

EXPECT ACTION ON U. S. FRONT

Enemy Observed Withdrawing Guns Across Aisne

GERMAN RETREAT SEEN

Mangin's Advance Threatens Enemy Positions—Crack Divisions Face Our Troops

By EDWIN L. JAMES

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There are signs that the situation on the American front along the Vesle is not much longer remain of a stabilized front.

The advance of General Mangin's army north of Soissons has threatened German positions between the Vesle and the Aisne.

The German high command fears an effort to maintain the present positions, with the Americans and French constantly harassing the enemy on the Somme.

Latest advice gives the following line along the front from the region of Arras to below the Somme.

The British line in the Flanders battle area has been advanced on a front of four miles astride the Neuf Berquin-Ever road.

South of the Somme the British have taken Foucaucourt, while north of the Somme they have attacked and taken the greater part of Trones Wood.

A dispatch from the front says Canadian troops in their advance yesterday southeast of Arras were supported by tanks, and it was a most dashing performance.

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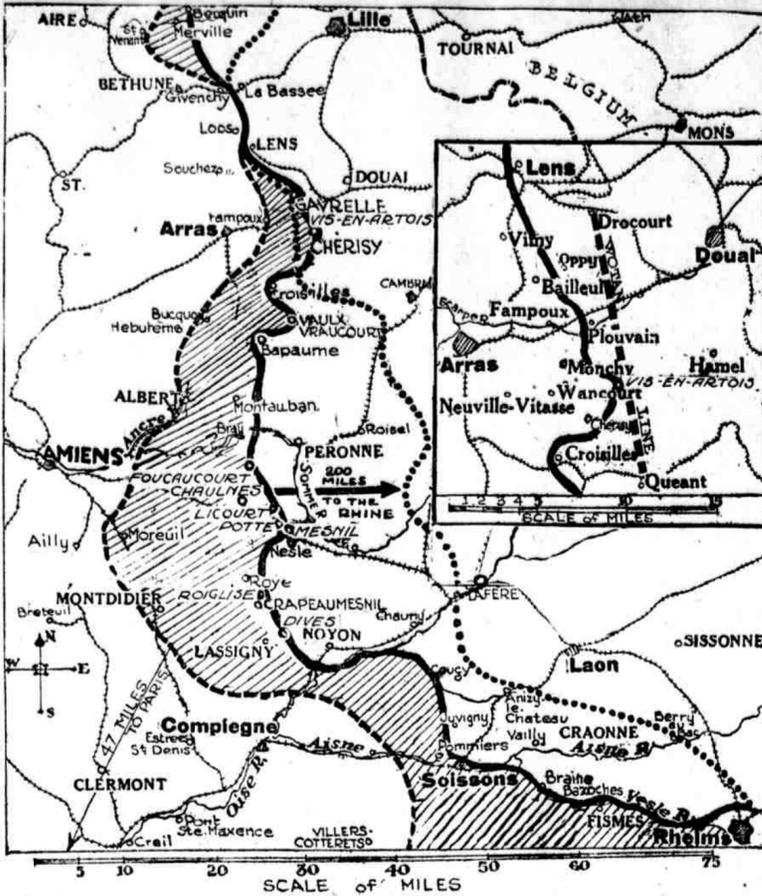
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SCENE OF NEW ALLIED VICTORIES



The French today are pressing beyond Chaules and are within two miles of the Somme. The fall of Nesle seems a matter of hours. East of Arras the British have captured Vis-en-Artois, on the powerful Wotan line of the Germans.

AMERICANS KEEP IN GOOD SPIRITS

Troops Cheerful Despite Discomforts, but Long for Newspapers

By CHARLES H. CRASTY

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It would be hard to imagine a greater contrast than that between Paris and the Vesle front.

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AUSTRIANS FACE AMERICAN LINES

Our Troops Surprised to Learn They Were in Lorraine Sector

By EDWIN L. JAMES

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The appearance of Austro-Hungarian troops on the Lorraine front has a poignant interest for the American army.

The Austro-Hungarian troops were established our first sector, which we still hold.

On the line eastward from Verdun United States troops are in line at many points.

The fact is the shortest road to Hunland, and the world knows that America intends to take the war to Germany.

So it is very plain that the Kaiser puts many Austro-Hungarian troops in the Lorraine sector.

They will face the Americans.

In plain words, the announcement made in Sunday's French communique that the capture of prisoners in the Vosges had brought under strong German and Hungarian units caused some surprise in the American army.

It has been known that for some time Austrian artillery has been used in many places on the western front.

The impression that the Austro-Hungarian troops were in the Vosges, but the failure of Austro-Hungarian infantry to make its appearance thus far had produced the impression that they would stay away.

It was known that Austrian politicians had considered the question of sending troops to the western front.

It also was known that public sentiment in the Dual Monarchy was against it.

Now it appears that Emperor Charles has dared the people's wrath in order to knuckle to Kaiser William's demand for troops.

Those now in the Vosges and Lorraine may be nine divisions for which the German Emperor asked the Austrian Emperor at their recent conference.

With her other Allies, America is pledged to give military aid to Italy, and has already started.

If part of the Austro-Hungarian troops are sent to the Vosges to get whipped instead of having it done in northern Italy, perhaps it will all add up the same.

It is not the sending of Austrian troops to the western front open a path for new Italian victories.

For no one seriously believes the Kaiser is going to send German troops to replace the men Emperor Charles is giving him.

If Germany and Austria have, after all, pooled their military manpower, or rather, if Austria has completely surrendered its sovereignty and respect to Wilhelm and is to put her fighting men in Prussian uniform, the fact might as well be known now as later.

