

BIG DRIVE BY FRANCO-AMERICANS

Turk Prisoners in Palestine Drive Now Total 42,000

Fresh Drive This Morning on Champagne Front

FRENCH AND AMERICAN TROOPS ATTACKED IN CO-OPERATION IN EARLY MORNING OFFENSIVE

Drive is First Made on This Sector Since Success Last July— British Continue Progress About St. Quentin And on the Flanders Front

By Courier Leased Wire. PARIS, Sept. 26. — Bulletin. — French and American troops began a joint attack this morning on the Champagne front, and in the region beyond it on the east, today's War Office statement announces. Renewed German attacks north of the Aisne have been repulsed. At one point, where the Germans gained a foothold upon the French positions they were ejected by a counter-attack.

The text of the statement reads: "Between the Ailette and the Aisne the Germans renewed their attacks last evening in the region of Allemant and Moulin Laffaux. The enemy succeeded at the latter point in penetrating the French lines, but after energetic counter-attack by the French, they re-established the situation.

"Further south the French have enlarged their gains east of Sanoy and have taken prisoners.

"This morning at five o'clock, French troops attacked on the Champagne front in co-operation with the American army operating further to the east.

FIRST SINCE JULY

The Franco-American attack on the Champagne front is the first Allied thrust made on that sector since Marshal Foch assumed the initiative in July, and is the logical result of the Allied success in Pi-

cardy in driving the Germans back to the Hindenburg line from Arras to Laon.

A drive northward in Champagne threatens the communication lines in the rear of the Hindenburg defense system, where the Germans are struggling to keep the British and French from breaking through. While the length of the front of attack is not disclosed, it is probable it extends a good part of the distance from Rheims to Verdun and probably beyond.

Military critics have pointed out that the Champagne front was the logical place where an Allied effort intended to destroy the effectiveness of the Hindenburg line could be made. For some distance east of Rheims the terrain is fairly level and open, and an advance of some distance here would outflank Laon and possibly St. Quentin.

More important still, such an advance would sever the communication lines eastward from Laon, the pivot of the German defences between Rheims and Ypres. An Allied break through might separate the German forces in the west into two groups.

There has been rather lively raiding activity by both sides on the Champagne front in the last two weeks, and some military commentators have felt that these were the fore-runners of greater activity.

BRITISH GAIN IN ST. QUENTIN REGION

By Courier Leased Wire. Bulletin, London, Sept. 26. — Northwest of St. Quentin British troops continued their pressure against the German defences and have captured enemy strong points in the neighborhood of Seleny and Gricourt, Field Marshal Haig reported today.

In Flanders the British line has likewise been advanced, progress having been made in the sector north of La Bassée.

North of Gricourt, on the St. Quentin sector, the British repulsed German counter-attacks.

The text of the statement reads:

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, Sept. 26. — The barometer remains high over Canada, except in eastern Ontario, where an area of low pressure is developing. The weather is fair throughout the Dominion, and moderately warm in the western provinces and unseasonably cool in Ontario and Quebec.

Local operations were continued successfully yesterday afternoon and during the night northwest of St. Quentin. English troops progressed and captured certain strongly defended localities in the neighborhood of Seleny and Gricourt, together with a number of prisoners.

"In addition to the counter-attacks already reported, which were launched by the enemy yesterday northwest of Fayot, his troops twice attacked the positions north of Gricourt. These attacks were unsuccessful.

"A successful minor operation was carried out yesterday by English troops northwest of La Bassée as the result of which the line was advanced and over 100 prisoners were taken. A counter-attack launched by the enemy in this locality during the night was repulsed and several prisoners were left in our hands.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. Paris, Sept. 25. — The text of the official statement issued at the war office to-night reads:

"In the region of St. Quentin the enemy made an attempt this afternoon to drive our forces from L'Epine de Dalon. All his assaults were repulsed.

"Between the Ailette and the Aisne the day was marked by the violent reactions by the enemy upon the plateau of Moisy Farm and in the region north of Allemant, where violent combats took place during the entire day. The enemy was not able to

recover the ground gained by us during preceding days. He suffered heavy losses and left prisoners in our hands.

Eastern theatre, Sep. 24. — In spite of the arrival of new German troops the enemy continued to retreat toward the north. Strong rearward detachments are resisting strongly.

"Northwest of Monastir, on the left wing of the Allied forces, we have passed Prilep and advanced on the route toward Krushovo, Kichevo and Veles.

