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GERMANS CROSS THE AISNE; ATTACK IS DEVELOPING

Over the River on 20 Mile Front; The British Give Some Ground

Line Not Pierced at Single Point and Enemy Has Gained Only Enough Ground to Bury His Dead, and at a Tremendous Cost--Have Germans Hope of Dash to Paris?

The Germans, striking south from the Chemin des Dames, after carrying that important ridge in the opening of their new offensive yesterday, have pushed on rapidly and effected a crossing of the Aisne River between Vailly and Berry-Au-Bac.

This represents a front of nearly twenty miles along which the armies of the Crown Prince engaged in this great drive have crossed the Aisne. In addition, they have apparently pushed on at points some distance south of the river and are striking for the River Vesle, which parallels the Aisne along the greater part of this front at an average distance of about five miles.

The Vesle, at its most southerly point in this sector, is approximately ten miles from the German point of departure, but the German penetration is apparently considerably short of this depth.

MAY MEAN GERMAN FAILURE

The French bore the brunt of this blow and repulsed it with the loss of scarcely any ground, the Germans succeeding in pushing in something like a half mile south of Dickenbusch Lake, about four miles southwest of Ypres. This morning the British and French made a counter-attack in this sector, which was progressing well at latest advices, and promised to turn the whole German effort on the northern front into a complete failure which had cost the enemy heavily.

Military opinion seems to be swaying between the view that the southerly attack, now being pressed by the Germans between Soissons and Rheims, is the main enemy effort in the resumption of his offensive, or whether he is planning to deal an even greater blow at the Amiens front, where his first great stroke was delivered this spring.

In view of the persistence with which the Germans are now following up their early success in storming the Chemins-des-Dames and forcing the Aisne crossings, it seems probable that the former opinion will gain strength and a follow-up of the enemy effort, in the shape of a drive for Paris, will be looked for.

General Foch's strategy is counted upon to employ the vast effective forces at his command so as to counter the Germans effectively when they have fully developed their plans, whichever way the attack may trend.

Of the previous offensives there, although there was an extremely heavy concentration of troops for the limited front attack.

BRUNT BORNE BY FRENCH TODAY

The battle is continuing furiously along the whole Aisne front today, the brunt of it being borne by the French, before whose lines there was seemingly the greatest concentration of the enemy efforts. The French communications are excellent in this sector, however, and he possibility is that reserves are especially being sent up to the threatened points to place before the Germans a force that can effectively stop them.

The British, when the battle started, apparently were holding a line approximately twelve miles long, between Bernicourt, seven miles northwest of Rheims, and Craonelle, cross the Aisne to the northwest, the line straddling the Aisne at about midway this distance, near Berry-Au-Bac.

There is no indication that the British right flank was materially affected by the hook. The left flank, however, felt the effort of the impact on the French front farther west, where a crossing of the Aisne was forced, and the British left was obliged to fall back in conformity.

The British line to the west of Berry-Au-Bac is now wholly south of the Aisne, according to indications in official statements today.

The attack in Flanders was evidently a subsidiary affair, not even on the scale of some of the previous offensives.

THE AISNE CROSSED.

London, May 23.—The Germans yesterday forced a passage of the Aisne River west of the British sector, compelling the left of the British line to fall back. The enemy maintained pressure all day yesterday against the British on the Aisne front. Severe fighting continues today.

The Germans are developing attacks of great strength along the entire Aisne front.

In Flanders on the Lys front, local fighting was resumed this morning.

WHERE THEY CROSSED.

Paris, May 23.—The Germans last night crossed the Aisne between Berry-Au-Bac and Vailly. This is announced officially. The battle continues fiercely between the Vesle and Aisne rivers.

COUNTER-THRUST IN FLANDERS.

With the British Army in France, May 23.—(By the Associated Press)—British and French troops this morning launched a counter-attack in Flanders, east of Dickenbusch Lake. The attack began well. Success would make the enemy's assault of yesterday a complete and costly failure.

In yesterday's attack in Flanders between Loree and Voormezele the Germans are believed to have employed four divisions on one part of this front, measuring 6,000 yards. The enemy troops were punished so severely that the French, on the right flank, did not even get to close quarters with them.

THE ALLIES HOLD COMMANDING POSITIONS.

With the French Army in France, May 23.—(By the Associated Press)—Whether the German attack north of the Aisne is merely a demonstration in force with the object of drawing the Allied reserves cannot be gathered from the opening stages of the fighting.

The length of front between the flank of the attacking lines seems to imply a great effort on the part of the enemy to capture territory in order to claim victories and thus improve the morale of the German public.

