

STORY OF WAR IS TOLD BY PERSHING

Detailed Report of How U. S. Men Won Battles.

CRISIS CAME ON MARCH 21

Says American Operations Previous to That Date Were Only a Part of Their Training - Pays Supreme Tribute to Army.

Washington, -Gen. John J. Pershing's account of his stewardship as commander of the American expeditionary forces was given to the public Wednesday by Secretary Baker. It is in the form of a preliminary report to the secretary, covering operations up to November 20, after the German collapse. It closes with these words from the leader of the great army in France, expressing his feeling for those who served under him: "I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardships, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country."

The report begins with General Pershing's departure for France to pave the way for the army that was to smash German resistance on the Meuse and give vital aid to the allies in forcing Germany to its knees 19 months later.

Crisis on March 21. General Pershing views the encounters before March 21 of this year, in which American troops participated as a part of their training, and dismisses them briefly. On that date, however, the great German offensive was launched and a crucial situation quickly developed in the allied lines which called for prompt use of the four American divisions that were at the time "equal to any demands of battle action."

"The crisis which this offensive developed was such," General Pershing says, "that on March 28 I placed at the disposal of Marshal Foch, who had been agreed upon as commander in chief of the allied armies, all of our forces. At his request the First division was transferred from the Toul sector to a position in reserve at Chaumont on Vexin.

"As German superiority in numbers required prompt action, an agreement was reached at the Abbeville conference of the allied premiers and commanders and myself on May 2 by which British shipping was to transport ten American divisions to the British army area, where they were to be trained and equipped, and additional British shipping was to be provided for as many divisions as possible for use elsewhere.

Men Eager for Test. "On April 20 the First division had gone into the line in the Montdidier salient, on the Picardy battle front. Tactics had been suddenly revolutionized to those of open warfare, and our men, confident of the results of their training, were eager for the test. On the morning of May 28 this division attacked the commanding German position in its front, taking with splendid dash the town of Cantigny and all other objectives, which were organized and held steadfastly against vicious counter-attacks and galling artillery fire.

"Although local, this brilliant action had an electrical effect, as it demonstrated our fighting qualities under extreme battle conditions and also that the enemy's troops were not altogether invincible."

Hold Foe at Chateau Thierry.

There followed immediately the German thrust across the Aisne river toward Paris. He continues: "The Third division, which had just come from its preliminary training in the trenches, was hurried to the Marne. Its motorized machine-gun battalion preceded the other units and successfully held the bridgehead at the Marne, opposite Chateau Thierry.

"The Second division, in reserve near Montdidier, was sent by motor-trucks and other available transport to check the progress of the enemy toward Paris. The division attacked and retook the town and railroad station at Bourges and steadily held its ground against the enemy's best guard divisions.

"In the battle of Belleau wood, which followed, our men proved their superiority and gained a strong tactical position, with far greater loss to the enemy than to ourselves. On July 1, before the Second was relieved, it captured the village of Vaux with splendid precision.

Stand Between Paris and Foe.

"Meanwhile our Second corps, under Maj. Gen. George W. Read, had been organized for the command of our divisions with the British, which were held back in training areas or assigned to second-line defenses. Five of the ten divisions were withdrawn from the British area in June, three to relieve divisions in Lorraine and the Fourth and two were sent to the Paris area to join the group of American divisions which stood between the city and any further advance of the enemy in that direction."

By that time the great tide of American troop movements to France was in full swing and the older divisions could be used freely. The Forty-second, in line east of Reims, faced the German assault of July 15 and "held their ground unflinchingly" on the right flank four companies of the Twenty-eighth division faced "advancing waves of German infantry," and the Third division held the Marne line, opposite Chateau Thierry, against powerful artillery and infantry attack.

Single Regiment Checks Enemy. "A single regiment of the Third wrote one of the most brilliant pages in our military annals on this occasion," General Pershing says. "It prevented the crossing at certain points on its front while, on either flank, the Germans who had gained a footing pressed forward. Our men, firing in three directions, met the German attacks with counter-attacks at critical points and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion, capturing 600 prisoners."