"In the center, Serbian forces have taken the Massif of Popadja, to the east of Babuna, and have gained ground to the west of the Caran River.

"We have enlarged the bridgehead between the Vardar and the Kriva Lakavitsa, which the enemy is hastily crossing.

"On the right wing French British and Greek troops have launched strong advance guards northward along the Vardar toward Gradets and Kvitova.

"They have taken the Massif of Karaball north of Lake Doiran. "Booty captured is being augmented incessantly. During Sep. 23 more than thirty new cammen were captured, and also a large amount of railway material.

SERBS REACH OUTSKIRTS OF ISHTIB

Are Pressing on the Bulgar Town — Advance Also East of Vardar

CAPTURE SUPPLIES And Are Pursuing the Fleeing Bulgar Forces Toward Izvor

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Sept. 24. — Serbian troops reached the outskirts of Ishtib, an important Bulgarian base Tuesday, says a Serbian official statement, dated Wednesday. Elsewhere east of the Vardar, the Serbians have made important gains.

The Serbs also have captured Gradsko station, southeast of Uskub. It was defended by German troops. An enormous quantity of supplies, including nineteen guns were captured by the Serbians.

North of Prilep the Serbians are pursuing the Bulgarians who are in complete retreat and are approaching Izvor, midway between Prilep and Veles.

The official statement reads: "On Sept. 24 Serbian troops achieved a very important success in the left bank (east) of the Vardar. We reached Krivak and the outskirts of Ishtib (15 miles east of Veles) on the Vardar and 38 miles northeast of Prilep).

In this region we captured a column comprising a Bulgarian regiment and a considerable number of guns, 100 horse wagons with teams and other material.

"Gradsko station which was defended by Germans, has fallen into our hands with enormous quantities of supplies, including nineteen guns, mostly heavy ones of 210 millimeters. To the number of prisoners we had already taken we added two German officers and several soldiers. German officers and several soldiers have obtained the results near 15 miles north of Prilep) we are pursuing the enemy who is completely routed and in retreat.

PRINCE PREFERS WIFE HE LOVES TO UNCERTAIN THRONE

By Courier Leased Wire

Amsterdam, Sept. 24. — In answer to pleas that he desert his bride of humble birth, Crown Prince Charles of Roumania has replied that thrones are so unstable nowadays that he preferred the certainty of having the wife he wanted to the chance of losing the succession.

The escape of the Crown Prince in going to Odessa and marrying Cecilia Lambing, the daughter of a major in the Roumanian army, reopens the question of the Roumanian dynastic succession.

When King Ferdinand heard of the marriage he ordered that the Crown Prince be given 75 days solitary confinement for absconding himself without leave from his garrison.

King Ferdinand also sent an emissary to Bender, Bessarabia, where the young couple are spending their honeymoon with instructions to try to undo the nuptial knot, but to no avail. The bride refused to part with her wedding ring and the Crown Prince declined to leave her.

Crown Prince Charles has not yet voluntarily renounced his rights of succession and the King is reported to be very angry. The Roumanian constitution does not contain a clause barring amorganatically married crown prince from succession to the throne.

The present case has a piquant feature in that it recalls that King Ferdinand in his youth had a love affair with his mother's lady of honor. Premier Catargiu threatened to resign if the King did not veto the proposed union and it came to nothing. Should Crown Prince Charles renounce his rights of succession, his brother Nicholas would become the heir-apparent. Nicholas is 15 years of age and physically weak.

BAG OF TURK PRISONERS NOW 42,000

Paris, Sep. 26. — The number of Turkish prisoners taken in Palestine now aggregates 42,000, according to the latest advices reaching Paris.

A British official statement Wednesday reported 40,000 Turks and 265 guns had been captured. Liberated territory in Palestine will be administered under the agreement reached between the British, French and Russian Governments in 1916. It is learned here. England and France will carry out the agreement under which France is charged with the preparation of a scheme of self-government for the people of Palestine. This work will be the object of conversations which will take place shortly.

When the Bolshevik authorities took control in Russia they published a number of secret diplomatic documents found in the archives in Petrograd. Among them was a convention negotiated between Russia, France, and Great Britain under which Alexandria in Asiatic Turkey, was to be a free port and Palestine was to be a protectorate under the three governments.

