

FOE'S OFFENSIVE SO FAR IS COMPLETE FAILURE

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Americans and French Are Fighting Magnificently and Are Taking Many Prisoners--Enemy's Spirit Weakens as Great Battle Progresses

FURIOUS NEW ATTACKS BY GERMAN HORDE END IN DISASTER FOR HUN

AMERICANS TAKE 1,500 PRISONERS; IN COUNTER ATTACK RETAKE FOSSOY

Boche Troops Captured Today Declare Their Commanders Have Been Beaten

(By The Associated Press, 10:45 A. M.)
With the American Army on the Marne, July 16.—Word received this morning from the battle front east of Rheims shows that the allied defense is not only still holding up the German attempts to advance, but appears to have broken the enemy's spirit.

With the American Forces on the Marne, July 16.—(By The Associated Press, 11:10 A. M.)—Reports from one end of the battle line to the other say that except for a few minor localities the great German offensive so far has been a complete failure.

Additional German prisoners taken today say they are convinced that their commanders have been beaten. American troops today shot down a courier pigeon belonging to the enemy east of Chateau Thierry. It was carrying a message from a German divisional headquarters saying that the situation was serious, and that the Germans saw no chance of making further progress in the locality of that division.

Paris, July 16.—On the front east of Rheims, in spite of terrific fighting during the past day and night, the enemy has not been able to penetrate the French zone of defense.

London, July 16.—American troops have recaptured Fossoy and Crezancy, towns on the south bank taken by the Germans when they crossed the Marne.

French Official Statement.

Paris, July 16.—The battle continues violently, especially south of the Marne and in the region of Chatillon. Except for one sector south of the Marne, there is no change in the situation. American and French troops are counter attacking magnificently and are taking many prisoners, according to the statement issued by the war office today.

The German loss in prisoners during the first day of the battle was extremely heavy.

South of the Marne the Germans have not been able to advance their line beyond St. Agnan, La Capelle, Monthodon or Lisieres, south of the forest of Bouquigny. The French in this region have taken a thousand prisoners.

Text of Official Statement.

The statement reads:
"The battle continued during the afternoon, evening and night with redoubled violence. Between Chateau Thierry and Rheims the enemy, accentuating his efforts to enlarge his advantages, launched furious attacks. The combats were particularly ferocious south of the Marne and in the region of Chatillon.

"French and American troops resisted the enemy magnificently and counter attacked many times with utmost vigor. South of the Marne the Germans have not been able to advance their lines beyond St. Agnan, La Chappelle, Monthodon, Lisieres and south of the forest of Bouquigny. In this region the French have taken 1,000 prisoners. Maruille Le Port on the Marne south of Chatillon is held by the French. All Hun Attacks Fail.

"North of the Marne the French have held up the enemy in the outskirts of Chatillon and southeast of the Rodemat woods. In this region there is no appreciable change in the rest of the line.

"The enemy did not attack during the night. On the front east of Rheims the Germans, exhausted by the fruitless struggle in which they were engaged yesterday, were unable to penetrate the French zone of defense, which runs to the eastward through Prenzy. The battle positions of the French are intact.

"The enemy losses in prisoners during the first day of the battle have been extremely heavy."

MANY CORPSES ON WIRE.

Dead Huns Hang Thickly in Front of the Positions Which the French Hold.

London, July 16.—Advices received in London up to noon today said that little change in the situation had been created by the German offensive. The attacks, which continued throughout yesterday, were conducted by the forces of General Von Below and General Von Bohm, who are directing the operations of the two armies on the left wing of the German crown prince group.

Great numbers of German corpses are hanging on the tangle of barbed wire in front of the French positions, and all the reports state that the losses to the Germans must have been exceedingly heavy.

The main attack to the east of Rheims continued up to 7 o'clock last night. The fighting was extremely severe in the

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Washington Warns Against Too Much Optimism as to Battle; Big Drive Yet to Come

Washington, July 16.—"The general situation this morning is regarded as satisfactory," says a war department statement issued today based on dispatches from General Pershing and General Bliss, confirming press accounts of the fighting yesterday.

Warning is given, however, that the first delivery of such a battle is merely general advance guard action, and that great pressure of reserves is still to be looked for.

"Dispatches received from General Pershing and General Bliss confirm the press accounts of yesterday's fighting.

American troops west of Surmelis counter-attacked, capturing prisoners, established and are holding their advanced positions.

"Germany's barrage was met by counter barrage, which in many places prevented the advance of their infantry. Full reports covering the entire front are, of course, not yet available. The general situation this morning is regarded as satisfactory. 'The first day in such a battle is, however, merely general advance guard action. The great pressure of reserves and concentrated masses still is to be looked for.'"

Austrian Premier "Sounds" All Allied Nations For Peace

Amsterdam, July 16.—Baron von Burian, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, in a note addressed to the Austrian and Hungarian premiers, quoted in a dispatch from Vienna as saying:

"There is hardly any difference between the general principles enunciated by the statesmen of both belligerents. President Wilson's four new points of July 4 shall not, apart from certain exaggerations, arouse our opposition."

