night entered the German positions at Merris and after a bit of sharp fighting occupied the village, incidentally taking 169 prisoners and some machine guns. Their own casualties were slight. The German artillery is reported to be unusually active northwest of Albert and between La Bassee Canal and Ypres. The capture of Merris is reported by the Germans as a repulse of the British.

The fierceness of the fighting Monday, it is believed in Paris, is a sign that the German retreat has reached its limit and that the enemy will make a stand with his right wing on the plateau south of the Crise and with his left on the hill south of the Ardre. For the defence of this line, it is held, the Germans will devote all of Gen. von Boehn's army and the reserve divisions taken from Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.

ENEMY SEEKS WEAK SPOTS IN U. S. LINES

Fierce Attacks Made Against Americans Without Avail.

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, July 30.—The Germans have been counter attacking very heavily along virtually the entire battlefront, according to news that reached London to-day. Their attack was especially heavy in the American sector, resulting in driving the Americans out of the village of Cierges, about five miles southeast of Fere-en-Tardenois.

Another German thrust drove the French out of Beugneux, near Grand Rozoy, northwest of Fere-en-Tardenois. This town, however, was reported later to have been recaptured from the enemy.

Some advance has been effected by the Allies in the Ardre Valley, along the easterly side of the front, toward the village of Aubilly. A certain amount of ground likewise has been gained near the centre, in the neighborhood of Villers-Agron-Aiguizy.

The main advance on the westerly side of the front seems to have been at Grand Rozoy, about five miles northwest of Fere-en-Tardenois. The French here are progressing north on to the crest of the plateau between the Vesle and the Ourcq.

There has been heavy fighting near Buzancy, five miles south of Soissons, and also in Plessier Wood, about five miles further south. In this latter locality forty-five prisoners were taken belonging to three divisions of the enemy now engaged in the Marne salient.

The enemy's withdrawal is reported still orderly, and military opinion in London discounts the possibility of any roundng up of Germans in the salient.

During the night the Germans kept up their unsuccessful counter attacks in an effort to find a hole somewhere in the American lines. They continued the same hopeless quests to-day.

Five of the ten divisions from Crown Prince Rupprecht's army which have been called to reenforce the Crown Prince's army have been put in the battle twice, it has been established from identification of units.

FOCH IS WINNING BATTLE OF BRAINS

Germans Are Exposed to Danger of Overcrowding.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

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WITH THE FRENCH ARMY AT THE FRONT, July 29 (delayed)—A few days ago the Zurich *Anzeiger* remarked: "The battle raging to-day between Rheims, the Marne and the Aisne is no longer a simple battle for position; it is a battle of movement and of operations in which it is not the superiority of material for the conduct of the war that will decide but the intellectual superiority of the command."

It certainly looks to-day as if it will be the French command rather than the German that is going to come out best in this intellectual competition. Nor is it clear in what way, quoting the same authority again, Gen. Foch's plan is likely to lead to a dangerous dispersal of the Allies' forces, which will run the risk of being beaten separately by the Germans, who hold the interior lines.

On the contrary, the Allies' forces, instead of being dispersed, are steadily concentrating and drawing their lines close together as they move northward and inward, and the Germans, in consequence of having interior lines, are exposed to the danger that springs from overcrowding.

In the fighting yesterday, which was very stiff all along the line, the Germans again resisted most stubbornly on the two flanks of their defensive position, because, no doubt, of the obvious and extreme importance to them of keeping open the pocket at the top, no matter what happens to its dimensions or to its two sides. Despite their resistance the French armies made still further progress not only from the south but from the east and west, where, as a matter of fact, they made more decided progress than in the centre.

The main fact is that the French are keeping a steady pressure along the line and little by little the enemy is giving ground, in spite of all his efforts, and above all the position of his two wings slowly is being undermined. On the east the French are forging their way out of the thickly wooded country, which so far has hampered their movements, and it is to be expected that their line will soon straighten out the curve now existing between Fere-en-Tardenois and Bligny. Then the Germans, whose position in the angle north of the Ourcq already is very awkward, probably will find it untenable.

