

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS.

LONDON, Aug. 5.—Following are the official statements of the fighting in France and Flanders:

FRENCH (NIGHT)—On the whole of the Vesle front the situation is without change.

On the north bank of the river there were local encounters between our light elements and posts of the enemy.

The day was calm everywhere else.

FRENCH (DAY)—There is nothing of importance to report from the battle front. Small French detachments which crossed the Vesle are meeting with German resistance everywhere.

GERMAN (DAY)—In Flanders, north of Albert and on both sides of the Somme attacks by the enemy have been repulsed.

North of Montdidier we withdrew our companies on the west bank of the Aves River and Dom Brook behind these sectors without action on the part of the enemy.

We captured prisoners in minor enterprises southwest of Montdidier.

On the Vesle the artillery activity has increased. There have been successful forward engagements south of Conde and west of Rheims. After warding off partial enemy attacks our rear guards, in accordance with orders, withdrew to the north of the Vesle before a strong enemy attack on Fismes.

West of the Moselle and in the middle and upper Voges enemy attacks were repulsed. In the Soudgau we captured prisoners in raids.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—We have pushed forward our posts slightly during the day at the Pacant Wood (east of Robecq and five miles northwest of Bethune).

Hostile artillery was active in the sector south of Ypres.

BRITISH (DAY)—We captured a few prisoners during the night in the neighborhood of Neuville-Vitasse, southeast of Arras.

The enemy's artillery was very active last night opposite La Bassee and has shown some activity also north of Bethune and at different points between Hazebrouck and Ypres.

and bomb towers. Their aviators are busy using machine guns against our positions and the enemy resistance everywhere is very stiff.

Between Muisin and Rheims, where we are firmly established on the south bank of the river valley from Braches to Meaulx-St. Georges. It is reported that there is fighting in Hargicourt, on the left bank of the river.

Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France in a telegram dated Monday night at 9:50 o'clock says: "The German retreat from the Somme is the result of recent events has been noticeably hastened by the great influx of American troops. In this particular respect the German command is paying the penalty of concealment and misrepresentation."

The appearance in the battle line of powerful American forces and the striking success of the German offensive give the lie direct to all German official bombast which no explaining can minimize. Moreover it proves the futility of all talk about the necessity of the German submarine warfare.

"District is life in the enemy ranks, and under such conditions the tendency is to exaggerate their misfortune. They discredit Ludendorff's statements. They seem gloomily conscious that Germany is suffering defeat and that the truth is being concealed from them."

The drive from Soissons is headed in such a direction that it may be the beginning of a far more ambitious project by Gen. Foch. It might well forewarn officers said, extension of the battle front toward the west to carry the allied lines up to the Oise front, which would be one way of attempting to duplicate the Picardy theatre what has happened in the Aisne-Marne salient.

With his lines secure along the Aisne it was argued that Gen. Foch might immediately employ the large force which has concentrated on that front by shifting the front to the west and in an effort to outflank the enemy standing before Amiens. This was the manoeuvre others here hoped for every day while the Germans were driving toward Amiens last March.

The supreme commander has demonstrated that he has the best of his opponent in the matter of reserves and in artillery. His reserves, released by the flattening out of the Aisne-Marne salient and the reduction of the line in that theatre, from seven to four miles to the front are already in place for a rapid shift to the region between Soissons and the Oise.

Under the most conservative estimates the German army now in the hands of the Red Cross, containing peace time luxuries with everything sent of excellent quality. The bread they receive, he says, will for the first time since the war be given in the form of biscuits.

The question of the prisoners' clothing has not been regulated, and the correspondent reports that they wore caps of the various Entente armies, and sometimes French trousers with British buttons.

Many of Foreign Birth. The correspondent seems amazed at the fact that every score of Americans with whom he talked there were always some of European birth. With that exception of a few French, a student and a bookkeeper some of those he met belonged to the professional classes.

A few of the men, the writer declares, complained that they had been rushed forward to face a withering machine gun fire, while one badly wounded man in a hospital said he had been wounded by the artillery fire from his own side.

It may be questioned whether the correspondent is spontaneously responsible for the statement he makes that none of the Americans complained of ill treatment by their captors and that no excessive sympathy seemed to exist between the Americans and the British.

EDITOR SAYS U. S. IS BRIBING SWISS. Another Replies Germans Are Real Foes.

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PARIS, Aug. 5.—The Cologne Gazette accuses the United States of seeking by means of gifts to Switzerland to prepare the ground for a new war by waging an economic war after the war.