Thus was the stage set for the counter-offensive which, beginning with the smashing of the enemy's Marne salient, brought overwhelming victory to the allies and the United States in the eventful months that have followed. The intimation is strong that General Pershing's advice helped Marshal Foch to reach his decision to strike.

Counter-Offensive Opens.

General Pershing continues: "The great force of the German Chateau Thierry offensive established the deep Marne salient, but the enemy was taking chances, and the vulnerability of this pocket to attack might be turned to his disadvantage. "Seizing this opportunity to support my conviction, every division with any sort of training was made available for use in a counter-offensive. The place of honor in the thrust toward Soissons on July 18 was given to our First and Second divisions in company with chosen French divisions.

"Without the usual brief warning of a preliminary bombardment, the massed French and American artillery, firing by the map, laid down its rolling barrage at dawn while the infantry began its charge. The tactical handling of our troops under these trying conditions was excellent throughout the action.

"The enemy brought up large numbers of reserves and made a stubborn defense both with machine guns and artillery, but through five days' fighting the First division continued to advance until it had gained the heights above Soissons and captured the village of Berzy-le-Sec.

"The Second division took Beaurepaire farm and Vlerzy in a very rapid advance and reached a position in front of Tigny at the end of its second day. These two divisions captured 7,000 prisoners and over 100 pieces of artillery."

First American Army Formed.

The report describes in some detail the work of completing the reduction of the salient, mentioning the operations of the Twenty-sixth, Third, Fourth, Forty-second, Thirty-second, and Twenty-eighth divisions. With the situation on the Marne front thus relieved, General Pershing writes, he could turn to the organization of the First American army and the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, long planned as the initial purely American enterprise.

A troop concentration, aided by generous contributions of artillery and air units by the French, began, involving the movement, mostly at night, of 600,000 men. A sector reaching from Port sur Selle, east of the Moselle, eastward through St. Mihiel to Verdun and later enlarged to carry it to the edge of the forest of Argonne was taken over, the Second Colonial French, holding the tip of the salient opposite St. Mihiel, and the French Seventeenth corps, on the heights above Verdun, being transferred to General Pershing's command.

The combined French, British, and American air forces mobilized for the battle, the report says, was the largest aviation assembly ever engaged on the western front up to that time in a single operation.

Battle of St. Mihiel.

Of the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient General Pershing says: "After four hours' artillery preparation the seven American divisions in the front line advanced at 5 a. m. on September 12, assisted by a limited number of tanks manned partly by Americans and partly by the French.

"These divisions, accompanied by groups of wire-cutters and others armed with bangalore torpedoes, went through the successive bands of barbed wire that protected the enemy's front line and support trenches in irresistible waves on schedule time, breaking down all defense of an enemy demoralized by the great volume of our artillery fire and our sudden approach out of the fog.

"Our First corps advanced to Thiaucourt, while our Fourth corps curved back to the southwest through Nonard. The Second Colonial French corps made the slight advance required of it on very difficult ground, and the Fifth corps took its three ridges and repulsed a counter-attack.

"A rapid march brought reserve regiments of a division of the Fifth corps into Vigneulles in the early morning, where it linked up with patrols of our Fourth corps, closing the salient and forming a new line west of Thiaucourt to Vigneulles and beyond Fresnes-en-Woevre.

16,000 Prisoners Taken.

"At a cost of only 7,000 casualties, mostly light, we had taken 16,000 prisoners and 448 guns, a great quantity of material, released the inhabitants of many villages from enemy domination and established our lines in a position to threaten Metz.

"This signal success of the American First army in its first offensive was of prime importance. The allies found they had a formidable army to aid them, and the enemy learned finally that he had one to reckon with."

The report shows for the first time officially that with this brilliantly executed coup, General Pershing's men had cleared the way for the great effort of the allies and American forces to win a conclusive victory. The American army moved at once toward its crowning achievement, the battle of the Meuse.

The general tells a dramatic story of this mighty battle in three distinct phases, beginning on the night of September 27, when Americans quickly took the places of the French on the thinly held line of this long, quiet sector. The attack opened on September 28, and the Americans drove through entanglements, across No Man's Land, to take all the enemy's first-line positions.

Battle of the Meuse.

