, he said, along the British and French fronts, where the Germans were trying to break through, and even within the last few hours there had been noted a slackening in the enemy's effort.

The Premier was before the committee for more than an hour and a half. He dealt at length with the situation and spoke with full confidence in the future. Strategic considerations, he said, did not belong to the domain of the Government, but he gave details of the military situation, with an explanation of the measures taken, in agreement between the high commands of the French and British armies to assure effective direction to their operations.

An official note issued today on the subject of the Premier's return says: "The Cabinet met this morning. Premier Clemenceau informed his colleagues of the military situation. The Premier has just returned from the front, where he passed the day (Tuesday) with President Poincare and Louis Loucheur, Minister of Munitions. The Premier returned with a satisfactory impression."

In conversation with Deputies who surrounded him in the lobby before the Chamber of Deputies, the Premier said that never was confidence more justified than now.

According to the latest news from the front the force of the German attack has been diminished by the last few days. Yesterday's onslaught was far from having the same violence as those which preceded it.

The Franco-British high command is taking advantage of the respite to prepare for battles which the Allies will give at the earliest time and on the most favorable ground.

Deputies who took part in earlier campaigns express the opinion that if the Germans are held for forty-eight hours more their offensive will prove to have been checked.

Few of the Deputies listened to the debate in the lobby. Most of them remained in the lobby, commenting on the latest official communication. Henri Franklin-Bouillon, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that although the situation was serious it should be regarded with serenity. He pointed out that the French army, whose valour the Premier has so often commended, has participated in the battle.

Edouard Herriot, Secretary for Military Affairs, confirmed these words.

French Ready to Wade In.

Leon Abrami, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, summed up the situation in a few words. He said that the British troops the Germans are about to meet the shock of a powerful French army, perfectly fresh, animated by a spirit of sacrifice and protected by a certain amount of artillery fire such as it is difficult to conceive. This army has been taken to the scene of action by railroads and every other means. These troops have not yet had a bullet or a shell. Hebertot, a few independent divisions have checked the enemy's progress.

Furthermore, formidable British reserves of manœuvre are arriving on the battlefield, so that the enemy's gains of ground can be but ephemeral. M. Abrami also pointed out that the French reserves are being thrown in the direction of the front by the allied army of manœuvre, formed by the British and French Versaille. These troops were held back until the Germans had definitely committed themselves to the offensive now under way.

"The capture of Albert there is a Possibility will help to explain the calmness and confidence of the French."

"Given though the situation is serious it cannot be regarded as alarming. It is at the end with confidence. The German boast of Hindenburg. We have at the helm the savior of Verdun" (Gen. Pétain), the French Commander in Chief, was in command of the army at Verdun at the time of the German offensive there.

The caliber of the shells that are being fired into Paris by the German long range gun is 5.8 inches and the length of the shell is twenty inches. L'Humanite, Parisian Communist newspaper, says the shell weighs 200 pounds and contains less than twenty pounds of explosives.

The shell is provided with a fuse protected by a threefold taper and has a diaphragm inside, which divides the shell into two compartments of unequal size. Two holes in the diaphragm afford communication between the compartments. These facts are accepted as an explanation of the two explosions, which on occasion have followed in quick succession and which led to the belief that two guns were firing.

Bombardment Calms Paris.

If the Germans believed that by inaugurating their bombardment of Paris at the moment of their offensive they would bring panic or add to the anxiety of the people, they have shown themselves grossly miscalculating. At 9 o'clock on the morning of the 26th our troops were approaching Amman on the Hedra railway.

During the night of the 25th a few prisoners were captured, as also was one gun and a quantity of ammunition. One enemy airplane was destroyed.

They Occupy Esauil and Approach Amman on Hedra Railway.

LONDON, March 27.—The British official communication issued to-night dealing with the operations in Palestine says:

On the night of the 25th our infantry occupied Esauil about thirty miles inland from Jerusalem. At 9 o'clock on the morning of the 26th our troops were approaching Amman on the Hedra railway.

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London Market Tone Good.

LONDON, March 27.—Money was in increased demand today. Discounts were quiet.

The Stock Exchange passed a quiet day. The market remains good. Prices were steady and there were only a few fraction lower. These decreases were

Von Rohne Says Guns Will Bombard London

LONDON, March 27.—Lieut.-Gen. von Rohne, a German authority on ordnance, says in the Berlin Vossische Zeitung that the bombardment of Paris is merely in the nature of a trial for guns which are really intended to bombard London, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. He adds: "It is a waste of time for citizens of Paris to ascend the Eiffel Tower in an effort to catch a glimpse of the cannon. Only airmen at a height of 1,300 meters will be able to observe them."

PERSHING REMAINS SILENT ON U. S. AID

Has Not Reported Americans Fighting With British. Says March.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Although for the last three days the active participation of American troops in the great battle raging in France has been mentioned repeatedly in the daily reports of the Germans, French and British, the War Department here is still without any information of its own regarding this, according to Major-Gen. March, acting Chief of Staff.

