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EIGHT PAGES

## YANKS CHOP PATH THROUGH HUN TROOPS

### FIVE MILES ADVANCE MADE BY AMERICAN FIRST ARMY

Now Within Smashing Distance of German Line at Two Important Positions on West Front East of Rheims.

### BOCHES ARE NOW IN NEW POCKET

Hun's Four Year Grip on City of Rheims is Now Being Shaken by Attacks on East and West.

By Fred S. Ferguson, United Press Staff Correspondent.

WITH THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY, Oct. 5.—Resumption of the American first army's attack on a twenty mile front west of the Meuse, together with a five mile advance of the Americans east of Rheims has brought the Americans within smashing distance of the German line at two important positions on the west front.

In the Champagne the Americans reached the plains beyond Blancourt and reached the outskirts of St. Thienne-Arnes, increasing with the French advance, the possibilities of complete relief of Rheims.

West of the Meuse, General Bullard's corps has reached the Kreimelde-Stellung line. Troops from Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia in a pivoting movement advanced more than two kilometers (a mile and a quarter), regulars in co-operation progressed five kilometers (more than three miles).

The attack west of the Meuse began at 5:30 yesterday morning and by mid-afternoon Hill 240, Gesnoe, Fleville, Chesery and LaForges had fallen. Severe counter attacks in the center were repulsed with heavy losses and the advance was fully maintained.

The attack was carried on successfully in the Argonne despite the greatest difficulties. The Boches had felled trees and interlaced them with barbed wire. Machine gun nests were cleverly concealed in this tangle. Tanks cleaned these up.

Numerous explosions of ammunition dumps in the rear of the enemy lines throughout the day, gave additional evidence of the heavy loss suffered by the Boche from our artillery fire.

The attack starting at some points without artillery preparation surprised the Germans who were quickly disposed of. But the enemy's heavy concentration of artillery and machine guns afforded a general stubborn resistance all day. The Gravelde-Stellung line was reached first by a pivoting attack, swinging northwestward from the Meuse. Every kilometer gained was won by straight American punching power against strong enemy divisions, which included guards. Two guard divisions have been badly cut up on the American front and one has been fitted up with landwehr troops.

The Franco-American attack east of Rheims was pushed vigorously, the

French attacking on the American left and following up our advance.

A determined enemy counter attack was repulsed after a considerable advance had been made by the Franco-Americans.

The doughboys did not budge an inch from their new lines. The enemy's hold was broken by the capture of Blanc Mont, which was taken with surprising rapidity. The Franco-American artillery laid down a barrage on the road leading toward Blanc Mont all Thursday night. Behind this the infantry moved up to its jumping off positions. Even the hospitals were moved forward.

One hospital unit which has been under shell fire for three days, but whose positions became safe again through removal of the German artillery, asked to be allowed to go forward so as to enable quicker handling of the wounded.

The capture of Blanc Mont was of similar importance in this immediate area as the fall of Montfaucon was in the Verdun region. These are two important key positions which have been taken by the Americans within a week.

The German's four year grip on Rheims is now being shaken by attacks west and east of the city. I stood on a height just back of the front and saw the Franco-American barrage rolling up great clouds of chalk dust as it spattered its way ahead of the advancing doughboys, in continuance of the attack which started early in the morning.

It was like fighting across a western prairie. There was scarcely a tree in sight over the vast stretches of flat plateau with only a dominating rise here and there to break the monotony. The attack was in a northwesterly direction, thus pinching in the salient about Rheims. Every step forward rendered the Boche position about the city more difficult.

In conjunction with General Berthelot's attack on the west, it is opening the way to freeing the city from artillery fire.

The American attack was highly spectacular. It resulted in General Gouraud sending his personal congratulations to the American divisional commander.

The French had taken a position

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### TODAY'S CASUALTY LIST CONTAINS 262 NAMES

Fifty-seven Killed in Action, Thirteen Died of Wounds, Thirty-three Missing.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The following casualties are reported by the commanding general of the American expeditionary forces:  
Killed in action, 57.  
Wounded in action, 33.  
Died from wounds, 146.  
Died from disease, 13.  
Died from accident and other causes, 7.  
Total, 262.

