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WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1918.

CLEARING.

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St. Quentin Enveloped on Three Sides By British-French; Allied Forces in Macedonia Capture Prilep and Doiran; Von Hertling in Reichstag Begs Huns to Keep Courage

Czecho-Slovaks Fight On the Italian Front

Defeat Germans and Magyars in Fierce Battle and Win Praise For Bravery.

BOHEMIAN REJOICING AT NEW FOUND FREEDOM

First Action in Italy in Which Czechs Participated Results in Signal Defeat For Teutons, Who Had Carefully Planned Blow.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Germany and Magyar troops have been defeated by a Czecho-Slovak unit on the Italian front in a fierce battle which was reported tonight in a despatch from Rome. The valor displayed by the Czecho-Slovaks was such that it brought from Premier Orlando of Italy, this telegram of congratulations to the Czecho-Slovaks in Paris: "Cordially express my admiration at the intrepid firmness of valor of the Czecho-Slovak division on the Alps Desso Alto, where bravely a people fought its liberty conquered the aggressive fury fed by hate. May this be a good omen for the final battle and victory."

This action, the first in Italy, which the Czecho-Slovaks operated as a unit in their regular formation, took place on the Trentino front last Saturday. The enemy launched the attack prepared with greatest secrecy, east of Lake Garda. It appears from the despatches that the Germans and Magyars had no definite territorial objective, but planned the stroke in the hope of gaining support for the Austrian claim that the Czechs would give voluntarily when faced by the army of the country that so long had held them in subjugation.

It is believed in Rome and by officials of the Czecho-Slovak headquarters that if the Austrians had achieved even a local success they would, if executing as traitors any Czecho-Slovak, taken prisoners, have again affirmed that the Czechs do not wish to fight against Austria.

In describing the battle, the despatch said the assault was begun at daybreak by picked detachments composed exclusively of Magyars and Germans under General Schlessler. The attack followed a destructive artillery fire in which thousands of gas shells were used. The Czecho-Slovaks went over the top to meet the foe, and the second column, after desperate fighting, succeeded in occupying a portion of the Czecho-Slovak positions, but were driven out after a bloody battle. No prisoners were taken by either side, said the despatch.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Official despatches reaching Washington today said that the American and British recognition of the Czecho-Slovak nation was received in Bohemia with unlimited enthusiasm. As a direct result the Czecho parties have defied the Vienna government and refused in spite of the strongest pressure the demand that they disavow the Czecho-Slovak national council in Paris as an incompetent body possessing no authority from the nation and that they declare the nation without interest in the action of the Allied countries or the Czecho-Slovak armies.

According to despatches the Czecho Catholic clergy assembled at Prague on Sept. 13 and expressed its solidarity with the declaration of the Czech writers and deputies and repeat the national oath, pledging unqualified support to the cause of Czecho-Slovak independence.

Uneasiness Among Huns In Lorraine

Big Guns Pounded American Front For Twenty-Four Hours.

Bombardment Did No Harm, But Revealed German Fear of Another Attack.

With the American Forces in Lorraine, Sept. 24.—(By The Associated Press)—The Germans in the past 24 hours have increased the intensity of their heavy gunfire on the American front, which seemingly denotes the greatest uneasiness on the part of the enemy. Otherwise the German activity has been confined to raids and patrolling.

Although there appeared to be no set purpose for the vague fire of the German artillery, which did no damage, the enemy spent the entire night in bombarding the back areas south-east of Kammer, and kept up a bombardment both north and south of Pont-a-Mousson for hours at a stretch. The German fire was a little more intense but no more effective than it had been since the Germans retired as the result of the American offensive in the region of St. Mihiel.

Prisoners and Guns Taken. Washington, Sept. 24.—Capture of 23 prisoners and two machine guns by American raiding parties in the Woivreux report received tonight at the war department.

The statement follows: "Headquarters American Expeditionary Force, Sept. 23, section A.—In the Woivreux our raiding parties were active bringing in 23 prisoners and two machine guns. Three hostile raids in the Woivreux and in the Vosges were repulsed."

