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FAIR AND COOL.

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GERMANS SETTING STAGE FOR PROBABLE A TACK ON BRITISH

The Present Lull on French Battlefront Presages Big Storm

Impression is Rapidly Strengthening That the Stage is Almost Set For Renewal of German Main Thrust At the British Army Around Amiens In Attempt To Destroy It and Reach Channel Ports.

Thrusts At Paris Looked Upon By Many Military Experts As Well Planned and Executed Feints To Weaken Amiens Front Before Final Effort—Americans Have Landed 500,000 Men in France Since Drive Began.

Washington, June 14.—The present lull on the battle front in France only presages a new and more violent storm of attack on the allied lines in military operation there. The impression is rapidly strengthening that the stage is almost set for renewal of the German main thrust at the British army around Amiens with the channel coast as the objective.

Belief has never wavered among the majority of officers here that the real purpose of the German general staff has been from the first to cut the allied armies apart by a drive that would carry them to the channel—that arrived at that goal, massed attacks would be hurled against the northern sector for the purpose of destroying the British army, while a strong defense was maintained against the French to the south. The thrusts at Paris have been looked upon as well planned and executed feints designed to weaken the Amiens front before the final efforts had been made there.

Ultimate Reserves Will Win.

On no other theory can these observers explain the sequence of German operations in the great battle and on no other basis, they say, can the campaign of defense waged by General Foch be understood. It is a battle in which the ultimate reserves will win the day, as the fight is seen here. If the German general staff considers the present situation against the west front, stretching from Ypres on the north to Rheims on the south, promising for the final effort the ultimate German reserves is now being assembled for attack while fighting fronts take breath.

Compeigne Salient.

Some observers believe further efforts are to be expected to station out the Compeigne salient, which is the main attack is resumed. If so, they argue that the next flare of activity will come along the front of the Compeigne salient where the fighting has just passed momentarily. Simultaneous assaults from the north near Amiens, from the southeast between Chateau Thierry and Villers-Cotterets forest and from the eastward between Soissons and the forest probably will be launched. It is thought, if Compeigne is regarded as vitally necessary to future German moves. In that case, the American force above Chateau Thierry stands directly in the path of one attack. Other observers are almost convinced, however, that the situation not only permits but demands that the enemy's main attack be pressed with out delay, as American aid is coming forward more swiftly than the Germans could have estimated would be the case. The German coup must be attempted before the Americans can turn the scale of man power.

500,000 Americans Land.

Official announcements show that approximately half a million American soldiers have landed in France since the German drive began.

Already they have aided in stabilizing the lines as they now stand. At a recent date, American forces held more than fifty miles of the whole western front. One element of General Pershing's mobile forces by direction of General Foch, guards the way at the apex of the whole German wedge near Montdidier. Centuries, recently reorganized from the German side by those forces, is very close to the point of maximum penetration achieved by the enemy in nearly three months of desperate fighting.

Secretary Baker's re-organization yesterday of American confidence in General Foch was made with full knowledge for Mr. Baker was in Europe in conference with the allied chief of staff, when the plan of campaign now being followed was worked out. He knows who no effort has been made to work the assistance from the enemy. Many officers who do not know are frankly puzzled and cannot understand why some of the obvious operations for a great thrust have not been attempted.

THREE BOYS HELD FOR BREAKING CAR SEALS IN TRANSIT

Lads Ran Away From Home, Beat Way on Freight and Broke Into Several Cars.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, N. B., June 14.—Three boys, Claude LeBlanc, Joe Melanson and George Wilson, age 11 and 12, charged with the serious offense of breaking seals on U. S. R. freight cars today and demanded for further hearing. The lads left home a few days ago, beating their way north on a freight train. Trapped on a freight arriving here today from the north discovered that seals on freight cars were being mysteriously broken at different points along the road, and made search for the offenders.

In one of the cars they found the three boys who were taken in charge until the train arrived in Moncton when they were handed over to the C. & N. B. police. It was found that the lads had been breaking seals when the opportunity offered when the train stopped, but whether anything was taken from the cars is a matter of investigation by C. & N. B. police.

Larry Brady, who has been practicing peddling in Moncton some time, has been arrested by the police under the unemployed act. He claims American citizenship and his case is being investigated by U. S. Consul Richardson.

Moncton is now free of smog.

The last patient has been discharged from the isolation hospital and the building closed.

IS PROBABLY DROWNED.

The police with others have made a thorough search without results for Arthur Bennett, the twelve year old boy who has been missing from his home, Long Wharf, for a couple of weeks. It is believed that the young fellow has fallen into the harbor and the body has been carried out by the tide.

LEAVING FOR CALGARY.

D. L. Howard, manager of the C. P. R. telegraph in Calgary, who with his wife and child have been visiting his former home in the North End, returns to the west this afternoon. Mr. Howard will be accompanied by his sister, Lillian, who will spend a couple of months with him.

PROBABLE END OF FIRST PHASE OF MATZ CAMPAIGN

Complete Inactivity on Part of Enemy in That Region and Germans Will Likely Transfer Troops, As Their Gain Completely Undone By French Counter Attacks—General Guillaumet Appointed To Defend Paris—No Fighting on Any Sector of French Battle Front Yesterday, But Considerable Artillery Activity.

