

ASSAULT IS TIMED FOR BIG DRAFT DAY

Presence of Secretary Baker on French Front Regarded as Significant.

GENERAL DRIVE IS SEEN

Pershing Believed to Have 800,000 Men Under His Direct Command.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—Under the direct personal supervision of Gen. Pershing American forces comprising the newly formed American field army began a powerful converging attack on both sides of the St. Mihiel salient, which Germany has maintained intact since the early days of the war. The French, cooperating with the Americans, have struck directly at St. Mihiel itself, the point of the salient. Unofficial reports to-night state that St. Mihiel has been captured. Latest advices here indicate that the offensive operations have brought marked initial success despite the great difficulties of terrain and the strong means of defense at the enemy's disposal. Military experts here say it is too early to judge of the scope or success

of the operation, and, as usual, they are cautious about making predictions. The fact that this is the first distinctly American major operation on the western front accounts for the eagerness with which every scrap of information was awaited in General Staff circles. There is reason to believe that the launching of this offensive was timed to coincide with registration day in the United States. It is also hinted that Secretary of War Baker knew in advance of the plan and that his presence in Europe now resulted from a desire to be near the scene when the first American drive began. Start on the "Quiet Sector." So far General Staff officers have not received sufficient official information to show definitely the scope of the offensive—that is whether it is an essentially American drive implying maximum efforts of the new field army or whether it is a sort of feeling out attack to test the German resistance and pave the way for more powerful blows to come. Particular interest in this attack is given, among other things, from the fact that the Americans on the eastern side of the salient have gone over the top from the first trenches established by the American expeditionary force on the western front. This position has since last October, when the Americans took over the trenches, been referred to as "a quiet sector." Launching his converging attacks at daybreak, Gen. Pershing appears to have gained a foothold on the western side of the salient by driving the enemy out of Combres. On the eastern side the Americans have broken into the German defensive positions and pressed forward, overcoming all resistance and capturing the villages of Thiacourt, Pannes and Nonsard. The American line thus established represents an average penetration of about three miles and considerably narrows the salient, threatening thereby to make resistance at St. Mihiel impossible. The French have reached the outskirts of St. Mihiel and are in a position to exert maximum pressure at this point whenever necessary.

The impression made so far by the Americans on the western side is less pronounced, through the capture of Combres show a penetration of about three miles into the German positions. Fighting in the Open. The mention of American cavalry patrols northwest of Pont-a-Mousson on the road north of Bois Communaux indicates that the force of the American thrusts has now such gaps in the German line that the fighting now is in the open, which brings Americans in their element. This, it is explained, would imply that the German trench systems which have been constructed and strengthened for three years or more have been reduced in a few hours by Pershing's men. The impression in General Staff circles on the basis of fragmentary reports of an unofficial character so far received is that the American field army has begun its major attack, but officers refrain from accepting this as a definite fact in advance of official advices. It has been known here for some time that Pershing's field army was in the process of formation. Divisions which had been brigaded with the British and French have been gradually withdrawn, and Gen. Peyton C. March, Chief of Staff, announced recently that 90 per cent. of the American forces in France were now absorbed by the field army and were under Gen. Pershing's direct command. Ninety per cent. of the American combatant troops in France would bring the number under Pershing's command to approximately 800,000. Nothing definite is known here as to the actual figure, but it is assumed that the American field army has been built up into a striking force of tremendous power preparatory to launching the American offensive against the enemy. Marshal Foch, it is explained, is maintaining his plan of hammering persistently at the enemy, first at one point and then another, in order to give him no rest, and, as Gen. March said, "keep him on the run."

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One of many very modish Poke Hats in Silk Velvet with Ostrich Feather trimming.



A stunning Beaver "Tam" especially suited to young women. To be had in all colors.



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A new drooping brim hat of unusual charm, fashioned of Silk Velvet, trimmed with Fancy Wing and Ribbon.

Third Floor.

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Featuring Suits of Smart Simplicity and many new modes in Dainty Frocks, perfected only after extraordinary effort to produce fashions in full accord with the exacting needs of the particular "Miss," and in keeping with the demands of the hour. Prices are very reasonable.