Continuing the Austria-Hungarian minister said:

"The enemy's obstinacy regarding his territorial demands concerning Alsace-Lorraine, Trieste, Trentino and the German colonies appears to be insurmountable."

In his reference to President Wilson's four new points in his July 4 speech, Baron Burian said he

was able to approve of them heartily, and that to a great extent "nobody would refuse homage to this genius and nobody would refuse his co-operation."

Baron Burian said none of the belligerents states "need ever come into the position reached by Russia and Rumania" as "we ever are ready to enter into peace negotiations with all our opponents."

Continuing, the foreign minister of Austria-Hungary said:

"If our enemies continuously demand atonement for wrong done and restitution then this is a claim which we could urge with more justification against them, because we have been attacked and the wrong done to us must be redressed."

"We are prepared to discuss everything," said Baron Burian, "except our own territory."

BATTLE SUMMARY

(By The Associated Press.)

Furiously launching new attacks the allied positions on the Marne front from Chateau Thierry to Rheims, the Germans are continuing their efforts to break through the French and American defense.

They have made progress during the past night, but it has been decidedly slow in comparison with the sweep of the first Teutonic legions in their attacks in Picardy, Flanders and along the Aisne.

It appears that the enemy after crossing the Marne between Dormans and Chatillon has reached in this area the villages of St. Agnan, La Chapelle and Monthodon, which are approximately a mile and three quarters south of the river, but in the outskirts of these towns they have been held up.

Just to the northeast Germans managed to traverse the Bouquigny wood, but on the southern side they have been stopped.

West of Dormans, which is 24 miles east of Chateau Thierry, American troops are holding the battle lines. Unofficial advices state that in this area the Americans have retaken the villages of Sossy and Crezancy, south of the Marne, where the Germans gained

ground in the first rush across the river.

From the French official report it is estimated that between Dormans and Rheims the Germans are driving toward the Marne at Chatillon and along the line to the northeast. Only at one point, in the Rodemat wood, a mile and a half from Chatillon, however, did they advance last night. Even there they have been checked by the French fire. From that point to Rheims there is no change in the situation.

The deepest penetration along the line approximately 3 3/4 miles north east of Chatillon, in the Rodemat wood. This marks the greatest advance of the Germans at any point along the line since their offensive began. East of Rheims the situation also appears reassuring.

The French battle positions are declared intact and the Germans have not been able to advance southward further than the outskirts of the woods that parallel on the north the ancient Chaussee Romaine, the main highway running eastward from Rheims. They are being held all along this line as far as the region north of the town of Suippe, which virtually overlooks the easterly limits of the great battle.

Million Huns In Line

BULLETIN, 2:03 P. M.

With the French Army in France, July 16.—The allied resistance at the Germans in the present offensive has been great, and the German losses consequently so heavy that enemy divisions which the German staff had not intended to utilize until tomorrow had to be thrown into the line.

Paris, July 6.—The Germans apparently have from 60 to 70 divisions in position for the present offensive, of which some 40 have already been engaged. (This would mean a potential force of approximately 950,000, with 540,000 engaged.)

Brilliant Battling Of Americans Thrills All Entente Allied Peoples

London Papers Feature

London, July 16.—The brilliant contribution of American troops to the allied defense at Fossoy figures conspicuously in the battle reports under big heads and is made the subject of special mention in the editorial columns of the London morning newspapers.

"Splendid men," is the description contained in The Times, while another paper calls the American defense "the most encouraging feature of the day's fighting."

Washington, July 16.—Though further desperate fighting is expected on the 65-mile front along the Marne, where the Germans appear to have elected to make another supreme offensive, there was a distinct feeling in official circles today that the allied line, a portion of which is being held by American troops, will stand firm. Official reports covering the operations were not available early today and close attention was being paid to press accounts of the fighting.

Deep satisfaction was expressed by officials in the brave stand of American troops on the left flank of the line, where the Germans were not only halted after a slight advance yesterday, but, according to press dispatches, were thrown back with considerable loss.

The French official report giving credit to the American troops for stopping the offensive within 12 hours after it was inaugurated was read with elation, and it was pointed out that yesterday for the first time since the German supreme command sent its forces forward on March 21 has an offensive operation been halted on the first day.

BRILLIANT OPERATION.

This Is the Way the French Reporting the Fighting of the American Armies.

(By The Associated Press.)

On the French Front in France, Monday, July 15.—(Night)—It was a brilliant operation in which the American troops ejected the enemy from the positions he had gained temporarily on the southern side of the Marne. The Americans counter attacked vigorously this evening with remarkable dash, throwing the Germans back across the river near Fossoy.

Earlier in the day this part of the line had been the scene of the most desperate fighting, when the Germans started to throw pontoons across the stream. A few German elements at first succeeded in getting away in boats, driving the allied troops from the bank while the German engineers began to lay the bridges. Six of these bridges formed a lattice work and rapidly joined the banks on either side. Two of the bridges were most substantial structures and between 20 and 30 feet in width.