6 U. S. LEGISLATORS SEE SERGY FIGHT

Watch From Hill Till Germans Shell Them.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 30.—Six war tired American Representatives are on their way back to Paris to-day after having witnessed from a hillside Monday the tussle for possession of the town of Sergy, two and a half miles southeast of the former German base at Fere-en-Tardenois, in the Soissons-Rheims pocket.

The Representatives saw American infantrymen in action, witnessed the firing of Entente Allied big guns and heard the rattle of German machine guns and the crashing of the heavy cannon of the German Crown Prince. The Representatives probably would have remained on the eminence longer had not the German heavy shells begun exploding overhead. That ended the sightseeing trip in that vicinity.

The Representatives, who had visited the Austro-Italian front, said their observations on Monday showed to them the first actual fighting worth talking about. The party was conducted by Lieut. Freeman Light of South Norwalk, Conn., and consisted of Representatives Thomas A. Chandler (Okla.), M. Clyde Kelly (Pa.), Louis C. Cramton (Mich.), Thaddeus H. Caraway (Ark.), John A. Elston (Cal.) and Joseph Thompson (Okla.).

The Representatives had luncheon on the hillside of Chateau Thierry amid the ruins of numerous fine homes, the lazy Marne creeping along through a great gap in what was Chateau Thierry's finest bridge, now damaged by the Germans.

While the Representatives were sitting down to a basket luncheon a fashionably attired woman from Paris came to the ruins of her old home, where she found a group of American soldiers in possession. The woman explained her mission in broken English. She went to the basement, requested the aid of the American soldiers and had a private dig a hole in the basement at a point indicated by her. The soldier soon uncovered a basketful of bonds, securities and other valuables. Among them were a lot of 5 per cent. gold $100 bonds of the defunct St. Louis, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. The woman gave the soldier three bonds for his trouble.

When the Germans began replying to the Allies' fire in earnest the Representatives decided that it was about time to adjourn, and did so, leaving behind the souvenirs they had gathered at Chateau Thierry. On their way to the rear, however, they passed through the forest of Fere, visiting additional former German dugouts and camps, and gathered another assortment of rifles, helmets and various articles.

RETREAT NEAR END, SAYS FRENCH CRITIC

Bidou Believes Germans Will Make Final Stand Soon.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN and the Public Ledger.

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LONDON, July 30.—Despatches from Paris to the *Times* to-night say that Henri Bidou, the French military critic, concludes that all indications point to the Germans halting their line approximately at the Crise and Hartennes and the plateau of hills between the Vesle and the Marne heights and south of the Ardre. There are many strong positions on this line, but the depression followed by the Fere and Fismes railway is a weak spot. Mr. Bidou says:

"We must not, therefore, make any mistake regarding the character of the last few days' fighting."

He suggests that the retreat is practically over and that the fruits of the Marne victory have been gathered.

Some other French military critics believe the enemy will withdraw north of the Vesle. The enemy is sending south reenforcements to defend Soissons.

Another Paris despatch to the *News* suggests that Gen. Foch is likely to decide where the Crown Prince will halt. The next few days will decide. Meanwhile, it is believed in Paris that Hindenburg will probably be reduced to a defensive campaign this autumn and that the Crown Prince will be unable to make another grand offensive.

Up to the present the Germans have engaged seventy-one divisions in this battle, of which ten were from Prince Rupprecht's army, further north.

NORSE PAPERS CALL RETREAT BIG BLOW

Give Credit to Americans for Marne Victories.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

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CHRISTIANIA, July 30.—Leading newspapers of this city, commenting upon the latest news from the battle front, agree that the second battle of the Marne has been a severe blow to the Germans. The military correspondent of the *Morgenbladet*, who always has been a great admirer of the military methods of the German leaders and who sought as long as possible to belittle the counter stroke of Gen. Foch, commander in chief of the allied armies, says:

"Though the retreat brings certain advantages to the Germans, it is evident that they retreat only because of necessity. Their fifth great scale offensive, which began on July 15, has ended in a signal defeat and the Allies can register the first real victory of this year. Especially significant is the defeat at this time, as in no small degree it must be ascribed to the Americans."