The writer points to a recent gift of 1,000,000 francs as an effort on the part of the United States to gain the good will of the Swiss for purposes of exploiting that country.

The Lausanne Gazette replies to the attack by saying that it is not America that is attempting to subsidize the Swiss press or exploit the country but Germany.

"The aid coming to us from the other side of the Rhine, we have only to recall the system of compensation for the care of interned Germans, or recall the extortionate prices we pay for coal to know who are real friends are."

DEFENSE A MERE SHELL. The inhabitants of the villages lately occupied by the Germans confirm the impression that the German retreat was orderly, the bulk of the troops having been withdrawn a week before. Thus it is clear that in the centre a mere shell of defense has been opposed to our progress, but the fragments of that shell lie everywhere upon the ground.

"All these villages, which are mostly heaps of ruins, were labelled with Teu-

'HOLD FAST' BRITISH PREMIER'S MESSAGE

Lloyd George's Letter to Empire Read at Same Hour Throughout Britain.

EFFECT IS DRAMATIC. Given Sealed to Managers of Theatres, Movie Houses and Concert Rooms.

LONDON, Aug. 5.—"Hold fast" was the keynote of a message to the British Empire issued by Premier David Lloyd George and promulgated in a dramatic way throughout the Kingdom at 9 o'clock to-night. The message was read to the audience in all theatres, concert rooms and other places where people were assembled, including the motion picture houses.

Sealed copies of the message had been distributed to the managers of all these places, with the request that they open and read it at 9 o'clock. The message follows:

"The message which I send to the people of the British Empire on the fourth anniversary of their entry into the war is: 'Hold fast!'"

"We are in this war for no selfish ends. We are in it to recover freedom for the nations which have been brutally attacked and despoiled, and to prove that to people who have no other aim, it is not worth the price of blood to stop short of victory for this cause would be to compromise the future of mankind."

"The 'Hold fast' because our prospects of victory have never been so bright as they are to-day. Six months ago the rulers of Germany deliberately set on foot a policy of aggression, and in the face of the world's protest they have not only refused to desist, but have thrown aside the last mask of moderation, they have proclaimed their intention of overthrowing the Allies in a final and desperate attack. Thanks to the invincible bravery of all the allied armies, the German advance has been stopped, and the world is now waiting for the day when they will be driven back to their own homes."

"The great atrocity of Prussia will still endeavor, by violence or guile, to avoid defeat and so give military aid to the German cause. We must be prepared to meet this danger with our hands to the task, we must see it through to a just and lasting settlement is achieved."

"In no other way can we endure a world set free from war."

"Hold fast!" "LLOYD GEORGE."

GERMANY HAS BUT FEW U. S. PRISONERS

Dutch Correspondent Who Visited Camps Praises Qualities of Men.

THE HAGUE, Aug. 5.—A Dutch correspondent of the Nieuwe Courant of this city has written for that paper an account of a visit which he made in company with an American correspondent to the German prisoners of war in camps in Darmstadt, Limburg and Giessen.

The number of American prisoners, he says, is not particularly large, but any one of these three camps, and none of the prisoners was an officer. They were mostly National Guardsmen, he reports.

The American prisoners were captured in early June near Chateau Thierry. A few only of them belonged to the 88th Central Postal Directory, which was stationed near Verdun. Some of them had arrived in France as far back as last November, while others had reached this side in February.

American Don't Complain. The Americans, continues the correspondent, have not yet been educated up to the highest extent of prison life. They are not particularly disgruntled, and they are, for instance, quite brilliant orators to convey requests or complaints to the prison authorities.

The question of the prisoners' clothing has not been regulated, and the correspondent reports that they wore caps of the various Entente armies, and sometimes French trousers with British buttons.

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Continued from First Page.

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CHURCHILL GIVES HIS VIEW OF PEACE

Victory First, Then End of German Militarism, He Says.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—Winston Spencer Churchill, British Minister of Munitions, in a letter defining his ideas as to the conditions upon which the Germans can secure peace, says they are two in number.

The first is a decisive victory for the Allies on the battlefield in the first condition, Mr. Churchill believes, and the second is that of their own free will the German people must break with their military masters. The letter says in part:

"Two separate conditions are required of the German people. First, they must be decisively beaten on the field by the arms of the Allies. This should be an indispensable preliminary to a cessation of hostilities. Second, they should be of their own free will and spontaneous accord, by an act of re-education, make a definite break with the system which has led them to so many fearful and monstrous crimes."

