

BOCHES SO SURPRISED THAT THEY TAKE TO FLIGHT

ABOUT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AMERICANS PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESENT FIGHTING

Entente Allies Plan Combined General Assault on German Armies in France and Flanders Later on—German Troops Taken Entirely By Surprise By Present Drive.

Many of Them Failed To Put Up a Fight and Fled—Officers Captured in Their Beds—Teutons Rush Reserves in Attempt To Prevent a Rout.

With the American Forces on the Aisne-Marne Front, July 19—(By The Associated Press)—One of the towns taken by the Americans last night was Vierz, six miles south of Soissons. Towns to the north and south of this were also taken in the carrying out of the plan to straighten the entire line on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry front.

No resistance was encountered at Vierz or in the neighboring villages taken.

At two villages on the southern portion of the line, the hands of the clock had been stopped by shell fire at 4.45 o'clock, indicating the time the Allies had started their bombardment on Thursday morning. One of the greatest surprises for the Americans in the opening of the offensive was the flight of the Germans before the attack. The Americans, many of whom were going over the top for the first time, were fully prepared for a stiff fight, and as the hours went on without a German counter-blow they began to wonder when the enemy would retaliate.

A Fierce Struggle.

American troops continue to hold the plateau southwest of Soissons where on Thursday the Germans made their first organized counter-attack. This soon fell down, however, so soon as the American heavy artillery got into action.

This was one of the fiercest struggles. It resulted in the Germans falling back finally under the rain of the guns of the Americans.

American and French forces are now making a drive to advance their positions and to take the towns of Chateau Thierry. The Americans took several towns in the course of the night.

Early this morning the Americans resumed further progress. During the night German reinforcements were coming from the north but the expected counter-attack had not appeared up to early this afternoon.

A feeling of confidence pervades the Allied lines. After eighty hours of assault along lines of his own selection the enemy's offensive has failed.

U. S. Forces Praised.

While the American force engaged in the present battle is small in comparison with the total Allied strength, it may be said that it is greater than any participating in a battle since the Civil War. The conduct of the men in executing the command of the French. They have performed the part assigned to them with steadiness, courage and skill.

To a large portion of the Americans the four days have been their first real fighting. Reports from along the line indicate a great deal of clean, open warfare, some spontaneous localized actions being undertaken without a preliminary barrage.

Boches Surprised.

Paris, July 19.—The Germans were without doubt taken by surprise on Thursday, writes the military correspondent of the Temps by the attack of the soldiers of Generals Mangin and De Goutt and the American troops, who realized in their first blow an important advance and captured more than 10,000 prisoners and much material.

The Germans, however, have disposed in the quadrilateral of Soissons, Chateau Thierry, Dormans and Rheims reserves estimated at some twenty divisions, (nearly 200,000 men), and it has been possible for them to bring rapid support to their first line troops which are beating a retreat.

The writer adds: "We have not yet the right to speak of victory, but our first day's offensive has distinctly resulted in our favor. The enemy has been obliged to engage the greater part of his reserves which he had immediately at hand. Consequently he has been compelled to relax his efforts in the region where he began his offensive on July 16."

Gen Mangin Smiled.

Paris, July 19.—"Last night when he saw his troops on the heights dominating Soissons on the southwest, General Mangin smiled," says the correspondent of the Liberte. "Premier Clemenceau was there and warmly shook the general's hand."

ROATED

To Help Make Strong, Keen Red-Blooded Americans

as the games goes against him, so Ludendorff may be expected to double his efforts after the disaster which the last week has brought to German arms.

To stop now, to remain passive would mean an admission of the failure of Prussian militarism. The German militarists acknowledged weeks ago that Ludendorff's spring campaign had fallen short of a decision. The summer offensive has thus far been a failure. Ludendorff must continue it only for the moral effect in Austria and Germany.

von Kuehlmann's pessimistic words must ring in his ears and bring anxiety and fear and disaster to the minds of the German people, who have been lulled by his actions through promise of fruits of early victory.

The Austrian Flasco

Austrian reverses on the Piave, von Kuehlmann's prophetic statement in the Likiep and now the check in the Champagne and Foch's retreat on the Ourcq are a combination of developments hardly calculated to inspire the peoples of the Central Powers with faith in the ability of the militarists to attain the goal of their desires.