Killed in Action.  
Lieutenants—  
William Clark Barrett, Newport, R. I.  
Ralph S. Busch, Junction City, Kan.  
Charles B. Case, Buffalo, N. Y.  
Roy W. Kelly, Ashland, Wis.  
Malvern Jesse Nabb, Millville, N. J.  
Sergeant Anthony N. Halfmann, Fond du Lac, Wis.  
Sol Morris, Okaloosa, Iowa.

Corporals—  
Jesse Acker, Honesdale, Pa.  
Amos Bush, Greenville, Ala.  
James T. Griffith, Prichard, Ala.  
Hugh R. Keenum, Columbus, Miss.  
Orin Hudson Riker, Maple Rapids, Mich.  
Martin A. Stommer, Seattle, Wash.  
Fred O. Welberg, Chicago, Ill.  
Floyd Bowers, Reading, Pa.  
Vinton C. Bradshaw, Battle Creek, Iowa.  
Henry L. Bush, Abbeville, Ala.  
Lester D. Crowler, Lanett, Ala.  
Aurey L. Eakens, Selma, Ala.  
Harold Falke, Minneapolis, Minn.  
William G. Knowlson, New York, N. Y.  
Martin L. Moore, New Holland, Pa.  
Ralph A. Sanderson, Forest Grove, Mont.  
Pennie Spam, Rome, Ga.  
David Thompson, Chavies, Ala.  
Albert Clark Wakeman, Big Rapids, Mich.  
Mechanic—  
John Henry Buck, Holt, Mich.  
Cook—  
Frank B. Keyser, Claysburg, N. Y.  
Privates—  
Harry James Baker, Girard, Ohio.  
Raymond J. Beck, Flint, Mich.  
Clarence H. Bigler, Depaux, Ind.

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### EXPLOSION OF SHELL FACTORY

Greatest Loading Plant in Nation Blows up with Roar Which Sounds Like Bombardment

SCORES WERE KILLED

Mighty Blast Outdoes Toms River Explosion and Destroys Plant Worth Eighteen Millions.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—Scores of persons were believed to be dead and many others maimed in various degrees, were in hospitals in New Jersey early today and the nation's greatest shell loading plant, the property of the T. A. Gillespie loading company of Morgan, N. J., near South Amboy, was in ruins as the result of an explosion of trinitrotoluol last night.

Explosions were continuing early today. At seven a. m. there was a blast that shook houses in Brooklyn, shattering windows at Flatbush. Houses near the scene of the explosion were swept from their foundations. Scarcely a window is left intact in Perth Amboy.

Military authorities who have taken charge of the territory refused to make any estimate of the number of dead.

A military guard has been thrown about the district.

Access to the devastated district was practically impossible at an early hour. Telephone and telegraph wires have been swept away early by the explosions. Reports were made to New York by means of messengers sent to telephones from the area.

New York was experiencing the thrills of a bombardment by the heaviest guns. Distant crashes boomed through the lower section of the city. Staten Island and parts of Brooklyn were rocked at times by the force of the blasts. Black Tom and Kingsland explosions which shocked the city before the United States entered the war paled beside the tremendous force of this crash.

The property damage will run into the millions. The plant alone according to estimates was valued at \$13,000,000. This has been utterly destroyed, that part of it remaining at dawn today was slowly crumbling under the explosions of shell stores or was being eaten away by a fire which could not be controlled.

There were thousands in the plant when the first explosion took place. As those not hurt dashed from their positions, other blasts followed. Remnants of human bodies, according to reports, were found in various places. One man declared he had seen a twisted mass of arms and legs in a blacksmith shop. Three hundred men were in the building when the first blast let go. How many of them escaped, or whether any did, is only a matter of speculation.

Ordinarily there are about five thousand to six thousand workers in the plant.

The explosion struck just after the change in the shift.

Hundreds of women employed during the day had left the plant and none of these, it is believed, lost their lives.