ORGANIZING FOR SEASON

The opening meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. was held yesterday afternoon at the Association Building, with the president in the chair. There was a good attendance of ladies present and all were most enthusiastic. Plans for the coming winter's work were discussed and a comprehensive program outlined. A contribution of \$25 for the work of the auxiliary was received from Principal McDermond of the Albert School, West Side.

BRITISH LABOR STATES ITS ATTITUDE TO PEACE

Must Be No Discussion of Belgian Question, But Justice Must Be Fully Done Declares Arthur Henderson.

London, Sept. 24.—(British wireless service)—"It cannot be made too clear that British labor has long since placed Belgium outside the category of questions upon which there can be either negotiations or compromise, and regards the question of Belgium-Lorraine as essentially one of right and not of territorial readjustment," said Arthur Henderson, the British labor party leader in an interview. His statement was called out by a suggestion from Herr Ebert, the German majority Socialist leader, that all labor and Socialist interests ought to try to come to an understanding on a common peace programme.

BRITISH AND FRENCH DRAWING CLOSER TO DOOMED ST. QUENTIN WHICH IS NOW ALMOST ENVELOPED

On Four Mile Front British Advance Lines, Making Good Gains.

800 PRISONERS WERE TAKEN IN OPERATION

Local Fighting Northeast of Epehy in Which British Positions Were Improved—Huns Make Vigorous But Unsuccessful Resistance.

London, Sept. 24.—In the region west of St. Quentin the British troops have carried out a successful operation over a front of four miles from the Ominon River south and taken about 800 prisoners, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

The text of the communication follows: "A successful operation was carried out this morning in co-operation with the French in the St. Quentin sector. At dawn English troops attacked over a front of four miles from the neighborhood of the Ominon River southward. Good progress was made all along this front. About 800 prisoners were taken.

"Vigorous resistance was encountered at a number of points, especially in the neighborhood of Selency, where the fighting is still continuing. There was local fighting again today northeast of Epehy, as a result of which we improved our positions slightly. On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report."

Spirited Fighting.

With the British Army in France.—The fighting for the vital positions which have defended the main Hindenburg line east of Epehy and Hanau continued yesterday and last night. No marked change in the situation resulted, but the advantage lay with the British.

A vigorous local engagement is taking place today on the front near west of St. Quentin, between Holnon and Prasnoy. Main interest, however, is centering in the Epehy-Ronsay sector, where the British since Saturday have by determined fighting gained ground which is of greatest importance and which captured documents show to be a vital part of the Hindenburg defenses, that was to be held at all costs.

Heavy British Pressure.

The pressure which the British have established here is obvious from a glance at the detailed maps. The great St. Quentin Canal forms a strong natural defense for the enemy for a great distance in this sector, but just east of Ronsay it runs underground for about three miles. In other words there is a gap in the waterway defense here, and it is this which the Germans have been defending so desperately.

In front of the canal along the gap the Hindenburg line has been made especially strong to protect the possible roadway. The British divisions which have been doing such excellent work here have in front of them as opponents not only the famous German Alpine corps, but four more fresh divisions which the enemy has thrown in.

With this force of enemy troops especially hard fighting occurred just east of Ronsay in a quadrilateral system of trenches, which the British captured. The Germans attacked here continuously and heavily, but on each occasion they were repulsed with very severe losses.

P. E. I. OFFICER KILLED IN ACTION. Special to The Standard.—Lieut.-Col. Charlottetown, Sept. 24.—Lieut.-Col. Ings, formerly commander of the 105th Battalion, now home here from overseas, has received word that his son, Lieut. Walter Ings has been killed in action.

War Summary By The A. P.

New York, Sept. 24.—The Associated Press tonight issued the following:

In both Macedonia and Palestine the Entente Allied forces are giving the already badly beaten Bulgarians, Germans and Turks no rest, while in France the British and French are continuing to draw their net more closely about St. Quentin and the remaining elements of the Hindenburg line in this immediate region.

In Macedonia the situation of the Bulgarians and Germans daily grows more critical as the Allied forces steadily maintain their pressure against them. In Turkey the latest operations of the British and Arab tribesmen friendly to the Allied cause seem to forecast the complete destruction or capture of the Ottoman troops in Palestine on both sides of the River Jordan.