Two new elements have brought about this change in Allied fortunes: first, Foch, and then American soldiers. Foch gets the credit, because a poor general might waste his material, just as a poor baseball manager might fail to train star players into a championship team. Foch awaited the psychological moment and stood unmoved, even though his friends doubted the wisdom of his delay and caution, for four months Ludendorff was permitted to develop his plans and then Foch in supreme command counter-attacked against the enemy's weak flank. He stuck there because there was a million Americans in France and five fine Yankee divisions were ready to advance shoulder to shoulder with his tried countrymen, while others released French soldiers from the trenches.

Boches in Pocket

Territorially the change of the week is highly important. The Franco-American counter-battle between Belleau and Vinge which drove the Germans of the whole ridge west of Soissons and exposed their railways to the allied guns, has turned the tables on the Crown Prince and thrown him into a pocket.

The whole of the U-shaped salient in which the enemy is fighting is embarrassed and there is a possibility of turning the repulse into a serious retreat. No longer does the Crown Prince offer a serious menace to Paris nor does the Champagne front remain an anxious part of the line for the Allies.

Paris can breathe easier, the battle is half won for the Allies, the tide has turned. Before Foch finishes with the Crown Prince the latter will have the Allies at his mercy. To save the Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria retains a formidable force north of Montdidier and it is well to expect activity in this quarter soon.

May Strike British.

Though the Crown Prince of Germany has used at least thirty divisions he has received little assistance from Rupprecht who has divisions for use north of Montdidier. To save the Crown Prince, Rupprecht may strike sooner than he expected. The British will undoubtedly feel the weight of the next blow and it will probably not be long delayed.

The first impetus of Foch's troops carried them forward three or four miles on the whole twenty-five mile front attacked early this morning between the Aisne and the Marne, six miles west of Soissons and Belleau, northwest of Chateau Thierry. The advance was especially deep along the Aisne Valley. Thousands of prisoners were taken and considerable number of guns.

The American sector forms the extreme right of the line of attack. It is uncertain how far American forces are involved but the American batteries were reported this morning helping Foch's artillery.

To Cut Rail Lines.

Foch's aim in his advance along the Ourcq Valley to cut the line of the railway running south from Nanteuil which feeds the Germans around Chateau Thierry. The Americans will likely be called upon to clear the north bank of the Marne as soon as the movement further north moves forward and comes into line with the American positions at Chateau Thierry.

Foch's other objective was Soissons through which runs the main lateral railway from Soissons to Rheims, feeding the German positions to the south of this line. Foch's counter-offensive is delivered in defense of Rheims and Epernay. He believes that offense constitutes the best form of defense and has seized this opportunity to carry out in practice what he has been preaching during his whole military career.

The Germans have now abandoned their offensive efforts except directly around Rheims. The French lost the two small crests south of Dormans but generally speaking south of the Marne the positions have stabilized.

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ENEMY FAILS TO EXTEND HIS GAINS SOUTH OF THE MARNE

Failure, Largely Due To Brilliant American Counter-Attack At Fossoy Which Cleared Left Bank of Stream and Drove German Right Wing Back.

Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Hilaire Belloc).

London, July 19.—The French captured over 16,000 prisoners yesterday. The enemy failed on the extreme right to enlarge the crossing he has forced over the Marne. This failure is largely due to the brilliant American counter-attack at Fossoy which cleared the left bank of the stream and drove the Germans' right back on their departure positions with a loss of many hundred prisoners by Tuesday night.

It was clear that nothing more could be done at this right or western bridgehead on Wednesday, therefore the enemy threw all the weight he could muster on the left of the ground across the river about ten miles off, and fought a fluctuating battle all day to advance along Epernay Road. He made a few hundred yards before nightfall and remained at the ruins of Monvosin village which had been taken and re-taken several times.

Enemy Object.

The advance is altogether insufficient to effect the general situation. His object at this point is not only to enlarge his footing across the Marne, which at present is too narrow to serve for an advance, but also and much more important, to turn from the south that formidable obstacle, the mountain and forest of Rheims. Another four miles advance along the Epernay road would do this, but the power to continue such heavy pressure obviously depends upon his rate of loss which can only be surmised.

The enemy had on this line in this offensive at least forty-eight divisions, and considerable loss was caused to the building which will have to be mended over again. One hundred steel ranges stored there were not damaged. Officials of the company tonight placed the loss at \$10,000.