Great destruction was caused by flying shells which mounted into the air and whistled into the surrounding country as fast as their fuses were touched off by the fire.

A civilian talking to a guard is said to have been killed instantly when his head was torn off by one of these shells. The guard was not injured.

Hospitals at Elizabeth, Raritan, Newark, Jersey City and other nearby points rushed ambulances and surgical aid to the plant. One morgue was said to have received eight bodies and reports were received that a company of coast artillerymen had removed fourteen other bodies from the wreckage of a building.

Half of the population of South Amboy fled to Perth Amboy when the blasts continued, and early today all those who were left went away. Soldiers began a patrol of the streets to protect the houses. Military authorities have taken absolute charge. They

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### United Press War Summary

1524th day of the war.

From the North sea to Lens—The German retirement between Arras, Arras and Lens has permitted the British to reach Erquinghem, only four miles west of Lille. Further north, German resistance and Flanders mud has retarded the Anglo-Belgian progress.

From Lens to LaFere—Both the British and French have made slight additional progress north of St. Quentin.

From LaFere to Rheims—General Berthelot has crossed the Aisne-Marne canal at several points and has reached the edge of Berniercourt. The German retirement in this region is reported to have ceased at the Aisne.

From Rheims to Verdun—The French and Americans are reported to have definitely broken through the whole front of the German defenses behind the Sulppe river. East of the Argonne, the Americans have repulsed enemy counter attacks and are pushing on. Staff dispatches today reported that furious fighting was under way on the whole fifty mile front from the Meuse to westward of the Sulppe.

Balkan—King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is semi-officially reported to have abdicated in favor of Crown Prince Boris.

Peace offensive—Austria is reported to have requested, through Holland, a non-committal conference of all belligerents at The Hague. Great Britain is said to have replied demanding that Austria explain what is meant by "non-committal."

With the allied smash continuing along the whole west front from Verdun to the sea and with the problem of a successful evacuation of Albania confronting her, Austria is reported to have made another definite peace offer through Holland.

Unofficial dispatches state that Austria asked Holland to invite all belligerents to a "non-committal" conference at The Hague. This is said to have been carried out.

Great Britain, it is reported, has already replied to the overtures, asking Austria to explain what she means by a "non-committal" conference. Preceding further in her peace efforts, Austria is said to have charged Prof. Lammasch, of the university of Vienna, with drafting a memorandum showing Austria's conception of President Wilson's fourteen points, which will be sent to the latter.

Further progress yesterday and last night along practically the entire battle front from Cambrai southward to the Meuse, was reported in today's British and French communiques.

Field Marshal Haig stated that the British line was advanced slightly north of St. Quentin. In the same region the French drove the enemy out of a strong position southwest of Chardon-Vert.

Northwest of Rheims General Berthelot pushed across the Aisne-Marne canal at several points and reached the borders of Berniercourt.

Franco-American attacks in the Champagne and Argonne regions are placing the Germans in great peril, both in the Argonne forest and north of Rheims. Withdrawal northeast of the famous city already has begun in the Monts region, where the Germans were in danger of encirclement.

Progress in Flanders is slow, owing to the difficult terrain which is being turned into a quagmire.

Realigning of the allied front in the Balkans is shrouded in mystery. The Serbians have occupied Nish and several cities to the south, according to unofficial reports, but no official news has been received regarding the expected northward movement of the British and French.

Abdication of the Bulgarian throne of King Ferdinand, in favor of Crown Prince Boris, has been semi-officially reported from Vienna.

The Austrian retreat in Albania apparently is being hurried by the Italians, who are keeping in close touch with the retiring enemy.

An unofficial dispatch reports that Portuguese and British troops have thrown the last remaining German forces out of German East Africa, taking a number of prisoners and a quantity of material.

Germans are Withdrawing.  
[By John DeGand, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

PARIS, Oct. 5.—(4:11 p. m.)—Franco-American troops, driving northward against Vouziers are now within less than five miles of that important German base. Enemy long range guns covering Vouziers which had been installed near Sugny and between St. Etienne and Semide, are being hastily withdrawn.

