

GERMAN TIDE FINALLY REACHES RIVER MARNE

SOMME AND AISNE BATTLEFIELDS LINKED UP BY GERMAN ADVANCE

Enemy At Noon Yesterday Within Two Miles of River Marne and Reached Banks of River Late in Afternoon—1914 Seems Probable, Teutons Sweeping on Towards Chateau—Thierry and Domains, Both on the River—Civilian Population Flees Towards Paris—Allied Left Flank on Aisne Front Forced Back By Violent Attacks.

Keeping the tide of their advantage in the centre flowing strongly toward the Marne, although seemingly less swiftly, the Germans simultaneously have executed a stroke on the Allied left flank that has extended the battle line westward and virtually linked up the present battlefield with that on the Somme. The enemy reached the banks of the Marne yesterday afternoon.

An attack was delivered along the Ailette River, northwest of Soissons, sweeping forward in the salient that projected between the Somme and the Aisne battlefields, the Germans drove the Allied battle line back so that it now runs northward from the vicinity of Soissons through Epernay and Reims to the Oise River, apparently at its point of junction with the Oise Canal, about eight miles east of Noyon.

The Noyon area was included within the field of the German offensive in March, when the French established new lines along the Oise and the Oise Canal to the east and southwest of that town after being driven back below St. Quentin. The German drive down the Oise Valley toward Paris was then checked. The present offensive movement here suggests the possibility of its resumption.

Near Marne.—The advance in the centre brought the Germans within two miles of the Marne at one point early yesterday. The wedge here appears increasingly narrow, however, and on its flanks below Soissons and Rheims, the enemy is reported firmly held. The French war office announced the breaking down of enemy attacks in the Soissons area and to the south, while on the Allied right the line extending northward toward Rheims from the neighborhood of Vesilly appears virtually unchanged, the Germans failing in all their efforts to win ground.

The energetic defence on the right wing is exemplified by the fighting at Thillois, three miles east of Rheims, where the Germans entered the town only to be driven out by a French counter-attack.

Rheims Likely to Fall.—By such resistance the safety of Rheims is momentarily safeguarded, but observers of the operations view

its ultimate fall as apparently inevitable. The probability of German penetration right up to the banks of the Marne in the centre of the advance was likewise indicated in the news despatches, which mentioned the near approach of the Germans to Chateau-Thierry and Domains, both of which towns are on the Marne River. The civilian population has left Chateau-Thierry and some of the refugees from it have already passed through Paris for the interior.

The Germans reached the Marne late in the afternoon. On the British front the Germans are active with their artillery east of Amiens and in the Albert region to the north as well as on portions of the Flanders front, but no infantry movements of note are reported.

Allied Left Flank Gives.—The Allied left flank on the Aisne front has been forced back by violent German attacks in the region of the Ailette River. This is announced officially. Near Soissons and farther south German attacks broke down, the French maintaining their position.

In the centre the Germans made a slight advance north of the Marne. Farther east, and also northwest and north of Rheims, all the German efforts were in vain. The French by a counter-attack won back the town of Thillois, west of Rheims.

French Statement.—Paris, May 31.—Withdrawing before the German onslaught in the region of the Ailette the French took back on positions north of Reims (nine miles southeast of Noyon), and Epernay (seven miles northwest of Soissons.) The French are holding their positions along the road between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry, as well as in the western outskirts of Soissons.

Paris, May 31, (5.45 a. m.)—The Germans continued to push forward south of Paris on Flanders, according to the latest advices reaching Paris, but neither Chateau-Thierry nor Domains have yet fallen into their hands. There is reason to hope that Chateau-Thierry, the population of which has fled, will be saved.

Chateau-Thierry is ten miles south of Fere on Flanders, while Domains is six miles south of Vesilly. Both towns are on the River Marne.

The Fighting Front.—Paris, May 31.—The extreme point of the German advance is Le Chateau, about two miles north of the River Marne, according to an outline of the battle front as marked out by news-

paper correspondents, the Havas Agency says. The fighting front, it is declared, runs as follows: From Chateau-Thierry, north of Soissons, it describes a circle west of that city and rejoins the River Oise south of Soissons. Then it goes to Barzy, follows the Soissons-Chateau-Thierry road, until near Harcourt, where it bends southeast to Grand Rosty. Thence southward, leaving Mulchy le Chateau, it passes Nanteuil Notre Dame and advances towards the Marne to Courcy, Brezy, Courpail and Le Chateau, which marks its extreme southern point.

Through Vesilly, Bruliet, Savigny and Thillois it runs northward to the environs of Rheims. The newspapers do not attempt to minimize the importance of the German advance. Gabriel Hanotaux, in the Figaro, compares the strategic situation with that on the eve of the Battle of the Marne. All the communications, however, express confidence that the high command will so dispose the Allied troops as to restore the situation, which L'Homme Libre considers to have reached its maximum point of gravity yesterday. The Petit Parisien says the government officials who saw the army chiefs yesterday returned in the evening still confident, which it regards as a good sign.

Hope in Allied Wings.—It is the resistance of the two wings of the Allied forces which inspires the confidence of all military critics. To take victorious advantage of the success they have so far gained the Germans must succeed in bending these two hinges, and all their efforts to do this have up to this time been vain.

Another reason for the confident feeling is the arrival of Allied reserves. Besides the mention in the official report of the beginning of intervention by these reserves, the Echo de Paris, in a despatch from the front filed at 2 a. m. today, reports that the reserves are arriving on the battle ground, with artillery and auxiliary services. Their entrance into action, the message reports, is being effected methodically without any display of nervousness. General Poch and General Petain are working intimately together, it adds, to meet the serious situation.