GERMAN SEA LOSS HINTED

Authorities in Jutland Find the Bodies of 130 Marines

Copenhagen, Aug. 28.—It is reported by the authorities in Jutland that during the last few days the bodies of 130 German marines have been washed ashore on the western coast of Jutland.

The authorities say they were not substantiated that the marines were on German destroyers, which likely were lost in an engagement or by coming in contact with mines.

U-BOAT PIRATES WANTONLY SLEW VICTIMS OF TORPEDO

Sinking of Steamship Lydiana Followed by Barbarous Killing of Survivors Struggling in Water

By the Associated Press

London, Aug. 28.—Details of the sinking of the French steamer Lydiana off the north coast of Spain on July 16 show that the crew of the German submarine deliberately murdered most of the thirty-eight persons lost.

FOCH'S TACTICS WON'T LET GERMAN RETREAT

Compelling Ludendorff to Fight Every Inch of Way Back—Unable to Prepare New Lines

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

Paris, Aug. 28.—Ludendorff is undoubtedly anxious to effect a retreat on a large scale to safer positions well in the rear, and all indications tend to show he would have done so as long as a week or two ago, had the circumstances been different.

The reasons why he has not done so are believed here to be two-fold.

In the first place, Foch has dealt him four heavy blows since the eighth of the present month.

Following Mangin's staggering flank attack between Soissons and the Marne on July 18, which smashed all the enemy's carefully laid plans to smother us and wrenched the initiative from him, Rawlinson and Debynt struck between the Aisne and Aves on August 8 and between Metz and Oise on August 10.

Mangin again struck between the Aisne and Oise on August 18, and Byng between the Scarpe and Aisne on August 21.

To meet these repeated blows and stave off disastrous defeat in place after place, Ludendorff's high command have thrown in all available reserves to such an extent that the enemy had neither time nor men available to prepare new line positions in the rear on which to fall back.

Foch Makes Germans Fight

This supplies the second good reason why Ludendorff has been unable to repeat the great coup of the famous retreat to the west of the line of the spring of last year.

The tactics of Foch not only rendered impossible a repetition of such a retreat, which was effected without the loss of a man or gun, but compelled the Germans to fight desperately on every yard of the battlefield under the sheer necessity of avoiding being annihilated where they stand.

The unbroken series of defeats we are now witnessing is thus doubly disastrous for the enemy.

Ludendorff's desire to avoid everything but retreat, which he can't spare any to prepare new positions in the rear, and Foch has them in such a grip that even such few fresh troops as he can spare are not used to re-enforce his line, but only to fill the gaps caused by his enormous losses in killed, wounded and missing.

As Paris sees it, the Germans today are in by far a worse situation than at any time since the war began.

They are in a very critical position to that from which Hindenburg escaped by his masterly retreat last year, with the vital difference that the Kaiser's army is not the army of Von Boehm, must be disastrous.

These armies occupy a huge pocket enormously deeper than that of Ludendorff or the Marne. Byng is eating

the pocket steadily growing here.

The feeling is steadily growing here, however, that the Allies must be satisfied with nothing short of decisive defeat and unconditional capitulation of Germany.

A possibility of peace, however, is being overlooked, however, that Von Boehm is by far the greatest German specialist in conducting retreats from apparently hopeless situations, as he has more than once proved.

The situation at this moment is magnificently favorable for the Allies, but the enemy's strength is not as great as it once was, and it is fully realized here that there is still much hard fighting to be done.

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FOE WITHDRAWAL MAY COME SOON

Ludendorff Considering Retirement to Hindenburg and Seigfried Lines

REBUILDING TRENCHES

Four Factors Which May Prevent Checking of Allied Advance on Old Front

By WALTER L. DURANTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

With the French Army, Aug. 28.—Mangin's progress in the region of Bagnuex, though valuable as giving us enemy divisions and acquiring positions, in view of subsequent operations, can hardly yet be regarded as threatening the Chemin-des-Dames, as has been suggested in some optimistic quarters.

It is doubtful whether the French in this sector are yet able seriously to menace the Vesle line—situated considerably in advance of the stronger Chemin-des-Dames position—owing to the fact that pressure on either German line is bound to be endangered by the enemy forces in the formidable St. Gobain massif, which for long years has been the corner bastion of the enemy line in France.

What a French officer told me Monday remains true today—it is on the British that the question of the German movement rearward for the moment depends.

Doubtless, Ludendorff is already seriously considering the necessity, which may at any hour become imperative, of withdrawal not only in the north, but from the Vesle, or even the Chemin-des-Dames, to the Hindenburg and Seigfried lines, as held in the autumn of 1917.

That would explain the obstinate resistance of Mangin's attacks—to permit the evacuation of material and the reconstruction of the old defenses.

From the north, it is reported that spade work is progressing apace on the Hindenburg and Seigfried lines.

The question will arise whether the enemy can be satisfied with a mere advance by a reversion to trench warfare. Last year he was able to do so, but now four new factors have intervened to alter the situation.

Firstly, the Germans, instead of retreating comfortably, according to a long prepared plan to positions minutely reconnoitered beforehand, will be closely pursued by the Allies—just at the sword's point—as the French say, and are bound to suffer from the disorganization of defeated units.

Secondly, the German morale has been weakened by a series of disasters unparalleled in this war's history.

Captured letters grow ever more despondent, and official orders are full of despairing, and official orders are full of despairing, and official orders are full of despairing.

Thirdly, the German artillery, which whose fire it is complained of as being less dangerous for the defenders than for the assailants. Now it is severe enemy has captured the Hindenburg, shot down—and actually killed in secret—a German aviator who seems to have attacked them by one of the tactics which are so easily happen to German aviators.

Which I cite textually, is a sufficient avowal in itself. Another time it "use weapons without killing the enemy." The third factor is the change in offensive tactics that has resulted from Hitler's "Smoke, gas, and other" tactics.

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