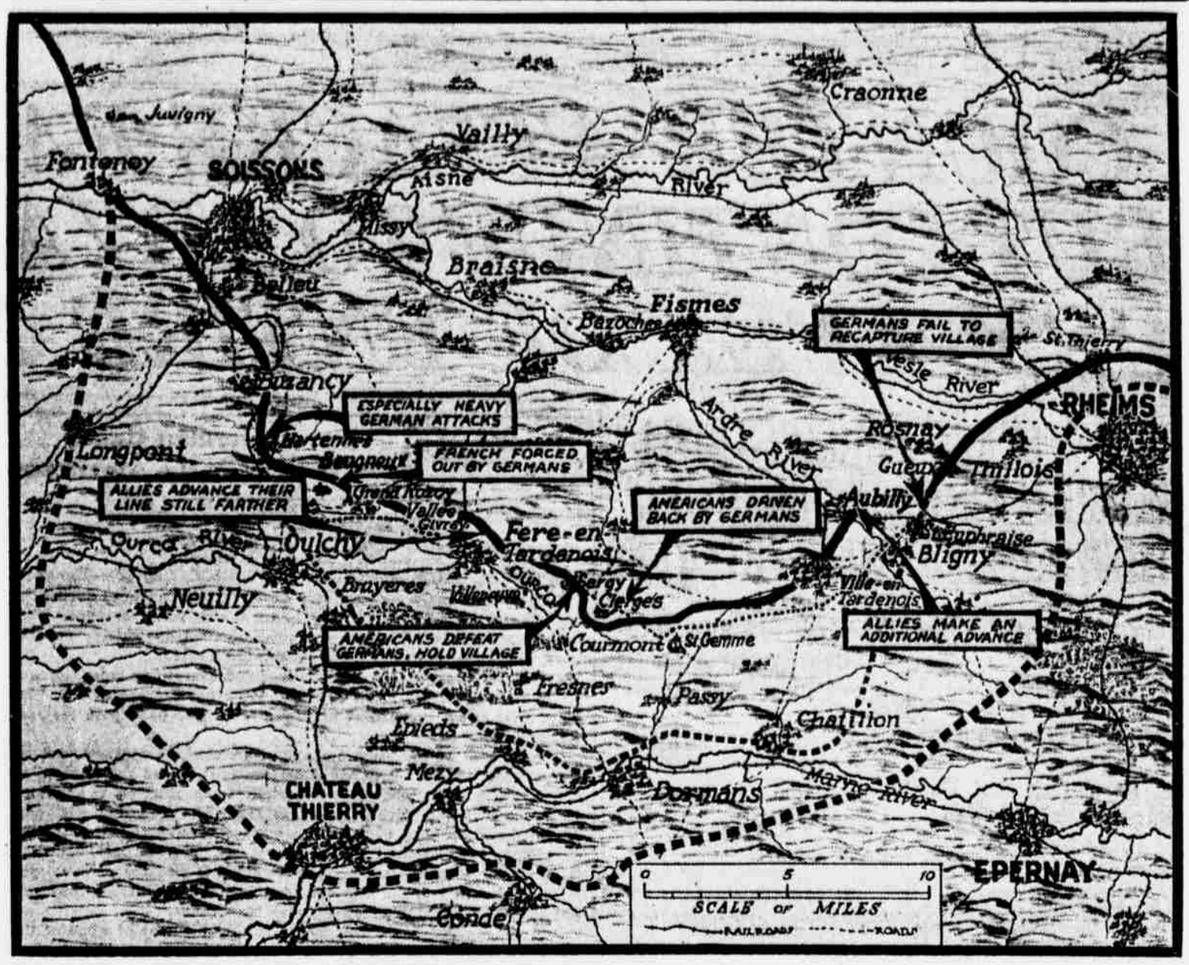
The *Shipping Gazette* says:

"For the Germans, their armies and their reputation the retreat is a serious shock, especially when bearing in mind that this was the greatest offensive yet planned on the western front."

The *Social Demokraten* says:

"It is evident that the disappointment to Germany is exceedingly great. All the papers, in boasting of Field Marshal von Hindenburg and Gen. Ludendorff, induced the Germans to believe that Paris faced its fall, but Paris is more secure now than in May or June. Most of the people now believe that the Germans never will reach the French capital."