St. Quentin, through the latest advances of the British and French, is all but enveloped and to the north the strong enemy line protecting Cambrai has been further encroached upon by Field Marshal Haig's army.

(Continued on Page Two.)

PROSPECT OF DEFEAT STIRS GERMAN PRESS

Cologne Gazette Shows Much Anxiety As To Future.

ADMITS SUCCESSES ATTAINED BY FOCH

Numerical Superiority Is on Side of Enemy and He Will Utilize It Says Important Journal.

London, Sept. 24.—(British Wireless Service)—The Allied successes in France, Macedonia, and Palestine have led the Cologne Gazette to anxious consideration regarding future military developments.

"We must do Foch the justice to say that he is apparently beginning to obtain on a big scale that strategic unity he has already obtained on French soil," says this leading German newspaper, and after reviewing the situation in the various theatres of war it concedes that the prosecution from all sides of an offensive against the alliance of the Central Powers would be a master stroke.

Having mentioned the unity of command and the superiority of the Allies in men and material as conditions favorable to them, it continues: (Continued on Page Two.)

150 NEW CASES OF SPANISH GRIP IN NEW YORK IN DAY

New York, Sept. 24.—Spanish influenza here continues to spread. Health department figures show 130 additional cases in the last twenty-four hours. Of these eighty-one came under the jurisdiction of city authorities and sixty-nine government cases.

French Troops Take Towns West of St. Quentin After Hard Fighting.

500 MEN AND MANY GUNS IN THE BAG

Germans Bring Fresh Divisions Against Allies in Order To Check Attacks on Widening Breach in the Hindenburg Line.

Paris, Sept. 24.—West of St. Quentin the French troops, in conjunction with the British, have captured Francilly-Selency, L'epine de Dallon and the village of Dallon, according to the French official communication issued this evening.

More than 500 prisoners, and a large number of machine guns were taken in the operation.

French Successful.

With the British Army in France, Sept. 24.—On the right the French appeared to have possession of L'epine de Dallon, southwest of St. Quentin, a strong position known as Round Hill, to the west of the threatened city and the hamlet of Francilly-Selency, while to the north the British had seized the high ground west of Dayet, and cleared the woods east of Prasnoy of the enemy, and had stormed their way through Prasnoy.

Getting Nearer St. Quentin.

This place lies only three-quarters of a mile from the bend in the St. Quentin Canal, which forms a vital part of the Hindenburg bulwark. It was around Prasnoy that the British captured many hundreds of prisoners. Fighting was proceeding this afternoon along the ridge between Prasnoy and Gricourt.

The German artillery fire seemed directed aimlessly and purposefully for the enemy similarly shelled viciously the fields and woods to the east of Benoit, doing no more damage than at other points.

Quiet in the Air.

Very unfavorable weather continues to hold the infantry and aviators on both sides fairly inactive, and the enemy ventured from his trenches only rarely and few of his fliers were seen. The Americans carried out a successful raid south of Villecey after violent artillery preparation, which netted five prisoners and patrolling expeditions at various points on the line.

EVENING OF "DER TAG" IS ALMOST HERE

Washington, Sept. 24.—Ambassador Jusserand, of France, in presenting to the senate today on behalf of his government two handsome vases in appreciation of the reception by that body of former Premier Viviani and Marshal Joffre when they came to America to the ranks of the defenders of liberty, said the nations fighting Germany now feel that they are moving toward the evening of "Der Tag" when Germany's power for evil will have been crushed.

Although now "babbling for peace," the enemy, the ambassador said, understands no argument except that of force and since they want to be understood the Allies and their associates mean to "use no other."

In accepting the vases for the senate, Vice-President Marshall assured

Hertling Whistles To Boost German Courage

Hun Press Tries Out New Plan

No Longer Belittles Success of Allies in Western Campaign.

But Admits Break in Hindenburg Line Creates a Serious Situation.

(By J. F. B. Livesey, Canadian Press Correspondent.)

With the Canadian Forces in France, Sept. 24.—The frankness with which the German press admits the seriousness of the breach made in the Hindenburg line by the Canadians is surprising until one observes that it is in reality a new and desperate attempt to stiffen the morale of the nation. Belittling the successes of the Allies has been tried so long that in these straits different methods must be utilized to spur on a jaded nation. While a few military writers continue the old line of explanation and reassurance, the majority frankly admit the critical nature of the moment.