Suits---

of simple but distinguished lines, in delightful straight line, belted, and dressy styles, with narrow shoulders and trim sleeves. Fashioned of Duo-Tone, Duvet De Laine, Wool Velour, Silvertone, Heather Mixture, Jersey or Chiffon Broadcloth—a wonderful collection at \$45 and \$49.50



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Youthful and graceful to an unusual degree, in soft, lustrous Satin, Georgette Crepe, Fine Serges, and Wool Jersey. The styles include straight line, paneled, and tunic effects, skillfully trimmed with Silk Fringe, Embroidery, Gold Thread. Others strictly tailored. \$29.50

A Host of New BLOUSES

Friday and Saturday

Special \$5.50

With one of the many beautiful separate skirts we are now showing, these dainty Blouses will make a complete costume at very reasonable cost.



A delightful Taffeta Blouse in combination with Satin. To be had in a wide range of dark Plaid colorings.



An exquisite high-neck Washable Satin Blouse with reversible or raised Satin block pattern. Flesh color and White.



A smart Georgette Crepe Blouse, exact reproduction of a much higher-priced model. Outlined with Soutache Braid and Wool Embroidery. Flesh and White.



A Dainty Georgette Crepe Blouse, with combination collar and flat jabot. Embroidered in two-tone effects of White and Blue and Flesh and Blue.

Girls' Trimmed Hats at \$5.75



We are making a special feature of hats at this price and offer to-day and Saturday a wonderful collection in Colored Velvets and Genuine Velours, beautifully trimmed with ribbons, flowers or fruit.

Second Floor.

The Wonderful Charm of These Simple Tailored Suits for Women

will appeal to the most critical



Special \$35

Velour

The unusual smartness of the new tailored mode in suits for Fall is tastefully reflected in the suit pictured above. It is just one of a splendid group specially prepared for to-day and Saturday, the variety of style treatments exhibited in which leaves nothing to be desired.

The Materials include Wool Velour, Manish Oxfords, Men's Wear Serge, Fine Gabardine, and New Fall Checks. Fourth Floor.

Made for Action!

Boys' Suits at \$15



With One or Two Pairs of 'Knickers

For the boy who needs a smartly-cut suit, but also something of a very serviceable nature. These could not be better tailored, and the materials are Imported and Domestic Mixtures, and Navy Blue, Cheviot, in patterns both parents and boys will like. Sizes 8 to 18 years.

Boys' Suits at \$13

Extra Pair 'Knickers Included

For school or general wear, tailored for service in hard-wearing Fancy Mixtures. The patterns are the kind boys like to wear, and the most practical. Sizes 8 to 18 years.

Boys' Smart Suits at \$11

Extra 'Knickers Included. Newest models, tailored in a wide range of Fancy Mixtures. Sizes 7 to 18.

Friday and Saturday Only Women's New Fall Coats at \$36



A swagger, belted style coat, in the much wanted Wool Loopine—a warm, serviceable material. Collar is to be had in Skunk-Opossum, Near Seal or Muskrat. Lined throughout and interlined. Colors: Black, Maduro, Navy, Taupe, Brown, or Balsam Green. Sizes 34 to 46.

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Charming Skirts of Wool Plaid at \$10.75 and \$16.75

Suitable for afternoon or sports wear. Full pleated and newest of shirred-top models with detachable belts. All fashionable colorings. Sizes 25 to 36. Also—Smart Silk and Wool Poplin Skirts at \$7.95. Several new and stunning models. Waistbands 25 to 36.

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Two stunning models, tastefully trimmed with flat Hercules Braid and buttons. Well tailored, and at such a modest price are certainly unusual. To be had in Navy Blue or Black. Sizes 34 to 42.

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A most exquisite model, embellished with large buttons and Silk Embroidery, cut along the very modish straight lines, and is to be had in Taupe, Beige, or Joffre Blue. Sizes 34 to 44. Illustrated.

The Store will be closed at 12 noon to-morrow (Saturday)

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Here are assembled Uniforms and Overcoats made of the finest materials and exceptionally well tailored; Trench Coats and Raincoats; Boots, Shoes and Puttees; Hats, Caps and Insignia; Gloves, Hosiery, Handkerchiefs and Underwear; Binoculars; Wrist Watches; Bedding Rolls, Money Belts, Identification Tags, Toilet Articles and Leather Goods.

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Army Officers' Uniform of whipcord	48.00 to 60.00
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Red Cross Uniform of serge	48.00
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Y. M. C. A. Uniform of serge	48.00
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