Where the Germans Are Fighting Desperately to Check the Allies



HEAVY fighting, almost the heaviest of the war, in which the Germans are employing their finest shock troops and are using in the aggregate nearly 1,000,000 men along the short line between Hartennes on the west and Vrigny on the east, has retarded, although it has not stopped, the advance of the French, Americans and British along both sides and in the bottom of the Marne salient.

On the west, a little below Soissons, the Scots have fought their way into Buzancy and hold part of the village. Further south, in the vicinity of Grand Rozoy and Beugneux, the French pushed eastward, but later had to give up Beugneux. A short distance to the east the Americans were unable to hold Cierges, which the Germans recaptured, but clung to Sergy, from which the Germans were unable to budge them.

On the eastern side of the salient Ville-en-Tardenois is occupied in part by the Allies, and Romigny, two miles to the southwest, was captured. Despite tremendous counter attacks by the Germans Ste. Euphraise remains in the hands of the Allies, who pushed westward to Aubilly, in the valley of the Ardre River.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLE.

LONDON, July 30.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in France and Flanders:

FRENCH (NIGHT)—On the right bank of the Ourcq some local fighting enabled us to advance on the height to the northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois.

In the region of Sergy we maintained our gains, in spite of several reactions by the enemy.

Southwest of Rheims the Germans attacked on both sides of St. Euphraise. All their attempts to captured St. Euphraise failed, in spite of a slight advance made by them to the west of the village.

There is nothing of importance to report from the rest of the front.

FRENCH (DAY)—During the night no event of importance was reported from the front north of the Marne.

GERMAN (NIGHT)—After his defeat of yesterday the enemy has remained quiet.

GERMAN (DAY)—There has been lively reconnoitring activity during the night. Partial attacks by the British in the region of Merris and on both sides of the Ayette were repulsed.

The enemy launched attacks with strong forces against our new lines north of the Ourcq and on our positions on the wooded heights southwest of Rheims. The French, British and Americans were thrown back on the whole of their attacking front with the heaviest of losses.

The main weight of the enemy's attack was directed against the Hartennes-Fere-en-Tardenois front, where during the morning and afternoon the enemy stormed again and again in dense waves. His assaults broke down before and at our lines, sometimes under our counter attacks.

In the afternoon the enemy extended his attack beyond Fere-en-Tardenois eastward. They were just as unsuccessful as partial attacks he launched in the morning at the Bois Meuniere.

Southwest of Rheims the enemy renewed his attack as many as five times at isolated points between Chambrecy and Vrigny, keeping them up in violent partial attacks until late in the evening. He was repulsed everywhere with sanguinary losses.

In Champagne south of Mont Fichtel we drove the enemy out of trenches which he had occupied since his thrust of Saturday and captured an enemy point of support northeast of Perthes.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—During the latter part of the night patrols of the First Australian Division, who had entered German positions about Merris, successfully established themselves east of the village, which they surrounded and captured. One hundred and sixty-nine prisoners and a number of trench mortars and machine guns were taken by us in the course of this enterprise.

Our casualties were light. A few additional prisoners were captured by our patrols during the day in Nieppe Forest.

The hostile artillery has shown great activity to-day against our new positions at Merris.

BRITISH (DAY)—We captured a few prisoners last night in a successful raid in the neighborhood of Ayette.

Shortly after midnight Australian patrols entered the enemy's positions about Merris. Forty prisoners have been taken by our troops in this locality.

The hostile artillery has been active with gas shells northwest of Albert and has also shown activity at a number of points between La Bassee Canal and Ypres.

TEUTONS TORTURE CHILDREN TO DEATH

Hundreds of Young Captives Die From Exhaustion.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

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LONDON, July 30.—Two stories of the inhuman treatment of children by the German-Austrian military authorities are told in despatches from Zurich as having appeared in *Lumina*, a Bucharest newspaper.

Deputy Feodorescu depicts the sufferings of young Rumanian boys on their way to Moldavia after the occupation of their territory by Germans. They had to travel on foot, and by the time they reached Chitila, which is only a few kilometers beyond Bucharest, the first signs of fatigue became apparent. As the procession advanced more and more of the children dropped out, so that at last of the 2,000 who started only forty-seven reached Husch.