The Germans are reported to be evacuating the entire Moronvillers grove.

General Debeney is tightening his grip on the Oise region, south of St. Quentin and is increasing his pressure against the northern defenses of Laon and Gobbain massif.

### QUARTER MILLION IN MARCH

Two Hundred Thousand American Fighting Men Crossed in September.

REPORT OF CHIEF MARCH

Embarkation of Troops Has Passed the 1,850,000 Mark, and There is No Let Up.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The American advance between the Argonne and the Meuse threatens the main rail artery of Germany to the western front.

The United States' push has taken our forces up to eighteen miles in a direct line from that railroad.

General March, chief of staff, pointed these vital facts out today along with the statement that our drive has compelled the Germans to "throw many divisions" into its path. They have been held there by our forward movements.

In reporting that the 27th and 30th American divisions participated in the battle near St. Quentin, March revealed that probably the 27th was the unit trapped for a time, but later freed, after a persistent struggle.

March officially announced that embarkation of troops has passed the 1,850,000 mark and that last month shipments were at the rate of 250,000 men.

General March noted reports that troops shipments were being delayed by the outbreak of Spanish influenza. Men for overseas are carefully selected. Those who have just had it or have been exposed to it are called out and only sound fighters are dispatched. The record of over 250,000 the past month therefore is held all the more remarkable.

Viewing the military situation, March declared the news from the whole front the past week had "been excellent."

The three drives begun during the last week end, has been effectively pressed.

The American advance between the Argonne and the Meuse has gone on despite the enormous Teutonic reinforcements.

Just west of the Argonne forest the French have fought their way forward and now hold hills commanding the enemy's supplies line. The push for the Hindenburg line has taken the British up to or beyond that strong position. Two American divisions shared in the glory of the fighting around St. Quentin.

In Flanders a ten mile salient has been driven into the Boche lines and seventy-five square miles of Belgian territory have been reclaimed.

The allied pressure is compelling evacuation of Ostend and Zeebrugge and the allied forces are within five miles of Lille.

The Boche has been pushed off the Vesle-Aisne plateau.

Referring to the Balkan situation, March noted that the Serbians are in contact with Vranje; the Austrians are retiring out of Albania; the Italians have retaken Berat and are moving toward Durazzo against which naval operations were directed this week. The naval aid thus given was extremely important to the general strategy of the situation March commented.

ANOTHER AMERICAN ADVANCE.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LONDON, Oct. 5 (4:22 p. m.)—American forces, attacking on an eight-mile front between the Meuse and Aire rivers, have advanced two miles today, battifront dispatches reported this afternoon.

Fighting Desperately.

LONDON, Oct. 5 (1:28 p. m.)—The Germans are fighting desperately in the Champagne for every inch of ground, because of the great number of valuable communication lines behind the front, battle front dispatches declared today.

The opposing armies are swaying to and fro, and the battle is described as one of "unstable equilibrium."

North of St. Quentin the allied area is being gradually widened, but the Germans are fighting hard and progress is slow.

### TIGHTENING OF WAR CLAWS ANSWER TO PLEA FOR PEACE

Armies of Allies Will Make Reply to Austro-Hungarian Suggestion of Meeting at the Hague.

### ANOTHER STEP IN PEACE OFFENSIVE

As Soon as Germany has Been Driven Out of Belgium, Kaiser Will Launch Another Offer.

[By Carl D. Great, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The allied armies will make the reply to Austria's reported peace plea via Holland's government.

Indications today pointed to development of a claw-like offensive against the dual monarchy, one claw being the allied forces in the northeast; the other, the gallant Italian army.

While it may be unnecessary to develop this double offensive, it is favored by men of military importance and signs are increasing that this will be a portion of General Foch's strategy.

Application of the claws to Austria-Hungary, it is held, would force her to make a genuine peace offer. The present reported Austrian request upon Holland to seek a peace conference is regarded here as only another step in the known plan to develop a peace offensive throughout the fall and winter. However, if the claws were sunk into the monarchy, it is felt here that it would be only a matter of a very brief time before Austria would be out with a real offer to quit.