The loss is fully covered by insurance held by Montreal firms. It was learned that the insurance on the plant had been fully readjusted and put in good shape some three or four months ago. Work in the plant will be resumed not later than a week hence and in all probability the plant will be in full operation Monday morning.

RAID ON PARIS
Paris, July 19.—Several enemy airplanes attempted to raid the Paris district last night. The air defenses were put into action immediately. The alarm was given at 11:58 and "all clear" at 12:40 a. m.

\$10,000 FIRE IN MONCTON FOUNDRY
Record Foundry and Machine Co. Damaged By Blaze Last Evening.

Special to The Standard.
Moncton, July 19.—Fire broke out this evening at 8:45 o'clock in the wall of the Record Foundry and Machine Co. plant on Foundry street and was not entirely subdued for two hours. The blaze started from the exhaust of a gas engine and caught in the wall, extending to the roof, which was practically all burned off. The machinery of the shell department, tinshop and the first shop was not seriously damaged, as the fire was confined mainly to the wall and roof. The plant was deluged with water.

The elements of the situation are perfectly clear and ought to be familiar to every one.

The enemy had enjoyed for six months before his great attack on March 21 a very heavy numerical superiority, due to the elimination of the Russian army. It was a superiority far greater than the Allies ever enjoyed on the western front. He used his unexpected and very great advantage for withdrawing from the front a great number of men and giving them at his leisure special training for their coming job—a thing the Western Allies were never able to do, because they never had a sufficient margin of men to spare. This advantage came at a time when his heavy artillery had been nearly doubled by the Russian surrender of material, and by the consequent Teuton victory at Caporetto last autumn.

On account of all this, when the enemy attacked in March he obtained a striking success and almost succeeded in restoring the war of movement. The second attack in the north produced a lesser but still considerable success: his third attack a month later broke the line completely between Rheims and Soissons and reached the Marne; the fourth attack, on the Marne, was checked with very heavy losses. The month's delay which followed after the battle of the Marne, when neither more than twenty divisions were engaged without results and with heavy losses, is amply accounted for by the necessity for recruitment.

Time an Ally of Entente.
Meanwhile every day that passed or that now passes reduces the numerical superiority upon which alone the enemy had relied. The destruction which his best shock troops have suffered cannot be recovered by mere hospital returns of the drafting in of the young classes—in other words, his chance of success gets less as time passes.

Therefore, the enemy's attack—whether this is it or not—will, if he intends to maintain the offensive, come at the earliest possible opportunity. Whether this is that opportunity or no we do not know, because we are not possessed of the figures on his hospital returns or his casualty lists. We can only guess, and in guessing note that after a heavy action a delay of at least a month has always been imposed upon the enemy when he has been checked.

Of the sector he may choose for his attack—assuming, again, the possibility that the present action is a feint—the general nature of the war can be the nature of things known nothing. The enemy prepares material for such a movement in many sectors, and it is demonstrable that he only chooses at the last moment upon which one he will concentrate. Proof of this is in the fact that his attack of May 27 was made upon divisions which had only just been sent to rest in a quiet sector of the line, so that the decision to attack that particular line cannot have been taken more than four or five days before the attack was made. The same thing is true, of course, of the local offensives undertaken everywhere along the line by the Allied supreme command. The Germans never know where the next one will develop. Discussion of that point therefore is futile at this stage.

THE WEATHER
Washington, July 19.—Northern New England—Fair Saturday and Sunday; little change in temperature. Gentle to moderate southwest winds. Maritime—Moderate winds, mostly fair and warm, with a few local showers.

Toronto, July 19.—Showers have occurred early this morning in parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while elsewhere in the Dominion the weather has been fine. The temperature has been a little lower in Manitoba, but continues high further west.

	Min.	Max.
Victoria	54	68
Vancouver	50	73
Edmonton	54	80
London	59	87
Montreal	52	89
Perry Sound	50	80
Regina	52	89
Winnipeg	52	74
Prince Arthur	54	80
Ottawa	55	86
Montreal	54	84
Quebec	58	83
St. John	54	70
Halifax	60	74

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MINIATURE ALMANAC.

July—Phase of the Moon.
Last Quarter, 1st.....4h. 45m. a.m.
New Moon, 8th.....4h. 23m. a.m.
First Quarter, 16th.....2h. 25m. a.m.
Full Moon, 23rd.....4h. 55m. p.m.
Last Quarter, 30th.....9h. 14m. a.m.

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		Modeler	\$1,950.00

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