Of another 500 who started for Russia all died, and the leader returned with 500 death certificates as proof.

Further details of the shooting down of women and children in Pilsen, Bohemia, for which the Czech members of the Austrian Chamber of Deputies will attempt to bring about punishment for the military leaders responsible, have been published in Bohemian newspapers.

It seems there was a slight disturbance in a street of Pilsen, so slight that not even policemen were summoned. The military commander, however, sent a detachment of an infantry, and without giving any notice whatever the commander of these men, named Wirll, ordered his men to fire.

BELIEVE BATTLE IMMINENT.

Travellers From Archangel Tell of Preparations for Conflict.

LONDON, July 30.—A conflict between Entente forces in the Murmansk region and combined Finnish and German troops is imminent near Enaresjeen, according to passengers on the first steamer to arrive at Vardoe, Norway, from Archangel since the autumn of 1917, says a Christiania despatch to the *Daily Express*.

The Germans are reported to be moving toward Petchenga, on the coast, from Enaresjeen, and are repairing a road built some years ago by the Russo-Finnish Government. It is believed the Entente forces are constructing a road from Petchenga to Saltijaervi to meet the foe half way.

BRILLIANT ADVANCE IS MADE BY BRITISH

Continued from First Page.

attack which the French described as wonderfully brilliant, as the British had to advance over perfectly open ground, slowing up gradually to the enemy's balcony position on the next line of ridges.

In Rozoy, behind them, also their advancing line was heavily shelled, and there was the black smoke of bursting shells. They gained the woods and some important heights to the north and for the moment they are holding the line without further attempts to advance.

To-day the general situation here and further east is that both sides at present are marking time. There was not much shelling going on this morning and there were no infantry attacks.

The ground behind Oulchy was much broken by ravines, gardens, woods and small enclosures. Gen. Mangin's troops, who won it back, had tremendously hard fighting. It was one of the points where the enemy from the first put up a determined resistance, which now apparently has become general along the whole line.

British divisions on the Soissons road had their full share in the work.

The enemy's tendency in the last day or two has been to attempt to establish himself in new positions. The Germans are still retiring "in echelon." There was a heavy bombardment last night south of Soissons over the whole distance between the Ourcq and Soissons. At Fere-en-Tardenoise and southeast the French maintained their positions, though the Germans delivered many counter attacks.

One of the German objects is to carry away as much of their stores as they possibly can, but much of these stores already have fallen into French hands. The number of men the Germans are losing rather points to an intention on his part to make a stand. This suits the French, as they desire above all things to destroy Germans.

The French positions on Hill 205 and Hill 208, north of Rozoy, give uninterrupted view of Fismes. The Germans, although their artillery reply is not particularly violent, are sure to make a stubborn resistance if it is their intention to maintain their present line. The present French advance, if continued at the present rate of progress, will considerably upset their plans.

FEARS U. S. 'INDIANS' WILL KILL HUSBAND

German Woman Tells Him to Appeal to 'King' Wilson.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

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LONDON, July 30.—"Mind you, don't go out and get killed by an Indian or lassoed by a cowboy."

This is an extract from a letter written by a German woman to her husband, who has been captured by an American soldier.

"If you do," she continues, "appeal for help to the American king," apparently believing that President Wilson not only is crowned but has the power to succor the dead as well as the living.

In these letters, which are being read by American naval authorities before delivery, there is no mention of the military and economic conditions in Germany, indicating that a drastic censorship of correspondence is in force.

BRITISH DROP TONS OF BOMBS.

Destroy 14 German Airplanes and Lose Only Two Machines.

LONDON, July 30.—The official statement on aerial operations to-night says:

On July 29 ground mist and low visibility interfered with artillery observation, but our bombing and fighting machines carried out their usual work. Eleven tons of bombs were dropped on enemy dumps and billets and fourteen hostile airplanes were destroyed, with the loss of two of our machines.

During the night, in spite of unfavorable weather conditions, bombs were dropped by us on Bray and Bapaume. All our machines returned.

YANKEES IN DEATH GRIP WITH VETERANS

Continued from First Page.

mans held these dominating positions with the American troops in the valley below. It was here that the fighting during the afternoon was most intense. The Americans had no cover, and had to lie in the street gutters for shelter, but with bayonet and machine gun they stormed the heights. Evidence of the bitter fighting for the possession of the village is the fact that the Americans took few prisoners.