In commenting on the intervention of the fresh forces, L'Homme Libre says it does not appear doubtful that the enemy has reached the extreme point of his advance and that he will encounter the Allied reserves, carefully withheld until a favorable moment shall arrive for a counter-attack.

Amsterdam, May 31.—Political motives, including the defeat of the French army, are responsible for the

German thrust on the Aisne, according to a suggestion in the Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung, of Essen.

"We are on the right road," it says, "with this attack, for all political considerations imperatively demand that we should show the French our strong arm. Well considered strategic plans were at the bottom of our blow at Amiens. We do not criticize them, but political questions cannot be ignored."

"Even if the British are expelled from the continent the war would not end as they could and behind the Loire or entrench themselves on their own islands and continue the naval war. The French army must be given a good beating. That is a preliminary condition to any possible peace on the continent."

The British Report.—London, May 31.—Activity by the German artillery in the Villers-Bretonneux sector, east of Amiens and in the Albert region to the north, is reported today by the war office. There has also been lively gunfire from the enemy lines on the Flanders front, between Festubert and the Clarence River. The text of the statement follows:

"A party of our troops rushed a German post southeast of Arras during the night and captured a few prisoners. A few prisoners and a machine gun were captured by us also in patrol encounters northeast of Ypres. The enemy raided one of our posts northeast of Rebecq. A few of our men are missing."

"The hostile artillery was active in the Villers-Bretonneux and Albert sectors and between Festubert and the Clarence River."

The French Statement.—Paris, May 31.—The official French statement follows: "The Germans extended their efforts on their right so far as the Oise, by violent attacks in the region of the Ailette. The French fell back, fighting, on positions to the north of the line Blerancourt-Epernay."

"In the region of Soissons and farther south, the German attack broke down before the heroic resistance of the French, who maintained their position in the western outskirts of the town and along the road to Chateau-Thierry."

"In the centre, the Germans succeeded in making a slight advance in the region north of the Marne. Farther east, as well as northwest and north of Rheims, all German efforts to make progress were vain. An energetic counter-attack delivered by French troops won back Thillois."

OBITUARY.—George L. Hanington. The remains of the late Geo. L. Hanington, who passed away on Saturday last, in Middleton, N. S., were brought to Shediac on Tuesday, the funeral taking place on Wednesday afternoon from the residence of Mr. J. A. Murray, Sackville street. A large number of the citizens were present to pay their last tribute of respect to one, so

well and favorably known, in his native place and in many parts of the Dominion. The late Mr. Hanington was a Mason, and a member of Netland Lodge of Shediac. The funeral was held under Masonic honors, the Masons walking in a body from their lodge room to the residence of Mr. Murray, and later on to St. Andrews church, where the rector, Rev. Mr. Tomalin officiated. The floral tributes were many, and very beautiful. After the service at the church the funeral proceeded to Greenwood Cemetery, where Rev. Mr. Tomalin conducted the service. Rev. Dr. Weddall, chaplain of Netland Lodge, and Mayor McQueen, W. M., officiated at the Masonic ceremonies. The sympathy of the many friends here of the late Mr. Hanington is extended to the bereaved. The deceased is survived by a half-sister, Miss Ida Schurman of Middleton, N. S., and a step-brother, Mr. D. Schurman of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Schurman, Miss I. Schurman and a niece, Miss D. Kennedy of Middleton, and a nephew, Mr. A. Kennedy of Sydney, were present at the funeral. Mr. J. A. Murray of Shediac, is a brother-in-law of the deceased, and Mr. R. S. Murray is a nephew.

WOODSTOCK.—Dr. A. H. Prescott, who has been practicing in Sackville for the past six months, has decided to return to Woodstock, and resume his practice there. He expects to leave the Woodstock about June 15th, and will visit several American cities, and will reach here about July 1st.

Miss Sarah J. Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, will graduate from the Central Maine General Hospital, Lewiston, on July 1st, after which she will take a short course under state regulations.

Mr. Thine M. Jones left on Wednesday for Lowell, Mass., on a business trip in connection with his literary work.

HALIFAX FIRE.—Halifax, May 31.—Fire early this morning destroyed a paint shop at the Nova Scotia Car Works plant here, occupied by the Halifax Relief Commission. The damage is estimated at \$6,000, partially covered by insurance.



Canada's Registration Its Purpose and Application

CANADA faces the gravest crisis in her history. Four years of war have taken from the Dominion a heavy toll in talent and labor, yet despite the shortage of man power, our Allies still depend on Canada to maintain her own fighting forces at full strength and to increase her exports of food and war materials, so vital to them, and to the successful prosecution of the war.

Every ounce by which Canada can increase her food production and every ounce Canada can save in her food consumption is needed for export to the Allies.

Should the war continue for another year, food cards and a rationing system may have to be instituted. It is the duty of Canada to be prepared for whatever situation circumstances may force upon her.

It is quite probable that before the war is won our Government may have to place restrictions upon the occupations in which men and women may engage. In such an event the Government wishes to be in a position to render all possible assistance in keeping our population usefully and profitably employed.

Registration Day, June 22nd

These conditions point to the necessity of Canada knowing the exact capabilities of her men and women at home.

All persons residing in Canada, male or female, British or alien of 16 years and over, will be required to register on June 22nd and truthfully answer the questions set forth upon the registration card.

It is not the Government's intention to conscript labour in any form, but to assist in directing it wisely,

so that every available unit of human energy may be utilized to the best advantage.

The information procured through registration will be used—as an aid to the Military Authorities in procuring the men necessary to maintain "Canada's First Line of Defence"—to mobilize all units of available labor in the Dominion and direct them from less essential to more essential occupations—to establish and intelligently administer a system of food rationing should that become necessary.

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