Closing the chapter, General Pershing says: "On November 6 a division of the First corps reached a point on the Meuse opposite Sedan, 25 miles from our lines of departure. The strategic goal which was our highest hope was gained. We had cut the enemy's main line of communications, and nothing could save his army from complete disaster.

"In all forty enemy divisions had been used against us in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Between September 26 and November 6 we took 26,050 prisoners and 468 guns on this front.

"Our divisions engaged were the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-seventh, Seventy-eighth, Seventy-ninth, Eightieth, Eighty-second, Eighty-ninth, Ninetieth and Ninety-first.

"Many of our divisions remained in line for a length of time that required nerves of steel, while others were sent in again after only a few days of rest. The First, Fifth, Twenty-sixth, Forty-second, Seventy-seventh, Eightieth, Eighty-ninth and Ninetieth were in the line twice.

Although some of the divisions were fighting their first battle, they soon became equal to the best.

Other Corps Active.

The commander in chief does not lose sight of the divisions operating with French or British armies during this time.

He tells of the work of the Second corps, comprising the Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth divisions, in the British assault on the Hindenburg line where the St. Quentin canal passes through a tunnel; of how the Second and Thirty-sixth divisions got their chance in October by being assigned to aid the French in the drive from Reims, and of the splendid fighting of the Thirty-seventh and Ninety-first divisions, sent to join the French army in Belgium.

Of the total strength of the expeditionary force, General Pershing reports: "There are in Europe altogether, including a regiment and some sanitary units with the Italian army and the organizations at Murmansk, also including these en route from the States, approximately 2,053,347 men, less our losses."

"Of this total there are in France 1,833,160 combatant troops."

Problem of Equipment.

Of their equipment he says: "Our entry into the war found us with few of the auxiliaries necessary for its conduct in the modern sense. Among our most important deficiencies in material were artillery, aviation and tanks.

"In order to meet our requirements as rapidly as possible, we accepted the offer of the French government to provide us with the necessary artillery equipment of 75, one 55-millimeter howitzer and one 55 G. P. F. gun from their own factories for 30 divisions.

"The wisdom of this course is fully demonstrated by the fact that, although we soon began the manufacture of these classes of guns at home, there were no guns of the calibers mentioned manufactured in America on our front at the date the armistice was signed. The only guns of these types produced at home thus far received in France are 109 75-millimeter guns.

First U. S. Planes in May.

"In aviation we were in the same situation, and here again the French government came to our aid until our own aviation program should be under way. We obtained from the French the necessary planes for training our personnel, and they have provided us with a total of 2,676 pursuit, observation, and bombing planes.

"The first airplanes received from home arrived in May, and together we have received 1,370. The first American squadron completely equipped by American production, including airplanes, crossed the German lines on August 7, 1918.

"As to tanks, we were compelled to rely upon the French. Here, however, we were less fortunate, for the reason that the French production could barely meet the requirements of their own armies.

"It should be fully realized that the French government has always taken a most liberal attitude and has been most anxious to give us every possible assistance in meeting our deficiencies in these as well as in other respects. Our dependencies upon France for artillery, aviation and tanks was, of course, due to the fact that our industries had not been exclusively devoted to military production.

"All credit is due our own manufacturers for their efforts to meet our requirements, as at the time the armistice was signed we were able to look forward to the early supply of practically all our necessities from our own factories."



1-British mine sweepers clearing the North sea of German mines. 2-American soldiers who were wounded in the St. Mihiel salient photographed on their arrival in New York. 3-Dr. Joseph Pernikoff, representative of the all-Russian government, who has just come to the United States.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Sails for France, But Does Not Tell Specifically What He Plans to Do.

WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED

Trial of Former Kaiser for Murder Seems Assured—Liebknecht and Spartacus Group Fighting Ebert's Government for Control in Germany.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

With the cheers of thousands of civilians and returning soldiers ringing in his ears, President Wilson sailed away for Europe on December 4, on his mission of world peace-making. As the good ship George Washington made its way out of New York harbor all the shore batteries and war vessels joined in the presidential salute and off went the steamship met by its convoy, the battleship Pennsylvania and five destroyers. It was a pleasant coincidence that the presidential party met several transports thronged with American troops just sent home from England and France.