"Not till they should they be allowed to take their place in the league of nations and be received into the brotherhood of mankind. Only in this way can the horrors of the war be ended, and the time come to an end, once and for all."

CZECHO-SLOVAK AIM IS TOLD BY EMBASSY

Intends to Raise Army to Fight Germany and Build a Unified Russia.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—The Russian Embassy further declares that it has received definite information concerning the programme and intentions of the various political groups in Siberia, which without bloodshed or violence have succeeded the advance of the Czecho-Slovak troops.

The political group in Vladivostok known as "the Siberian Temporary Government," is closely affiliated with, and in fact a part of the group at Omak, where Gen. Horvath originally had his headquarters. It is declared that this "United Siberian Government," as it is now designated, was elected January 26, 1918, by the members of a regional Siberian duma, that it has transferred its center temporarily to Vladivostok, a section remaining at Omak to conduct military operations.

It was reported to-day from this Omak section that through the combined efforts of the Czecho-Slovaks, the following cities, mostly in western Siberia, have been liberated from the Bolsheviks: Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Narinsk, Tobolsk, Barnaul, Semipalatinsk, Carcarinsk, Atchinsk and Cherepanovsk.

The aims of the new "temporary government of Siberia," as expressed by the Russian Embassy, are very ambitious, consisting of "the creation of a Russian Republic, the re-education of the population in cooperation with the Allies, a battle front against Germany."

All of the old treaties are to be recognized up to the Bolshevik uprising. The Bolshevik laws are to be repealed, and a representative national assembly called on the basis of universal suffrage to start the reconstruction of a united Russia.

AIRSHIPS RAID ENGLAND. Reach East Coast, but Are Unable to Sail For Inland.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—Hostile airships approached the east coast of England about 9:30 Monday night, the Admiralty announced early this (Tuesday) morning.

The enemy aircraft did not penetrate far inland.

BRITISH CENSORSHIP UNDER RENEWED FIRE. Press Says It Does Harm to the Allied Cause.

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LONDON, Aug. 5.—The British press censorship has been severely criticized lately. The Pall Mall Gazette says to-day:

"If the Government desires to celebrate its anniversary by the opening of the fifth year of war we would suggest that it could do so in any more appropriate way than by relaxing the present press censorship, which does a negligible inordinate harm, and which for four years has been a fruitful cause of labor unrest in this country."

We note that at a meeting of allied journalists in London strong protests were made against the ostrich-like secrecy which prevails all our dispatches and finds such ridiculously dangerous expression in the vagaries of the press bureau.

"If this secrecy kept facts which might prove helpful to the enemy away from him we could not complain, but as Lord Northcliffe pointed out, it not only fails to do that but often disguises from our own people essential facts which they should know."

2 BRITISH DESTROYERS SUNK. Enemy Mines Cause Loss of 5 Officers and 92 Men August 2.

LONDON, Aug. 5.—Two British torpedo boat destroyers were sunk by enemy mines on August 2 according to an official statement by the British Admiralty.

Five officers and ninety-two of their ratings were lost according to the announcement.

2,500 Aviation Workers Strike. NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Aug. 5.—About 2,500 men employed on construction work at Langley aviation field, near here, struck to-day upon an announcement that free boards no longer would be given them.

LONDON SPECULATES ON TEUTON TACTICS

Press Believes Foe Seeks to Gain Stronger Defensive Positions.

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LONDON, Aug. 5.—The London evening newspapers, in commenting on the German withdrawals on the western front, are uncertain as to what they mean. The Evening Standard says:

"Whether we are to see a new expression of German tactics in order to economize effectively; whether the retreats will be repeated on other parts of the front, or whether they are the beginning of a vast falling back movement similar to that of March, 1917, are questions the future soon will tell."

The Evening News understands "considerable importance attaches to the German retreat behind the Ancre on both sides of Albert. Our troops appear to have crossed the Ancre, but how far they have progressed is not yet clear. The Germans are still retreating, and it is believed that the retreat of the Hun forces as far as the Somme is not out of the question."

"What the enemy higher command is doing to gain stronger defensive positions, and above all a shortening of the line, French writers base upon their determination to shorten their lines upon the most of the situation. The result of offensive carried out this summer."

Paris dispatches continue to tell of the enormous amount of war materials carried to the front. It is believed that the depression throughout Germany is at the lowest pitch since the beginning of the war and of further chaotic conditions in Austria.

For all these urgent reasons, the mighty Hindenburg and Ludendorff are seeking long explanations to their chief people in connection with this aspect of the situation. The Pall Mall Gazette understands extremely heavy fighting has been taking place near Rheims, with the idea doubtless uppermost in the mind of the German commanders that if one important city could be taken it would go far to relieve the depressed mental condition of the people at home.