Naturally there was exultation among the Americans over their success in defeating so severely a fresh Guard division.

When the Americans penetrated into Sergy they found their wounded had been bayoneted. The Germans also placed machine guns in a church. After the artillery had demolished it the Americans captured what was left. Machine guns also were mounted by the Germans in the Red Cross building.

Artillery Clears Ourcq Crossing.

The Americans waded the Ourcq near Sergy early yesterday, but the German machine guns at one point gave them so much trouble that they had to retire to the south bank until the artillery had prepared a way for a fresh crossing. Then the Americans had to climb up the river bank.

The Americans then pressed on to Sergy and Seringes and took both places after fighting machine gun nests under a heavy shell fire.

Then the Germans began a series of violent counter attacks. The Fourth Guard Division, fresh after a long rest, was flung against the Americans, who accepted the challenge with ardor which must have astonished the enemy.

At various points, Americans under pressure of the attack and severe shell fire were forced to surrender in farm or field. Seringes also changed hands, like Sergy, many times during the day, but the Prussians, despite four attacks, could make little headway and the Americans finally saw the finely built Guards melt away before them.

All along this front artillery of almost every calibre was in action, and the tremendous noise seemed strange after the last few days when one contemplated an advance without even the sound of a gun, with curiosity and even amazement.

The probable reason for the German counter attacks is that the allied advance is too rapid for the enemy and necessitated bringing up Guards to gain time needed to continue an orderly retreat. It is well known that in the Forest de Nesles, near Seringes, the Germans have considerable supplies of ammunition and other stores. Many large guns were firing from the forest a few days ago and the enemy may be fighting for time in which to prepare defences.

SAYS YANKEES ARE STRONG IN ATTACK

Berlin Correspondent Says Losses Are Heavy.

AMSTERDAM, July 30.—The Berlin *Vorwaerts* correspondent at the front telegraphs the following under date of July 27:

"In the battle between the Aisne and the Marne the Entente for the first time threw American forces into the fire. As a result of personal inquiries among the divisions of Gens. von Etzel and Von Watter in the centre of the German front I am able to state the following:

"The Americans fought partly in serried divisions, partly incorporated in the French forces. Of the regiments now in the battle most have been over a year in France. The others were only superficially trained in America and on the continent. Their equipment is excellent throughout.

"The new American army, like the French, has a number of negro divisions, but these have not yet been thrown into the battle.

"Among the American prisoners a surprisingly large percentage bear German names. They say men of German descent are prominent among the American army leaders.

"The consensus among our front troops is that the fighting value of the American soldiers should in no wise be underrated. Boastful of their American superiority and in high spirits owing to the fulsome flattery of the French public, they rush into the fire with naive recklessness, but as they have not yet learned to fight in extended order or how to protect themselves skilfully from artillery fire their losses are immensely heavier than the others.

"The piles of American dead, for instance, fronting Monthiers Hill is only comparable with the Russian corpse stream fields at the time of Brussiloff's offensive.

"Keen as the Americans are in attack, they are clumsy enough in defence. All the German counter thrusts, even by the smallest detachments, have so far been successful when directed against the Americans.

"From July 21, when the German counter action set in, the Americans suffered casualties which officers who participated place at between 50 and 75 per cent. The result was that several American divisions had to be relieved after they had been fighting no more than five days."

ITALY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER U. S. TROOPERS

"Viva Wilson" Mottoes Are Dropped by Airmen.

By the Associated Press.

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHETN ITALY, July 29 (delayed).—American troops continue to arrive here. They are in excellent condition and splendid spirits and are enthusiastic over the welcome that has been accorded them.

Nothing has been left undone by the Italians to show the Americans how much their presence in Italy is appreciated. The commanding General and his staff turned out to greet the men from overseas, while airplanes flew over them dropping colored papers on which was printed "Viva Wilson."