TURNING MOVEMENT BY ALLIED ARMIES IN MACEDONIA MAY OUTFLANK BULGAR FORCES

Entente Troops Swing East and West From Line Followed in First Advance; Ministerial Crisis Believed Impending in Bulgaria

NEW YORK, Sept. 26. — The Associated Press this morning issued the following:

Swinging to the east and west from the line followed in their first plunge through the Bulgarian lines in Macedonia, the Allied armies are engaged in a turning movement which appears to be of equal, if not greater importance than their continuous advance northward toward Veles and Ishtib.

On the west the Serbians and the French have passed Prilep and are advancing along the roads toward Krushovo and Kichevo, which are in the foothills of the mountains separating Serbia from Albania. North of Prilep they are moving toward Veles.

On the right the Allies have enlarged their bridgehead on the eastern side of the Vardar, and are on the range of hills between the Vardar and Kriva Lakavitsa, a river which parallels the Vardar on the east. It is officially reported that the Bulgarians are hastily crossing the Kriva Lakavitsa.



The map shows in detail the ground traversed by the triumphant Serbian and French forces. They have advanced south of Dobropolje, Sokol, Etrénik, Kukuruz and Kovil to beyond Vitolishta and Rojden, after reaching the intermediate line shown on the map to the south of Orlova Voda, Topoletz and Zborsko. The mountain crests on the frontier were tremendously strong and their storming by the Allies was a particularly brilliant performance.

Further north the massif of Popadja, east of Babuna Pass, has been taken by the Serbians. Babuna Pass is a rocky dale through which the Vardar flows to the Aegean, and presents a difficult problem to attacking troops. A few days ago it seemed that this natural fortress might be the rallying point of the defeated enemy. But it appears that the position has been outflanked and rendered without value.

Greek and British troops have occupied the massif of Karaball, north of Lake Doiran. This series of heights was one of the outposts of the main Bulgarian positions in the mountains south of Strumitza.

The enemy still appears to be holding a small triangle of territory west of the Vardar, west of Lake Doiran. Allied forces are advancing northward there, however, and may soon eject them. When this operation is completed, the Allies will be in a position to put the Uskub-Saloniki railroad in commission once more and organize their lines of supply for the troops fighting further north.

From Paris comes reports that a ministerial crisis is impending in Bulgaria, and that there may be a complete change in the foreign policy of that country. The present premier, M. Malinoff, was favored by the Allies before Bulgaria entered the war as an ally of the Central Powers. It is possible that the Allied victory in Macedonia may be reflected in political developments of the important character in Bulgaria.

Turkish troops in Palestine have not rallied from their retreat, which must by this time have carried them past the northern end of the Sea of Galilee. Of the utmost importance here is the situation of the Arab tribesmen, who have been advancing along the hills east of the Jordan. If they have advanced swiftly, with sufficiently strong forces, they may complete the discomfiture of the enemy by getting between him and Damascus. The situation in this battle area is still quite obscure.

German forces have been launching determined counter attacks against the Allied lines west and north of St. Quentin and on the plateau north of the Aisne. All these attacks have been repulsed. It is reported, especially bitter fighting took place just west of St. Quentin at L'Epine de Dalon yesterday, the Germans evidently attempting to retake the positions lost to the French earlier in the week.

Fine weather has returned to the American front in Lorraine, but so far no fighting of an important nature has occurred.

Raid encounters are reported from the Italian front.

DENOUNCE PROPAGANDA. By Courier Leased Wire. St. Louis, Sept. 25. — Attempts of the Kaiser to use the Masonic order to abet German peace propaganda were vigorously denounced in a resolution unanimously adopted last night by the Supreme Council, Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, in convention here. The resolution states that "German terms of peace shall never be considered by Masons because it is an inconclusive peace. Only terms of peace insuring a lasting peace, such as the American proposals, shall be given consideration."

The resolution explains that the Masons knew nothing of the German schemes to use the order for peace propaganda last August.

BULGARIAN TERRITORY IS INVADED BY BRITISH

Enemy Base at Strumitza is Threatened as a Result — First Bulgar Army in Danger of Annihilation

By Courier Leased Wire. SALONIKI, Sept. 26. — Bulgaria has been invaded by Allied troops, according to a British official statement issued here today.

British troops entered Bulgarian territory opposite Kosturino, about six miles south of Strumitza, the enemy base in this region.

LONDON, Sept. 26. — Reports in official quarters here indicate that the Prilep-Veles road has been cut at Izvor, isolating the first Bulgarian army from its main line of communication, and placing it in a precarious position. The first army is on the Allied left.

The position of the first Bulgarian army on the Allied left in Macedonia is dangerous, according to reports reaching here. (Continued on Page 5.)