The writer goes on to say that the Germans have to reckon with the fact that a blow from the south side of the Scarpe would shake the whole Aertois salient and would throw their infantry right against the gates of Douai.

Speaking of the Allied plans, he says the English have started other tactics. The actual attack is made by good storming divisions, other divisions then go through to continue the attack, the earlier divisions being in the meantime refilled from the ample reserves possessed by the Allies. It is not to be denied, he continues, that a short time ago a wave of doubt passed over many of our troops on the western front, and he tries to show that this doubt is passing with the less rapid advance towards the French frontier.

A significant and probably inspired article by a well known German military writer describes the damage done to Douai by British guns, the inference by experience being that the Germans plan to destroy the place themselves. He speaks of the shelling and bombing of Douai, as "in reality a domestic war between the envious mining industry in competition with the collieries of Northern France."

A clumsy and ludicrous attempt to split the Allies by the old method of placing the interests of the English against those of the French. The latter only know too well that what is not injured by the guns of the Allies will be left in ruins by the retreating Germans.

Ambassador Jusserand of the devotion of America to France, and of its determination to fight on with the French until justice wipes away all their tears and fears and avenges, though it cannot obliterate, all the scars of all their wrongs.

CONTINUED SUCCESS IN MACEDONIAN CAMPAIGN

French Cavalry Capture Prilep While British Occupy Doiran—Bulgars Continue To Flee.

London, Sept. 24.—French cavalry, operating to the northeast of Monastir in Macedonia, have captured the town of Prilep, according to an official statement made this evening.

British at Doiran. London, Sept. 24.—British troops have captured the important town of Doiran on the southern shore of Lake Doiran, in Macedonia, according to despatches received here today.

Bulgars Still Fleeing. London, Sept. 24.—The Anglo-Greek forces in the Doiran region have effected a junction with the Franco-Greek forces to the west and continue to pursue the retreating Bulgarians on Macedonian operations.

Imperial Chancellor, in Address To Reichstag, Attempts To Dispel Popular Discontent.

MILITARY SITUATION WARRANTS NO GLOOM

Declares Germany Has Successfully Passed Through Periods More Trying Than That She Now Faces—Draws Encouragement from East.

(By The Associated Press)

London, Sept. 24.—Count Von Hertling, the German Imperial Chancellor, addressing the main committee of the Reichstag today, declared that the public discontent in Germany was not justified by the military situation on the western front, according to a despatch from Berlin. The chancellor opened with the promise to meet the desire of the Reichstag for information as far as possible. He proceeded to allude to the "deep discontent which has seized wide circles of the population," and said that the principal reason was the pressure of the terrible four years of war, with all the deprivations and sufferings brought in its wake, and the sacrifices imposed on all classes, all families, and, more or less, on every individual.

"I have no intention of trying to diminish this pressure by words," he continued, "but gentlemen, if this discontent is influenced by our present military situation, by the events on the western front, I must, without desiring to anticipate a statement which we may expect from a representative of the war ministry, declare most emphatically that it far exceeds justifiable limits."

Admits Situation Grave.

Count Von Hertling admitted that the last German offensive was successful, and that it had been withdrawn to the Siegfried line.

"The situation is grave," he added, "but we have no cause to be faint-hearted. We have already had to pass through harder times."

The chancellor instanced the failure of the Verdun offensive, the Somme battles and Brusilov's mass assaults, bringing in their train the well-remembered unfavorable reaction on the Austro-Italian front. Then came Rumania's entry into the war.

"We never lost courage," he said, "but should our enemies what a resolute will to victory could do."

"How do things stand now? We have peace with Russia and Rumania, and even though conditions in Russia are not yet clear, and the future appears uncertain, nevertheless, the former menace from two sides has dropped and a considerable portion of our men of the eastern army can be employed in the west."

The sitting of the main committee of the Reichstag was attended by the Imperial Chancellor, Admiral Von Hintze, the foreign secretary, and other secretaries of state.

Friedrich Ebert, president of the committee, announced that the meeting would be adjourned.

(Continued on Page Two.)