Both the French and British troops are fighting with the greatest energy and bravery, the officers and men working together in absolute harmony.

The Allied commanders have the situation well in hand and had prepared to meet an attack in this region. The Allies hold a series of commanding hills and the western flank is very hilly with deep valleys.

Detailed British Report.

London, May 23.—The British official announcement follows: "Continuous pressure was maintained by the enemy all day yesterday against the British troops engaged on the Aisne front, and severe fighting is still taking place on the whole front of the British sector."

"Toward the end of the day the weight of the enemy's attacks carried his troops across the River Aisne, to the west of the British sector, and compelled the left of our line to fall back. The enemy is developing his attacks in great strength along the Aisne battlefront."

"On the remainder of the British front a number of prisoners have been taken by our troops in successful raids carried out at different points during the night, and the artillery has been active on both sides."

"AMERICANS ARE ATTACKED; DRIVE BACK THE ENEMY."

American Headquarters on the French Front, May 23.—(By the Associated Press)—Three heavy German raids were made against the American positions in Picardy between 6 and 9 o'clock this morning and were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

In the simultaneous attack the enemy penetrated the first line to a depth of 200 yards. A brilliant counter-attack threw the Germans out and the Americans kept on until they had entered the front, and severe fighting is still taking place on the whole front of the British sector."

"The war gardeners have lost none of their enthusiasm and much activity is noticeable in the garden plots near the city. There is still a week or ten days of good potato planting weather ahead. Members of the War Gardens Association wishing seed potatoes should get their orders in at once. One war farmer has used forty bags of the seed potatoes purchased by the association and he has found them to compare very favorably with seed bought outside. Other practical farmers have pronounced the seed to be good. There is some turnip seed yet available, also best seed. The fertilizer supply at the depot is getting low, but there will probably be enough for the season."

AMBULANCE CLASS FOR ST. JOHN POLICEMEN

Colonel R. T. Birdwhistle of Ottawa, general secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association, who arrived in the city yesterday, left again at noon today for Halifax after completing arrangements for organizing an ambulance class among the policemen of the city.

Colonel Birdwhistle called on H. B. McLellan, commissioner of public safety, this morning and outlined the plans to him, pointing out the value of training in first aid work to the police force. Commissioner McLellan agreed and promised all possible co-operation in carrying on the work. In order to arrange the details, he suggested that Colonel Birdwhistle confer with the chief of police.

CANADIAN CROP OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

Ottawa, May 23.—The crop outlook in Canada, according to reports to hand so far, is on the whole favorable. Professor J. H. Cristale, director at the experimental farm, said that seeding operations were probably further advanced in Eastern Canada than for some years at this time, and the crops were progressing very satisfactorily. In Quebec, and in the maritime provinces, there had been abundance of moisture.

COAL HANDLERS STRIKE

Men at Fort William and Port Arthur Want 10 Cents an Hour More

Fort William, Ont., May 23.—Coal handlers at Fort William and Port Arthur went on strike yesterday. More than 300 are out. The docks involved are those of the C. P. R., Fort William Coal Dock Company and the Canadian Northern coal yards at Port Arthur. The men ask an increase of ten cents an hour.

Yesterday that out of 4,000 employees of the shipbuilding plants in Vancouver, British Columbia, New Westminster and Coquitlam, 2,100 were at work, 1,500 of these being employees of the Coughlin yard, which are not affected by the strike.

No steps have been taken by the waterfront negotiators to place returned soldiers in the yards. No conference between strikers and employers has been arranged.

MAN OF 65 MURDERED

Charles Cooper, His Step-Son, Arrested in Ontario Village

Englehart, Ont., May 23.—Charles Cooper has been arrested charged with the murder of his stepfather, Theodore Taylor. Taylor was found in the early hours of the morning lying on his back in a pool of blood. Lying by the side of the bed was a four foot stick of wood, about two inches in diameter, and coated with blood.

Taylor was sixty-five years old and resided in Tomstown, a village near here.

GERMAN CAPTAIN KOHL CAPTURED BY FRENCH

Paris, May 23.—The French army headquarters announces the capture of Captain Kohl, observer of a German Gotha shot down during the air raid on Paris on the night of May 21. He escaped at first when his pilot was made prisoner.

Captain Kohl and the pilot set fire to the wrecked machine on landing, and the captain made for the northeast. He was detected by the French lines when he was detected by artillerymen. He declared that he had requested transfer from sedentary aviation with the general staff to active fighting duty so that he might win the Iron Cross of the first class.