Gen. Foch, the paper adds, was just as well enough to see through this scheme from the first and as a result of his firmness the danger of the city being captured now than at any time since the offensive started.

JUSSERAND LAUDS YANKEES. Says French and Americans Will Fight Until Victory is Won.

BOSTON, Aug. 5.—The sons of the United States and of France will not lay down their arms before the fight is won for good, the French Ambassador, J. Jusserand, said in a letter to-day to Gov. McCall. The Ambassador acknowledged a resolution passed by the Legislature regarding the Croix de Guerre given to soldiers from this State. The resolution, he said, was received by President Jusserand with particular gratification.

"The sentiments expressed in it are not less than the military qualities displayed by your soldiers, worthy of the smallest praise of their country. They had made headway. The shells are about 100 feet apart."

TEN YEARS FOR SHAMMING. Soldier Who Pretended to Be Injured is Sentenced.

CAMP DIX, Wash., D. C., Aug. 5.—For efforts to evade military duty by shamming insanity Private William Fisher, 25 Mearns street, New York city, was sentenced to ten years in the camp brigades, and sentenced to a court-martial to twenty years imprisonment.

Because of the short time he had spent in the service Major Fisher, before approving the sentence, returned him to ten years. The general also sentenced to two years a ten year sentence for refusing to do "kitchen police duty."

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CARLTON DENIES HE SEEKS WIRE STRIKE

Would Regard Such Action as Treasonable, He Says, Answering Union Charges.

"ONLY 30" DISCHARGED. Says Western Union's Affairs Will Be Conducted as Heretofore.

Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, who has been assigned by Postmaster-General Burleson to continue in charge of that company's operation since the assumption of control by the Government on August 1, declined yesterday to consider seriously the threats of a strike implied in a telegram sent to the Postmaster-General on Sunday night by Percy Thomas, Eastern representative of the Commercial Telegraphers Union of America.

The intimation that a walkout of Western Union employees was imminent was conveyed to the Postmaster-General Sunday, following a meeting in Arlington Hall, at which protests were voiced against the alleged action of President Carlton in continuing to discharge Western Union employees for membership in the Commercial Telegraphers Union since the period of Government control.

Only 30 Discharged, Says Company. In his telegram to the Postmaster-General Mr. Thomas, who is deputy international president of the telegraphers union, asserted that President Carlton had discharged 30 members of the Western Union of America.

Mr. Carlton let it be known that he considers his position at present in charge of the Western Union Company's business as a confidential matter, and that the statements of Koenekamp and his associates is entirely unnecessary.

At the same time Mr. Carlton allowed information to come out from executive sources that the Western Union organization to the effect that less than thirty employees of the company had been discharged for union sympathies since the effect of Government control on August 1.

Responsible to Inmate Strike. "The statement that 1,000 or more employees have been discharged since August 1 is made without any relation to the facts," Mr. Carlton said. "That Mr. Koenekamp and his associates feel that they must make some impressive figure, so I would regard as a mere bluff."

"The facts are that our company's affairs are being conducted along exactly the same lines they were before the Government took control. I am here at the designation of Postmaster-General Burleson, and to say that I am attempting to invite a walkout or to otherwise discredit the company would be ridiculous. To do so I would regard as a mere bluff."

"I am in charge of the company's activities at the request of Mr. Burleson, and I am in the best interests of the company. I have had the light of the experience I have had. The affairs of the company will continue to be conducted from that viewpoint."

HUNT SPIES IN FIRE PROBE. Camp Meade Officers Investigate Double Confession.

Special Dispatch to The Sun. CAMP MEADE, Md., Aug. 5.—An investigation has been ordered by the authorities at this cantonment to determine whether or not German spies were active in the camp during the summer of 1917, with the two fires which were discovered simultaneously early yesterday morning in the hay sheds in the section of the camp near the ordnance depot and the remount station.

While one of the officials will discuss the case other than admit that \$5,000 beyond what I am here at the belief that the blaze was of incendiary origin. It is known, however, that they have issued instructions that the investigation be made to run down the spies.

One of the high officers of the camp called before him a number of soldiers who were among the men who were in the sheds when the flames were discovered. These men are not suspected, but loyal soldiers who were merely in the sheds at the time of the discovery of the fire, and they would tend to make them suspicious.

It is said that one man who was in the sheds reported that he had made headway. The shells are about 100 feet apart.

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