WASHINGTON, July 30.—American combatant troops, whose arrival recently in Italy to go into action on the Italian front, was announced here by Gen. March, Chief of Staff, were received with an ovation on their arrival at Turin and Milan. Princess Laetitia and the civil and military authorities enthusiastically greeted the Americans at Turin, where they paraded through the city's streets amidst great ovations, according to an official dispatch to-day from Rome. In Milan, a similar reception greeted the Americans, which continued through the afternoon, assuming the character of a great popular demonstration for the United States.

LOANS TO ALLIES NOW $6,492,040,000

About $10,000,000 Daily Is Advanced by U. S.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—In announcing to-day that credits to allied Governments by the United States now have reached $6,492,040,000 Treasury officials explained that secrecy would be maintained concerning the disposition of this money as a means of withholding information which might be valable to the enemy.

The Allies are now getting about $10,000,000 a day from the United States. The Treasury to-day advanced $100,000,000 to France, $9,000,000 to Belgium and $3,000,000 to Serbia.

LONDON, July 30.—The war is costing the people of Great Britain $34,920,000 a day, or $1,455,000 every hour, or nearly $25,000 a minute, according to a statement prepared by the imperial authorities, which says:

"Britain's national debt has increased during the war from $3,225,000,000 to $39,900,000,000, or in excess of twelve times over, and yet she is paying all—and much more than all—her debt charges out of current taxation, while the new taxation raised by Germany is not enough to pay the interest accumulated upon her war debt.

"Before the war the people of Britain paid taxes amounting to approximately $1,000,000,000 a year; to-day they are paying taxes of $3,270,000,000 annually. In spite of this Great Britain raised her third war loan of $5,000,000,000—a sum equal to nearly half her entire national income in 1914.

"Great Britain is now spending $9,305,000,000 a year on her army, her navy, her air service and her munitions factories and supplies, but, despite this colossal financial burden, she has advanced loans to her allies amounting in the aggregate to $8,160,000,000."

The biggest appropriation demanded since the beginning of the war will be submitted to the House of Commons Thursday, says the *Daily Telegraph*. The vote of credit to be asked will be for $3,500,000,000. The previous highest was $3,250,000,000, voted a year ago. The new appropriation is required to finance the war until the end of October.

AUSTRALIANS GAIN BY SUDDEN JUMPS

Push Forward Between the Ancre and the Somme.

By PERRY ROBINSON.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

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WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, July 30.—Early Monday morning the Australians took another leap forward in the advance they are making in the Morlancourt area between the Ancre and the Somme. It is a systematic progress in a series of sudden jumps, the most conspicuous of which were on May 6 and 18, June 10 and July 4, on which dates they also made a larger push south of the Somme to conform to this steady advance north of the river.

The most important feature of the advance has been the continuous thrusting back of the enemy from the heights on the ridge between the two streams, by which his observation toward Amiens has been reduced progressively.

Aviator prisoners confirm the reports that have been received regarding the difficulty the Germans are having in replacing their heavy losses in pilots and observers caused by the immense number of their machines that have been shot down.

An order signed by Gen. Ludendorff of June 26 which has fallen into our hands gives evidence of the German shortage of man power. It seems that military pressure has been brought to bear to hasten the training of the youngest recruits so as to get them quickly into line. This order acknowledges the pressure, but says that "owing to political and economic reasons" it is not thought advisable to reduce the period of training in Germany before sending these recruits to the field depots below the term fixed, namely, twelve weeks.

DOWNS HOSPITAL RAIDERS.

U. S. Flier Attacks and Enemy Planes Collide and Fall.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 30.—After daylight Tuesday two German aviators, with machine gunners aboard, flying low, attacked an American supply train south of Sergy. They were driven off by anti-aircraft guns.

The Germans later attacked a dressing station. Word of this having been sent to the aerial commander an American aviator soon arrived and, single handed, attacked the Boches from above. In trying to get away the Germans collided. The wings of their machines locked and the planes fell, both aviators and gunners being killed.

GERMANS COUNT TO SEAL LIPS.

Wounded Repeat Numbers While Going Under Ether.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, July 30.—Brought to an American dressing station on the banks of the Ourcq a wounded German Captain kept repeating "one, two, three," monotonously, but with an earnestness indicative of his concentration. An inquiry to a nurse elicited this explanation:

"Oh, all those German officers do that."