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

London, June 14.—The fifth day of the main action on the Matz river was marked with such complete inactivity on the part of the enemy as to suggest that this is the end of his first phase in this region. One might even conclude that some transfer of troops will take place since the only gain accomplished by the enemy the day before—that the crossing of the Matz river and the occupying of the hill above Croix Ricard—was completely undone by French counter-attacks yesterday. Furthermore such pressure as he did exercise was transferred from the field of Matz to the outskirts of Villers-Cotterets forest.

The attack here which was made by five divisions, reached the edge of the wood in the northeast, but didn't penetrate it. The efforts of the enemy was not to force the wood—a task under the present conditions impossible—but to compel the further retirement of the French troops north of the Aisne by menacing their right wing. Such retirement would not little for the moment, but if it were continued it would bring the line back everywhere to the edge of the woods, and involve the occupation of Compeigne.

The advance of Thursday which reached Compeigne was no appreciable move in so large a program and the whole operation still borrowed from the Matz river. If the line from the Matz remains approximately where it is in use by the enemy of thirty divisions, having will be accomplished towards his end. We must remember, however, that he has borrowed forces to spare. From the north only four divisions as yet are identified. These were Bavarian forces borrowed from the army forces on the Albert front.

To Defend Paris. Paris, June 14. (Havas Agency)—General Guillaumet has been transferred from the post of commander of the 1st Army to that of military governor of Paris, entrusted with the defense of the capital. He succeeds General A. Y. Dubail who has been assigned to other duties. French Statement. Paris, June 14.—During the course of the day there was no fighting between the infantry in any sectors of the battle front. There was considerable artillery activity in the Hainard Wood, south of the Aisne, and in the sector between Villers-Cotterets and Chateau Thierry. American troops were on the battle line near Chateau Thierry.

This information is contained in the French official communication issued this evening. The text follows: "Our chasing air squadrons have been very lively in the Hainard Wood, to the south of the Aisne and in the region between Villers-Cotterets and Chateau Thierry." "The day was calm everywhere else. "The material captured from the enemy on the 11th of June should be added nine guns, including seven heavy ones, and forty machine guns. "Our chasing air squadrons have brought down five airplanes and two captive balloons. Seven other German machines have been put out of action."

Steamer Alcor Struck On Seetland Shoals

Dutch Vessel Moves Two Miles and Now Lies Partly Submerged One Mile Off Mud Island—Cannarder Lost.

Special to The Standard. Yarmouth, N. S., June 14.—The tug Hugh D. arrived from the wreck of the Dutch steamer Alcor about two o'clock this afternoon bringing Capt. Doeker and the crew of the unfortunate ship. From them it is learned that the Alcor left a United States Atlantic port at 7 p. m. Tuesday and that at 8.40 p. m. on Wednesday the whistle on Seetland was heard. The Capt. at first thought it was another steamer, but when he saw the lights of the Alcor he knew it was not. When Seetland blew again he knew it was not a steamer and that he must be near Seetland. A few seconds later he made Mother Owen's Rock on the south side of the island and heaved to the south of it.

Struck Shoals. This course would have carried him to the north side of Stone's Rock, but a few minutes after he changed his course the vessel struck on the Seetland shoals (not the Devil's Land as reported) for engineering and fire-

room fitted at once and she was heaved abandoned. The abandonment was carried out as expeditiously as possible in an hour from the time she struck. The first lifeboat had landed at Seetland Island, but the second boat had gone astray, but the Seetland lifeboats put out and found it anchored on Seetland Island. During the night the steamer, or drifted off the Shoals and some time yesterday was located ashore about a mile off Mud Island and two miles from where she struck. She is lying with her head to the east, bow out of water and stern submerged to the mainmast. As she was full of water and deep when she drifted into the position she now occupies, it is thought that when some of her cargo has been taken out there is a good chance of saving her. But it all depends on the weather. The bulk of the cargo is flour in bags only a small portion being grain. Cannarder Lost. St. John's, Nfld., June 14.—The Canadian line steamer Ascacia, with

Crown Prince Balked In His Campaign To Take City of Paris

Manoeuvres and Mad Teuton Rush Towards Compeigne Have Brought Germans Nothing More Than Obliteration of Noyon Salient and Capture of Few Unimportant Positions, For Which Terrible Price Was Paid.

Feeling Still Prevails That Main Effort of Teutonic Hosts Is Yet To Come, But Allies Are Confident Hun Hordes Can Be Stopped—Field Marshal Haig May Bear Brunt.

The attempted drive by the armies of the German Crown Prince toward Paris seems definitely to have been checked. With thousands of their men having been fed to the guns on the Montdidier-Noyon and Soissons-Villers-Cotterets sectors, in the mad rush to pierce the allied lines in these regions and thus gain a fair way to the French capital the manoeuvres of the German commanders apparently have brought to the German arms nothing more than the obliteration of the Noyon salient and the capture of a few unimportant positions southwest of Soissons near the outskirts of the Villers-Cotterets forest.