A statement made by Gen. March today to the effect that the War Department had not yet received "any information as to the cooperation of United States troops in the battle" was not much surprise in view of the time which has elapsed since American troops were first reported in action.

A message given out today from Gen. Pershing gave the battle line at 9:30 last night and a short summary of the German progress, but made no mention of American troops, Gen. March said.

The General advanced no reason for this. He said he had read with interest the statement made public last night by the British War Office to the effect that American troops were fighting "shoulder to shoulder" with the British and French, and he intimated that these troops were probably British troops and the American engineers referred to previously.

Gen. Pershing's reported silence concerning the American troops in the battle has begun to occasion widespread comment. The long message from Gen. Pershing received here last night, which was believed to contain details proved, he believed, would contain details proved, this information.

Whether Gen. Pershing has failed to get in touch with the commander of the American troops, or whether he has here, presumably these troops were operating under a British commander in chief and it is possible that the British War Office has not yet received this officer has been unable to make any report that would reach American headquarters.

It is far the only official information which has reached the War Department, according to statements of Major-Gen. March, was contained in the brief message from Gen. Pershing given out Monday night which mentioned the presence of the American Engineers were with the British army engaged in the battle near the Crozat Canal.

Ever since this message was received the War Department and official circles generally have been of such a nature that they are waiting for further news of the American soldiers in the battle.

Today's message from Gen. Pershing as given out on March 26 last night is as follows:

Summary of battle, March 26. North of the Somme the enemy made some progress in the neighborhood of Hebuterne. Fighting is taking place there and further news of the American soldiers in the battle.

Today's message from Gen. Pershing as given out on March 26 as follows: Hebuterne, Albert, Bray, Noyon. German communication claims capture of 800 men.

This battle line conforms with the British statements, excepting that since last night Albert has been occupied by the Germans. Hebuterne is several miles back from the British line as last announced.

Despite the capture of Albert there were experts here, according to military circles, who held the opinion that the capture of Albert was a serious blow to the German offensive. The British Staff officers agreed the next thirty-six hours would be critical and looked for a counter-attack to be made in the period.

Some of them, following the battle on their maps, regard it as likely to be directed at the German line north of Albert, being the longest and most exposed edge of the German wedge. The Germans, it was pointed out by Staff officers, apparently had been careful to maintain a front on both sides of the wedge in order to prevent being flanked. The reason why a counter-attack could now be regarded as imminent, in the opinion of military circles, was that any further retirement of the British beyond Albert, now the point of the German wedge, would be apt to necessitate a flank attack on the front north and south of the wedge.

BRITISH DRIVE TURKS BACK.

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BRITISH OFFICIAL RETICENCE SCORED

Press Resents Fact Public Is Left to Learn Facts From Berlin.

FRENCH ARE MORE FRANK

Non-Commissioned Officers of German Army Prove to Be Able Leaders.

LONDON, March 27.—Some of the newspapers criticise the Government on the ground that the War Office reports are tardy and lack frankness. The Chronicle says:

"We are loath to criticise our authorities at such a time, but it is impossible to commend the recent way of treating the news. When the French have to give up an important town they say so, as yesterday in the case of Noyon. The British bulletins, however, seem to learn of nearly all such occurrences from the enemy, and yesterday's issue of the enemy's bulletin in London was delayed, for reasons which can only be conjectured, for hours."

"The matter is one which the Government had better set right without delay."

The Mail publishes a despatch from a New York correspondent, who says the desire is expressed in the United States for greater frankness in the British reports. The newspaper quotes the British practice, saying: "Good military authorities point out that during a retreat the advancing force knows best exactly what is happening."

British in Better Spirits.

Field Marshal Haig's latest reports have greatly raised the spirit of the public and the newspapers. Although uttering a note of warning that the danger has not passed, the newspapers consider the situation much improved.

"There are signs," says the Evening Star, "that the real danger of a German victory in the west, although it has not been finally averted, is becoming less. The Globe declares that the Germans suffered a strategic failure, as if they were not to have any more success in their had set for the first day."

"In every battle time is the great factor," says the Globe, "and it is the fact that the enemy's progress has been checked, and the resistance offered by our men."

Winston Spencer Churchill, Minister of Munitions, in his speech to Parliament has achieved the satisfaction of seeing many munition workers announcing their intention to forego the Easter holidays and of men who were on strike returning to work.

Situation More Hopeful.

"The situation last night was undoubtedly more hopeful than it has been since the battle began," says the Times today. "But it is still exceedingly good for although the enemy's rush in the north was checked, the situation in the south is clearly a race against time. Progress in the south and everything depends upon the next few hours."

As regards to-day and to-morrow, very little is known. The enemy south of the Somme has crossed the 1916 allied line from a point near Bray to near Roye, but southeast of Roye he is still on the line of the 1916 line. This is the point which gives the most anxiety, and also the most ground for hope.

In the German frontier of positions by the British War Office, it is believed that the British War Office has proved themselves very valuable, according to the correspondent of the Daily Mirror.

"The British War Office has been very energetic and tactful," he writes. "We have been told sometimes by people who pretend to understand the German situation that the very quality of the British officers would be found lacking."

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