"You see," said the nurse, who was administering ether preliminary to an operation upon the German officer, "an average person talks when under the anaesthetic. It is like talking in your sleep. The Germans know this and every officer we get goes under the ether while counting. The result is that instead of talking and giving information they keep right on counting."

GEDDES EXPLAINS DEFEAT OF U-BOATS

Reduced Sinkings Arrived at by Greater Production of Submarine Chasers.

ALLIES GAIN STEADILY

Net Increase of 100,000 Tons a Month Is Reported by First Lord.

LONDON, July 30.—Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the British Admiralty, gave the House of Commons to-day a review of the naval situation, and particularly defended the policy of starting national shipbuilding yards in discussing the navy estimates.

The First Lord compared the situation to-day regarding tonnage with that of a year ago. Then the net loss in tonnage, he said, was 550,000 gross tons monthly. Submarines then were not being destroyed as fast as the Germans were building them, while the merchant shipyards were short of men and material. Four hundred thousand tons net loss monthly was the British deficit. Every yard that could take naval work had been put on naval building.

Changing of Position.

Gradually during the last year, Sir Eric continued, the position had changed in many directions. Instead of losing tonnage the world's net result in the last quarter had been a gain roughly of 100,000 tons a month. The allied and neutral world was as well off on June 30 as on January 1, 1918. This result, he declared, had been obtained by reduced sinkings and increased buildings.

The reduced sinkings had been arrived at, said the First Lord of the Admiralty, by a greater productive effort devoted to warships and small craft of an anti-submarine character. None of the commandeered or acquired tonnage was included in this result.

"The problem of a year ago was considered by many almost inconceivable and insoluble," Sir Eric continued. "Mercantile carrying power was being sunk at a rate which soon would have meant an inability to continue the war, and there was no tried recognized means of combating the campaign. It was necessary to provide a building programme of anti-submarine craft, mines, other appliances and merchant ships on a greatly increased scale.

"The total increase in labor last year in shipbuilding yards and marine engineering works was 35,000. The original demand of a year ago was for 80,000 additional, part of them skilled. Owing to events on the western front and the great demands for technical men for the air force and the army it was impossible to obtain the proper quota of skilled men by their withdrawal from the army. Unskilled men were offered freely, but they could not be absorbed because of the lack of skilled men."

Simple Ship Scheme.

The Government had decided to go ahead at once with a scheme for building a simple ship which could be constructed with a minimum of skilled labor, he said. That ship was designed and originated in the Admiralty.

"It is interesting," added the First Lord, "that the very same problem confronted America, and America met it in practically the same way, the same class of yard and the same type of construction, and with excellent results."

Merchant ship repairs, said Sir Eric, are to-day engaging nearly two-thirds as many workmen as are engaged on new construction of merchantmen.

"But the submarines have found it too dangerous to work inshore and are going far out," he continued. "The number of ships damaged as well as sunk is decreasing and the transference of men from repairs to new construction is possible. The number of men employed on new construction of warships and auxiliaries is roughly 150,000, and on merchantmen 120,000.

"Britain has borne the preponderating burden to a preponderating extent of fighting the submarines. The new output of anti-submarine ships, mines and implements has been preponderatingly ours and the responsibility for combating the menace has been ours. Even to-day the increased assistance brought about by the new construction of the Allies is small indeed, but times are changing.

"America's programme is now beginning to come along. And I have had the pleasure of considering it with Mr. Roosevelt. My conferences with him have confirmed what I have relied upon, namely, that when once the flow of destroyers and anti-submarine craft once starts from the United States it will become a formidable torrent."

GERMAN WOMEN PROTEST

Threaten to Stone Neutrals Who Seek Work in Gun Plants.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

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LONDON, July 31.—A Dutch woman who has just returned from Essen says the Amsterdam correspondent of the *Daily Express*, says the wives, mothers and daughters of German workmen in the great gun factories are determined that no more neutrals shall work in the Krupps during the war, as for every neutral employed one more German is sent to the front.

When the last batch of Dutchmen arrived at Essen last week thousands of women greeted them at the station with their sons, shouting "Down with the neutral job stealers!" The women determined that any Dutchman seen in Essen should be stoned. The girls in Essen, who are reduced to one-third of their peace time strength, are bitterly

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