Friday, the sixth day of the offensive between Noyon and Montdidier, witnessed only small local actions, the depleted German forces evidently feeling again to test the mettle of the French and allied troops whose guns, machine guns and rifles had worked such havoc among them. Less than three days was required by the Allies to bring the enemy to a virtual halt south of the Aisne.

Main Thrust Coming. On The Marne. The feeling still prevails in military circles in France that the main effort of the Germans has not yet been launched and speculation is rife as to when it will come and what the general objective will be—whether Paris or the channel ports. It is known that the enemy still has large forces available behind the lines, thousands of them brought from the Russian front.

The armies of General Foch, however, everywhere are watchful, and of such strength and good morale as to lead to the belief that, no matter where the enemy chooses to oppose them, they will be able to give a splendid account of themselves. American aviators have participated in the bombing assaults and returned safely to their stations, although they were heavily shelled by anti-aircraft batteries.

As yet the Austrians have failed to start their expected offensive against the Italians. Several fresh attacks have been made against the lines in the mountain region but the Italian war office announces that they were repulsed. British casualties reported during the week ending Friday aggregated 34,171. Of this number 4,441 men were wounded. It is not improbable that Field Marshal Haig's forces will be asked again to measure their strength against the Germans, and that the territory near Arras or in the Scarpe sector, or before both positions, may be chosen by the Germans as the theatre, in both these sectors the German guns again are working with the violence that generally presages an attack. At last accounts, however, the infantry had not been unleashed.

SHAPLAIN LANE. Rev. W. G. Lane, a former pastor of Broomfield Street Church, is in the city, and will preach in that church tomorrow. He is being welcomed back by many friends.

GOVERNMENT WILL FIX MORE PRICES

Ottawa, June 14.—The government, it is understood, has under consideration extension of the list of the restricted luxury imports. Further fixing of prices is understood also to be expected to be reached within a few days.

In the early days of the month, an order-in-council was passed prohibiting the importation, except under license, of certain articles, which, under present conditions, were not considered vitally necessary for health and comfort of the people. Subsequently the embargo was lifted in regard to certain fruits and vegetables, considered essential for Canadian consumption.

It was also provided that the current prices at which gold and silver were sold by dealers should not be increased without the permission of the minister of trade and commerce. With a view still further to assist the exchange situation, it is now suggested that the list of luxuries which may be imported under license only, be extended. In regard to prices, numerous complaints have been received, since the passing of the order-in-council, that certain dealers have taken advantage of the situation improperly to advance prices. In such cases, it is intimated, there is likelihood of action to force prices down to a reasonable level.

HALIFAX WILL BE PROTECTED FROM HUN RAID

Halifax, June 14.—An informal meeting of citizens was held tonight to consider what action should be taken in the part of the civilian population of Halifax in the event of a visit from German submarines or in case of a big fire, explosion, or in the event of any other sudden or unexpected occurrence of similar character. The meeting had the assurance of military and naval officials that, while an airplane raid or bombardment by submarines were remote contingencies, and most unlikely, yet it had to be remembered that we were at war and that such happenings were not outside the range of possibility. After hearing the statements of the military and naval representatives there was a feeling of satisfaction that every precaution was being taken to secure the safety of citizens and that there exists absolutely no cause for alarm. All rumors should be discounted. A committee of citizens will be appointed to take charge in any contingency that might arise.

NEW YORK WILL BE WARNED OF A RAID

Siren Horns Which Can Be Heard For Miles Will Be Sounded If Boches Appear.

New York, June 14.—Siren horns with signals which can be heard for several miles were being set up at intervals of thirty blocks here today for sounding an alarm in the event of a raid by airplanes by the German submarines coasting off the Atlantic coast. They will be electrically controlled. A twenty minute blast will herald the coming of enemy air machines and repeated five minute signals will announce the danger had past. Meanwhile the city's lightest night order is being enforced.

APPARENTLY NOT BORN TO BE KILLED NOW

Lieut. Pat O'Brien Escaped From German and Falls Nearly 2,000 Feet, But Little Hurt.

San Antonio, Texas, June 14.—Lieut. Pat O'Brien, Royal Flying Corps, who is in the States after having escaped from a German war prison, fell nearly two thousand feet in an airplane here today but was only slightly injured. O'Brien was alone in the airplane over Kelly Field when it fell. He was conscious when it reached him and his chief concern was over his new trousers, which he feared had been ruined.

PROMINENT MONTREAL MAN LOSES HIS LIFE

Leandre Decarie Killed in Automobile Accident and Companion May Die.

Montreal, June 14.—Leandre Decarie, brother of Hon. Jerome Decarie, Quebec Provincial Secretary, was killed tonight near this city, and died later. A companion, Raimond LeBlanc, is in a critical condition.

TEUTON DISASTER

Paris, June 14.—An explosion in the Shone's gun works near Posen on May 25 killed more than 500 persons and injured 700 according to information received by the Journal today. The explosion was heard for 100 miles. Passengers ran ashore on the New Brunswick coast early today and reports to government authorities here indicated that she was breaking up. There were nine passengers aboard and all were taken off safely with the crew.