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The Toronto World

GERMAN DRIVE IS CHECKED IN THREE-QUARTERS OF FRONT

NEW OFFENSIVE STARTED AFTER RAIN OF SHELLS

Under Pressure of Thousands of Troops, Germans Cross Marne. GAINS ARE NEGLIGIBLE Americans Drive Enemy Back at Fossoy and Take Prisoners.

By the Associated Press. THE expected renewal of the German offensive in France has begun. Fierce battles are in progress on both sides of the famous cathedral city of Rheims, which since the last offensive along the Marne has stood the apex of a sharp salient into the German line.

West of Rheims the Germans under the pressure of large numbers of troops, the unleashing of which was preceded by a veritable hail of high explosive and gas shells, have been enabled to cross the Marne at several places. East of the city, however, they have been held for the smallest of gains by the tenacious resistance of the defenders of the line. Altogether the two battlements aggregate about sixty-five miles in length.

American troops are fighting valiantly on the sectors they have met with notable success. At Vaux they not alone broke down a violent attack by the enemy, but drove him back several hundred yards, and only returned to their former positions when the advance of the Germans southeast of Chateau Thierry, across the Marne, made the recapture of their trenches of strategic value.

Along the Marne, between the Town of Fossoy and the River Sermelle, the Germans crossed the Marne, the Americans in a strong counter-attack forced back the enemy to the right bank of the river they used to the greatest advantage their machine guns against enemy elements which were crossing the river on pontoon bridges, killing or wounding many of them. In the counter-attack near Fossoy between 1,000 and 1,500 prisoners were taken by the Americans. The French general in command on this sector sent a congratulatory message to the general in command of the American troops.

"Holding Their Own" AMERICANS HOLD NEW POSITIONS

Best That Can Be Expected Before German Effort Has Reached Full Development—Elements Fight Against Enemy. Paris, July 15.—The allies continue to hold their own, according to the latest advices received here tonight, along the battle front in France, and that is the most and the best that can be expected in so early a stage of the offensive, before the German effort has reached its full development.

SMASHING BLOW BY FRENCH SHATTERS ENEMY OFFENSIVE

German Advance, for Time Being at Least, is Held Up on the Right of the Bend in the Marne. With the American Army on the Marne, July 15.—The German prisoners captured in the counter-attack by the Americans at the bend of the Marne number between 1,000 and 1,500. They include a complete brigade staff.

SLIGHT BRITISH GAIN ON LINE OF SOMME

Local Attack Advances Positions in Neighborhood of Villers-Bretonneux. London, July 15.—Another attack by the British troops in the neighborhood of Villers-Bretonneux today resulted in a slight advance of the line, according to the official communication issued by the war office this evening. Enemy troops to the number of 328 were taken in the fighting at Ridge Wood Sunday.

AUSTRIANS SURPRISED BY FRENCH IN ITALY

Rome, July 15.—The following official communication was issued by the Italian war office today: "On the Asiago plateau French detachments carried out two surprise attacks into the enemy's lines at Bertigo and Zocchi. Our detachments broke into the enemy's lines north of Monte di Val Bella. A few prisoners were taken. Enemy reconnoitering parties have been active between the slopes of Sasso Rosso and the Brenta River.

AMERICANS HOLD NEW POSITIONS

Germans Completely Upset by Counter-Attack South of the Marne. MANY PRISONERS TAKEN Enemy's Dead Are Piled High on Banks of River. With the American Army on the Marne, July 15.—A strong American counter-attack south of the river bend completely upset the Germans, who broke in retreat. The American troops drove the enemy back all the way to the railway skirting the Marne in the region southwest of Jaulgonne. This position is now being held.

POINTS IN BELGIUM BOMBED BY BRITISH

London, July 15.—The official statement on aerial operations issued tonight says: "On the morning of July 14, our airplanes completed several reconnaissances and carried out much observation for our artillery.

TURK ATTACK FAILS IN AREA OF JORDAN

British Take Over Five Hundred Prisoners in Repulsing Enemy in Palestine. London, July 15.—Turkish troops on Saturday night attacked the British positions in Palestine commanding the crossings of the Jordan and on the ridges north of Jericho. In the ridge region the war office announced today, the British completely restored by a counter-attack the positions that had been penetrated. More than 500 prisoners were taken.

PARIS SHELLS AGAIN

London, July 15.—The bombardment of Paris with the German long-range guns began again this afternoon according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from the French capital.

Counter-Attacks Restoring Ground Lost in First Rush

Only German Gains Worth Mentioning Are on Narrow Front. FOUCH KNEW OF ATTACK Enemy Seems to Have Lost His Punch Since Last Attempt. LONDON, July 15.—The great German attack was definitely held up on the whole front east of Rheims, five hours after it was launched, according to the latest advices reaching London, and the only German gains worth mentioning were in the neighborhood of the Souain road and Prunay, where they succeeded in penetrating for about one and one-half miles on a narrow front. At both these points the French initiated strong counter-attacks late in the morning.

RAILWAY STRIKE THOUGHT AVERTED

All Employees in Canada Will Be Given an Increase. OPERATORS' WALK-OUT Assurance by Government May Keep G.N.W. Men at Work. Ottawa, July 15.—Subsequent to a conference between members of the cabinet council and members of the railway war board, which lasted until shortly before 11 o'clock tonight, the announcement was made that the war board on the recommendation of the government will offer to all railway employees in Canada the terms of the McAdoo award as it stands now and as it may be amended at a later date. It is believed that this offer will be accepted and that the threatened strike of the Railway Federated Trades will be averted.

WEATHER EXPERTS DELAY OFFENSIVE

Germans Wait on Advice of Meteorologists for Favorable Skies. Paris, July 15.—The German offensive, which started this morning, had been held up for several days because the German meteorological experts had advised the high army command that the bad weather prevailing would soon end and conditions would be much more favorable for the attack. This statement was made today by an American army officer whose rank accords him the right to speak with authority.

AVIATOR DROWNED IN DESERONTO MISHAP

Deseronto, Ont. July 15.—Lieut. C. J. Humphreys was drowned as the result of a flying accident about 12.30 p.m. today. The machine fell in the water of Long Reach Channel between Deseronto and Picton. Lieut. Humphreys' father, Charles J. Humphreys, lives at 924 Selkirk avenue, Victoria, B.C.

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