Incidentally some authorities foresee plainly that Germany proposes a new and particularly sinister peace offensive before long. Its indicated lines are based upon a retirement from Belgium and northern France. When this retirement has been accomplished, it is likely Germany will endeavor to appeal to the pacifist element of her foes, particularly in Great Britain among the Lansdowne and labor factions for a peace contemplating no claim to any French or Belgian soil. Such an appeal must be combatted, authorities here say, especially as it would be based largely upon retention of an ensfeebled grasp on Russia.

Military men viewed the war situation today with increasing delight. The German retirement in the north and the big American smashes in the south were taken as spelling the ultimate military downfall of the Teuton.

Avenge Ruined Cities.

PARIS, Oct. 5.—France's solemn warning that reprisals will be inflicted on Germany in return for her devastation in France is met with widespread approval. The warning was timed to save Lille and other industrial cities, through which the Boche is preparing to pass in his retreat.

The press comment on the warning intimates that all the allies are likely to join in a warning that will state frankly to Germany that the martyred towns and cities of Belgium and France will be avenged.

Premier Clemenceau stated: "Germany is acquiring a crushing debt, which is to be avenged. We have notified our allies that this question will have a just place on the day of settlement."

Turkish Deserters.

ZURICH, Oct. 5.—Ten thousand deserters from the Turkish army assembled outside Constantinople and

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### RIGID RULES LAID DOWN FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

New York City Reports 1,695 New Cases Influenza in Twenty-four Hours.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—Rules for hours of business and recreation were placed into effect here today by the New York department of health as the

demanding the resignations of Talaat Pasha, the Turkish grand visier and Enver Pasha, minister of war, according to dispatches from Constantinople.

The ministers refused and dispatched government troops to attack the revolutionists, it was stated. A battle followed, the result of which is unknown.

England's Reply.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—The Telegraph declares it has authoritative information that the only reply Great Britain has made to Austrian peace proposals consists of Foreign Minister Balfour's speech of September 16.

New Ruler of Bulgaria.

ZURICH, Oct. 5.—Crown Prince Boris has assumed the reins of government in Bulgaria, following the abdication of King Ferdinand, according to a dispatch received from the official Korrespondenz bureau in Vienna today.

King Abdicated Thursday.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—King Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, abdicated Thursday in favor of Crown Prince Boris, it was stated in unconfirmed reports from Vienna, received through Swiss sources today.

Program is to Bring Peace.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 5.—Copies of the Berlin Vorwaerts received here declared socialists will enter the government of Prince Maximilian because it is the duty of the government to attempt a quick restoration of peace.

The Tageblatt declares Prince Max's program is to bring peace.

Trouble Brewing in Turkey.

[By Raymond Clapper, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—Secret steps are being taken by pro-ally elements in Turkey to overthrow the young Turks and end the war, according to well informed diplomats here today.

Direct appeals for peace will follow the overthrow of the pro-German Enver Bey and his pro-German colleagues, diplomats believe.

Enver meanwhile is rushing troops withdrawn from Persia to protect Constantinople against an allied advance. But entente sympathizers in Turkey are greater in number than is ordinarily supposed and are ready to take up the fight against their pro-German overlords.

Mohammed VI, who is anti-German in his leanings, is also jealous of the power exercised by Enver as war minister and is believed to be sympathetic toward any move in opposition.

It is even intimated here that David Bey, minister of finance is ready to desert the Young Turks. He is understood to have been partly responsible for the feelers which reached England through financial channels a few days ago.

The sultan recently held a confer-

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first step in an intensive campaign to stamp out influenza. An appropriation of \$50,000, made by the state to fight the epidemic has now become available. Rigid rules have been promulgated for the opening and closing of stores and other business places. Closing of churches, schools and theatres, it was stated, will not be resorted to unless the epidemic becomes much worse. During the last twenty-four hours, 1,695 new cases of influenza and eighteen of pneumonia were reported.