Mr. Wilson, it was expected, would land at Brest about December 12 and proceed at once to Paris, where the residence of Prince Murat has been prepared for him. The other delegates and most of the rest of the large party will be housed in the Hotel Crillon.

The president is assured of a warm and even enthusiastic welcome in France, Great Britain and Italy. His arrival in Europe will be scarcely less welcome to the people of what were the central empires. The governments of those states, distracted and disheveled, look to Mr. Wilson to mollify the entente powers and obtain for them less rigorous peace terms than the crimes of the Teutons have deserved. Whether he will be able to accomplish this, or even will attempt it, remains to be seen. The president has not taken into his confidence the congress or the people of America, possibly because he could not guess, prior to conferences with the representatives of the entente nations, how far he might dare to go in the way of humanitarianism. They are willing and eager to confer with him on all matters and doubtless will defer to his judgment in many things, but they have their own very certain ideas as to the treatment that should be accorded the German nation and people.

One of these ideas is that the ex-kaiser must be put on trial for murder and, if found guilty—the "it" might as well be "when"—must be adequately punished. The best legal authorities of England and France agree that William can be extradited from Holland, and there is no doubt that in any event enough pressure could be brought to induce the Dutch to give him up. From the beginning of the war the English and French have determined that William should ultimately be brought to justice personally, and there is ample reason for the depression from which the deposed ruler is said to be suffering at Amerongen. The former crown prince, who, by the way, says he has not yet renounced his rights to the throne, may also be put on trial. He, in his Dutch retreat, has been telling how he and his father were forced into all their outrageous actions by the military clique and Bethmann-Holweg. He also tries to shift to others the blame for the terrific defeats his army sustained.

Another fixed intention of the entente powers is to compel Germany to pay to the limit of her capacity. Her ability to make financial reparation for the damage her armies have done is undoubted. The measures to be adopted by the allies are yet unsettled. Germany's state-owned minerals, coal and potash deposits and railways alone are worth vastly more than the claims of the allies will amount to, and it is not unlikely that those will be seized. In money the country is almost as rich as it was before the war.

This question of reparation brings up the matter of a commercial boycott. Many authorities assert that the only way Germany can pay will be by obtaining raw materials from the countries she has been fighting and selling her products in their markets. Very likely the peace conference will declare against the boycott idea, but it will not be so easy to persuade the peoples of the allied nations to buy German-made goods. Most of them would prefer to see Germany reduced to the position she has earned for herself, to have such money as can be taken from her, and to let the rest of the financial reparation go by the board. Austria, too, is making the loud wall for raw materials and markets. Dr. Franz Klein, who will represent at the peace conference the so-called Austrian republic, provided he is admitted, is relying especially on America to be "fair" and to solve the troubles of the late empire so that all the republics can live in peace and prosperity. Some Job!

Conditions in Germany are almost as uncertain as in Russia after the fall of Kerensky. Just who or what comprises the government it is hard to say. Premier Ebert and his moderate socialist colleagues are still the nominal rulers of Prussia, but Dr. Karl Liebknecht and his Spartacus group of socialists—the German equivalent of the bolsheviks—are vigorously fighting to get the upper hand. They are especially strong in Berlin, which is in a state of great disorder. It is reported that Liebknecht has 15,000 men well armed and is planning a terrorist revolution. He reviles Ebert for asking food from America, for, since this is conditioned on the maintenance of order, it is "yielding to a capitalist effort to beat bolshevik aims." Liebknecht's organ, the Red Flag, demands the dismissal of officers and the choosing by soldiers of their leaders; the immediate arming of the revolutionary workmen and the disarming of all other organizations; the destruction of capitalism, the annulment of war loans and the socialization of all business.

The soldiers' and workmen's councils of Germany have demanded that the ex-kaiser be tried by a German tribunal, which would probably be the best he could hope for.

In many parts of Germany there is swift reaction against the bolshevik movement, and it threatens to grow into a counter-revolution, with the possible restoration of the monarchy. This is fostered by many officers and supported by certain units of the army. That it will go far seems quite unlikely. The soldiers and workmen generally, however, seem disposed to support the Ebert government rather than the Spartacus group.