GERMAN ATTEMPT TO WRECK TWO AMERICAN HOSPITALS BACK OF LINE IN PICARDY

With the American Army in France, May 23.—(By the Associated Press)—What was apparently a deliberate attempt to wreck American hospitals in the rear of the American lines in Picardy occurred on Sunday afternoon when the Germans hurled high explosive and gas shells within a few hundred yards of two hospitals. Fortunately no damage was done.

Much indignation has been caused among the soldiers and civilians. It was not the fault of the Germans that those in the hospitals were not killed and wounded as were those in the British hospitals in Flanders recently. The only comment of the sick and wounded soldiers is that they want to get out as soon as the doctors will permit so as to strike back at the Hun.

WILL BACK UP WILSON.

Washington, May 23.—Responding to the call of President Wilson, plans were made by congress today for preliminary conferences looking to the enactment of a new general revenue bill. Although heretofore of divergent opinions, members of both the house and the senate today declared themselves united by the address of the president and the news of another German offensive in the belief that a revenue measure be passed before adjournment.

WAR GARDENING.

The war gardeners have lost none of their enthusiasm and much activity is noticeable in the garden plots near the city. There is still a week or ten days of good potato planting weather ahead. Members of the War Gardens Association wishing seed potatoes should get their orders in at once. One war farmer has used forty bags of the seed potatoes purchased by the association and he has found them to compare very favorably with seed bought outside. Other practical farmers have pronounced the seed to be good. There is some turnip seed yet available, also best seed. The fertilizer supply at the depot is getting low, but there will probably be enough for the season."

Maritime—Moderate winds, occasional showers and local thunder storms today and on Wednesday. Superior—Moderate winds, generally fair and cool today and on Wednesday. All West—Fine today and on Wednesday, becoming warmer.

New England—Cloudy tonight, showers in East Maine, colder in New Hampshire and Vermont; partly cloudy, moderate shifting winds, becoming north-westerly.

ENEMY WORRIED OVER POSSIBILITY OF A NEW REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA

Lively Apprehension In Austria — Extreme Shortage of Food Stuffs the Impelling Cause —Opposition by Peasants in Ukraine Extending

Rome, May 23.—The possibility of a new revolution in Russia is causing lively apprehension in Austria, according to the Casa, a newspaper published in Cracow. The extreme shortage of food-stuffs is the impelling cause of the unrest.

Moscow, May 23.—(By the Associated Press)—Opposition by the peasants in the Ukraine against the Germans and the Russians supporting the Central Powers is extending rapidly. The peasants are firing forests, destroying buildings and otherwise hindering the work of German bands trying to commandeer food. The Germans have been forced to send additional troops into Poland, where rioting is reported to be most serious. The peasants have organized large detachments and are armed with machine guns and rifles. The Germans are using artillery to suppress the rioting.

German Attacks.

London, May 23.—A Russian government wireless despatch received yesterday says: "Tchitcherine, Bolshevik foreign minister, has wired Adolf Joffe, Russian ambassador to Berlin, that German negotiators looking to the settlement of large forces and that Russian inquiries to the German government have remained unanswered. The offensive is also proceeding on the southern sector of the Don front and a battle has occurred near Hattskoi."

"The Finnish government, he added, has not replied to Russian proposals for negotiations looking to the settlement of relations with Finland."

"M. Tchitcherine also asked M. Joffe to insist upon the prompt execution of decisions accepted by both parties for the exchange of prisoners."

"The foreign minister further notified M. Joffe that the offer of Count von Mirbach, German ambassador to Russia, to act as intermediary between the Russian government and the trans-Caucasian government has been accepted."

A German Viewpoint.

London, May 23.—Copies of the Berlin Tageblatt containing despatches from its Kiev correspondent have been received here. He writes: "Unfortunately, the new Ukrainian government is constantly obliged to appeal to German troops for assistance in maintaining order, and it is very painful to see German troops again and again compelled to disperse meetings and patrol streets with fixed bayonets and make arrests."

"There can be no doubt that in the long run this situation must influence the feelings of the population in a sense very unfavorable to Germany and have harmful effects on Germany's future relations with southern Russia. Moreover, it is hardly conceivable that this position can be long maintained without increasing friction between the German troops and the population and in the end between the Ukrainian government and the German authorities."

The writer says it is a serious mistake to believe that south Russia can be permanently separated from the rest of Russia, either politically or economically. Wilson's Declaration.

Washington, May 23.—While most of the German and Austrian newspapers have greeted with sarcasm President Wilson's declaration in his recent Red Cross speech that America will stand by Russia, an official despatch from Switzerland quotes the Vienna Arbeiter Zeitung as declaring the Central Powers must accept settlement of questions relating to the Russian border countries in agreement with all nations if an understanding for peace is to be reached.