French airplanes played great havoc in the German ranks while the bridges were under construction. One bombing squadron flying at a height of 200 meters dropped bombs on two of the bridges while enemy troops were crossing. The bridges were broken and the soldiers thrown into the river.

Aviators Bomb the Huns.

The aviators constantly bombed the other bridges and did great execution among the Germans on the bridges as well as on the banks, where the enemy was concentrated in great masses.

When the Germans had crossed the river the fighting, which already was heavy, became terrific. The French and Americans holding the southern side fell back on their principal combat positions. They fought all the way and counter attacked occasionally, creating confusion in the ranks of advancing foe.

Then late in the evening the Americans started a dashing counter blow, which resulted in the Germans retiring pell-mell to the river.

With the American Army on the Marne, July 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—At one point of the offensive where American troops are fighting they organized a small counter attack late yesterday on the flank of a salient established by the Germans and drove them out in short order, but in hot fighting.

The American troops in this section occupied an intermediate position on the first lines. The Germans were allowed to come through, but when they tried to cross the open fields up a slight grade, the American machine gunners and infantry, occupying excellent positions, mowed down the advancing ranks, the enemy breaking and retiring at many places.

PARIS AGAIN HEARS ROAR OF ARTILLERY IN GREAT BATTLE

Paris, July 16.—Violent artillery fire continued last night on the fighting front. Residents of Paris again heard the roar and saw the flashes of the guns. There was a dim flickering in the sky resembling summer lightning varied now and then by a red flash reflected from low clouds.

WEATHER FORECAST

For Ardmore and vicinity: Tonight cloudy cooler; Wednesday fair.
Oklahoma: Tonight cloudy; showers in northeast portion; cooler; Wednesday generally fair.
East Texas: Tonight and Wednesday partly cloudy, cooler in north portion.
Local Temperature.
Maximum temperature yesterday was 102 degrees, minimum last night 74 degrees.

FOE HAD ORDERS TO MAKE DRIVE FAR INTO FRANCE

ENEMY FAILED AT START IS VIEW OF FRENCH MILITARY MEN.

AMERICANS ARE PRAISED

Pershing's Regiments Bore Themselves So That German Newspaperman Can Hardly Continue Usual Twaddle About Them.

Paris, July 16.—That the Germans failed at the start is the common view of all French military critics and even the most cautious are unable to conceal their satisfaction over the results of Monday's fighting.

"It would be silly," says Colonel de Thomassin, "to prophesy after one day's fighting, but one can certainly say that the beginning was altogether encouraging for us. Nowhere have the Germans made any particular advance.

"East of Rheims they lost heavily and made practically no progress. West of Dormans they crossed the Marne but we hold the bridgehead and mean to defend it from the left bank. They, however, soon lost the few miles gained south of the river. There, beside our men, were American regiments who bore themselves so that German newspaperman can hardly continue the usual twaddle about their new adversary."

Paris, July 15.—A semi-official statement says: "Orders found on prisoners show that the troops of the Crown Prince were to have camped at Epernay on the night of July 15; at Chalons on the 16th and at Sezanne (26 miles south of the Marne) on the 17th.

"The imperial general staff left no stone unturned to gain a decisive success and thirty to thirty-five divisions had been put into the line. That is about one division to two miles.

"The enemy's losses were considerable. One shock division, which, according to plan was to have been relieved the evening of the 15th had to be sent to the rear to be patched up on the morning of the 15th. East of Rheims hundreds of Germans dead hang on the French wire. Beside them are many smashed tanks which the enemy used to support the infantry.

"To sum up, the day's operations were perfectly satisfactory. The enemy neither surprised our command as to the date nor as to the place of his offensive."

On the French Front in France, Monday, July 15.—(By The Associated Press.)—The impression of the results of the first day's battle in the new German smash on the French front is very good.

Nowhere along the stretch of many miles did the enemy succeed in penetrating more than 4,000 yards and that was only on a small sector in the neighborhood of Marfaux, southwest of Rheims, although orders found on German prisoners announced that the first day should have taken them 20 kilometers from the front line of departure.

On the battle front east of Rheims the enemy did not even get beyond the advanced line, the invincible resistance of the French troops preventing him from attaining the main combat line.

With the French on the section west of Rheims fought American and Italian troops, both of whom vied with the other allies in keenness and courage.

NO VACATION FOR WILSON

Washington, July 16.—There will be no vacation this year or President Wilson. With matters of tremendous importance demanding his attention every day the president has decided that he can not leave his desk and it was definitely announced at the White House today that he will remain in Washington throughout the summer.

Dr. Richard Rathbun Dies.
Washington July 16.—Dr. Richard Rathbun, acting director of the Smithsonian Institute, and noted naturalist, died today at his home here. He was 66 years old and a native of Buffalo, N. Y.