The leaders of the Bavarian republic have induced the Berliners to demand the resignation of Doctor Solf, whose retention as foreign secretary has been one of the puzzles to outsiders, and to exclude Mathias Erzberger from the peace negotiations.

The late leaders of Germany and Austria are quarreling among themselves concerning who was responsible for starting the war, and the present leaders are demanding that this question be settled by an inquiry and the guilty ones punished. How much chance there is of a fair investigation is revealed by the fact, just brought to light, that the German foreign office burned all the documents in the archives that might place the responsibility for the war on the German government. It is interesting to note that Doctor Solf has proposed that a neutral commission inquire into the origin of the war.

The allied armies of occupation continue their march into German territory and are meeting with no resistance and little trouble of any kind. The Germans are not keeping up to schedule in complying with the armistice terms, but say this is impossible in some instances. For instance, they cannot gather the required number of locomotives, and the airplanes called for are being given up where they are instead of being collected and surrendered in a bunch. The last of the Hun submarines have been turned over to the allied fleet and the German navy, whose personnel was denounced by

Admiral Beatty as beneath contempt, is now no more.

General Dickman's American army has its headquarters at Treves, and from it reports come that flatly contradict the idea that the Germans are short of food and clothing. The people in the occupied districts are studiously indifferent to the invaders or openly eager to keep up their trade. The French and British have been moving forward in their zones with little incident.

Among the loot already recovered from the Germans is the \$60,000,000 taken from the Russian treasury. The Huns also have returned a rich art collection that was stolen from St. Quentin, and other paintings taken from Valenciennes.

The all-Russian government at Omsk appears to be gaining in stability, but the bolsheviks have not let up in their trouble-making. An irruption of Reds into Estonia has alarmed the government there, murdering, burning and plundering being unhindered. Livonia also has been invaded by them. A call for help by sea was sent out, and a few days ago a British fleet arrived at Libau. The vessels probably will proceed to Revel and land men to stop the slaughter. The bolshevik authorities in western Russia have turned back 1,500,000 Russian soldiers who have been prisoners in Germany, and it was reported that the men had seized four ships at Danzig which the British Red Cross had obtained from Germany for the housing of prisoners.

The Ukrainians and the Poles decline to stop fighting. They are chasing each other back and forth in territory which both claim, and it is difficult to say which has the advantage. Recently the Poles occupied Brest-Litovsk, the town where Germany negotiated the peace treaties with Russia and the Ukraine.

Before President Wilson left the country he delivered his address to congress reassembled for the short session. He paid glowing tribute to the forces of America, military and civilian, which helped win the war, and said he was going across to interpret his ideas of world peace because he considered that was his bounden duty. But he did not give any specific information as to his plans, nor did he so much as mention his colleagues on the peace delegation. In dealing with domestic matters, the president said he was convinced it would be wrong to turn the railroads back to private ownership under present conditions, but that unless congress solved the question in the near future he would relinquish the roads. Other matters that he asked congress to act upon quickly were the revenue bill, the navy building plan and woman suffrage. Secretary Daniels' plan for the navy is for steady and rapid increase of the fleet, for which he asks about \$434,000,000. The estimates submitted to congress by Secretary Baker provide for a regular army of approximately 500,000, but certain items are included that leave the question of the strength of the army open until after the conclusion of peace.

The American troops already are coming back from Europe, the first to arrive, except for the wounded, being the aviation units that were training in England.

As was expected, the president appointed Congressman Carter Glass of Virginia to succeed Mr. McAdoo as secretary of the treasury. He has been chairman of the house committee on banking and currency and his selection for the cabinet position meets with general approval.

While the rest of the world is turning to the ways of peace, Chile and Peru are preparing for war. The ancient quarrel over the provinces of Tacna and Arica has been revived, the people have been insulting and provoking each other and the situation is critical. The armies of the two countries have been ordered to mobilize, and unless wiser counsels prevail hostilities will follow before long. The United States has no intention of intervening in the squabble, but a number of our warships have been dispatched to Valparaiso to protect American interests.