The Arbeiter Zeitung is the Austrian Socialist organ which has been barred from circulation in Germany.

CASUALTIES FOR WEEK, 33,694

London, May 23.—British casualties reported in the week ending today reached a total of 33,694, divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 168; men, 3,227.

Wounded or missing—Officers, 735; men, 29,264.

The total for last week was 36,477, and for the week before 42,123, the largest of any week since the beginning of the German offensive. The falling off in the totals reflects the lull in the fighting between the attack which ended in April and the one now beginning.

MAKE THE GERMANS IN THE STATES WORK

Washington, May 23.—Protest work or light order has been applied to interned enemy aliens and many Germans formerly engaged in business in the large cities of the country soon will be plowing holes, rakes and other farm implements in gardens at troop camps, raising vegetables for the soldiers.

FAIL IN EFFORT TO BOMB PARIS

Paris, May 23.—German aviators attempted last night to raid Paris. They dropped bombs in the suburbs, but were prevented from flying over the city.

PRISON SENTENCES IN PARIS CASE, BUT ARE SUSPENDED.

Paris, May 23.—M. Pais-Serailles and Captain Mathieu, who have been on trial on a charge of communicating government secrets to unauthorized persons, which charge was an outgrowth of the Bonnet Rouge trial, have been sentenced respectively to one year and three months in prison. Sentence was suspended for a time by the court.

TWO NOVA SCOTIA FISHERMEN DROWNED

Port Hawkesbury, N. S., May 23.—The fishing schooner Agnes M. Glushen came into port today from the fishing banks with her flag at half mast, reporting the loss of George Crouse and Willis Tanner on last Thursday. The men were attending to trawls in a small boat. Their dory was found bottom up.

MONTREAL TRAVELER IS SUICIDE IN SHERBROOKE

Sherbrooke, Que., May 23.—Jules Archambault, forty-nine years of age, a commercial traveler, Montreal, committed suicide in the Royal Hotel last night by taking carbolic acid. He had been despondent for some time. His body was found by his wife.

THREE MONTHS BEHIND BARS.

Toronto, May 23.—Three months imprisonment was imposed on Isaac Bainbridge by Mr. Justice Latchford today on a charge of publishing a seditious libel in the Canadian Forward.

RELATIVES SAY SOLDIER DANGEROUSLY ILL; HURT IN THE HALIFAX RIOT

Halifax, May 23.—Relatives of Pte. William Dean of No. 6 Battalion, Canadian Garrison Regiment, who was injured in Saturday night's rioting, say that he is dangerously ill. He was the first detachment of soldiers ordered out to quell the riot. He was struck on the head by a stone and was kicked in the stomach. He is now in the Cogswell street military hospital, where this morning he was reported to be "resting easy."

DECLINES POSITION AS BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

London, May 23.—Sir Henry Joseph Wood has declined not to accept the offer to become conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He will remain in London.

WAS ERROR IN FRENCH CALL TO MEN OF 19.

Montreal, May 23.—Amended notices in French and English were sent out today in this city with regard to the registration of men of the 19-year-old class owing to a mistake in the original notice in the French copies. This notice called upon every British male subject born in Canada on or before October 13, 1897, to register. This would, of course, obviate the meaning of the act which meant men born "on or after" that date.

AUSTRALIAN BUTTER FOR THE MOTHERLAND.

Melbourne, Australia, May 23.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—It was announced in the house of representatives that the sale of next year's exportable surplus of butter to the imperial government is being negotiated.

HUGHES OF AUSTRALIA REACHES WASHINGTON.

Washington, May 23.—Sir Thomas Hughes, premier of Australia, arrived in Washington last night with a party of Australian officials, en route to a war conference in England. He will call on President Wilson while here.

SUMMER HOTEL BURNS WITH \$400,000 LOSS

Muskegon, Mich., May 23.—Fire of undetermined origin early today destroyed Lake Harbor Hotel, a casino, bathhouse, several small hotels and considerable other property at Mored Lake, five miles from here. The hotel was the largest summer resort structure in this section of Michigan. The loss will exceed \$400,000.

WEATHER REPORT. Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

PHENIX BRAND. A small advertisement for Phenix Brand products.

NEED 85,000,000 MORE TONS OF COAL. Philadelphia, May 23.—The production of coal in the United States for the year beginning April 1 must reach 735,000,000 net tons, said J. D. A. Morrow, general director of distribution of the United States fuel administration, today to the National Coal Association in convention here.