

Foch's Moment Arrived!

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OPENS OFFENSIVE WITH "FULL DRESS SHOW."

Attack Advances Over a Front of 25 Miles. Prisoners by Thousands with Guns and War Material. American Troops in the Thick of the Fighting.

FRENCH TAKE OFFENSIVE.

PARIS, July 18.

The French this morning delivered an attack along the line from the River Aisne as far as the region of Belleau, a front of about 25 miles, and made progress at certain points of between a mile and a half and two miles, the war office announced today. The situation on the Marne and Champagne fronts is unchanged.

ATTACK BELIEVED MAKING PROGRESS.

LONDON, July 18.

News received in London indicate that the attack started by the French this morning on the front between Chateau Thierry and Soissons is on a considerable scale. The attack was believed to be making good progress.

BIG OFFENSIVE.

LONDON, July 18.

Reports received in London showed the situation up to noon all along the line of attack begun by the French this morning to be excellent. The attack is the biggest offensive move made this year by the Allies.

PRISONERS ARRIVING.

PARIS, July 18.

Early in the movement the prisoners taken in the advance began coming in on the northern point of the attack in the town of Fontenoy, nearly a mile north of the Aisne. In the fighting of the front of the German offensive the French last night stopped the Germans in the face of violent attacks which the enemy launched southwest of Nanteuil-la-Fosse, between the Marne and Rheims. On the front beyond Rheims east of the Vesle River an attack by the German Guards units was completely repulsed. The text of the statement reads: The French attacked German positions from the region of Fontenoy on the Aisne, as far as the region of Belleau this morning. We have made progress at certain points from two to three kilometres. The capture of prisoners is reported. On the front of the Marne and Champagne the night brought no change. Southwest of Nanteuil-la-Fosse we arrested a powerful and violent attack by the enemy. North of Presnes an attack by German Guard units broke down completely.

FRENCH GAIN.

LONDON, July 18.

The French have gained from two to four miles everywhere on the 20-mile front of their offensive to-day between the Aisne and the Marne, according to reports reaching London this afternoon. Several thousand prisoners and about 20 guns have been captured.

ENGAGED IN COUNTER ATTACK.

ON THE FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, July 18.—The Allied forces to-day are engaged in an important counter attack between the Aisne and the Marne north of Chateau Thierry. The attack is progressing favorably.

FRENCH ATTACK MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

LONDON, July 18.

The French attack is making good progress. Advances this afternoon stated that the Germans had made further attacks east of Rheims and that the French at various points of the front had regained ground. The French, the reports state have recaptured Montville, south of the Marne at the point where the Germans had advanced further toward Epernay and Chateau-Thierry to the west of these villages overlooking the Marne.

A SURPRISE TO THE GERMANS.

LONDON, July 18.

The French move this morning appeared to have been a surprise to the Germans. The manner in which the surprise was accomplished may best be judged from maps which show a great area of forest covering the ground behind the French lines. Under cover of these forests General Foch has been preparing for some time for the present movement. All the way from Belleau to the Aisne the French attack was launched at daybreak to-day. It was what the British call "full dress show" with every department, every weapon available in play including the new French mosquito tanks. These tanks did excellent work in some of the most difficult points. Military men attach great importance to the late railway lines around Soissons, and say that if General Foch can get his artillery into place to keep these lines out of action he will make the movement of the Germans in the whole sector between Rheims and Chateau Thierry impossible. On the extreme of the German offensive the French have recaptured their old lines for a distance of three or four miles. North of the Marne the French have regained the whole of the Boiswood and the village of Venteuil. This is the moment Foch has been looking for, said a military authority here to-day, and if all goes well his splendid executed counter attack should bring the whole German offensive on the Rheims sector to a halt immediately. The French have reached a point menacing the most important German railway centres which feed the entire front west of Rheims. The French artillery is now within easy shelling distance of these railways and should be able to make life miserable for a large section of the German army.

AMERICAN CAPTURES.

LONDON, July 18.

An American division, co-operating with the French troops in the counter attack to-day, have captured the town of Broteroy, about six miles south of Soissons, and have advanced three miles beyond the town, the advance adds. The Americans operating in the region west of Soissons, the despatch adds, have taken 4,000 prisoners, 30 guns and much other material, which has not yet been estimated.

GERMAN LEFT FLANK MENACED.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 18.—As the whole German left flank is menaced, the enemy must draw in his troops from the Marne front or risk their being caught where they are. This means that the finishing blow possibly has been administered to his dying offensive. The towns of Torcy and Glory and the Glory Wood were taken by the Americans in their advance. The final objectives in the Glory and Torcy sectors were reached in two hours of hard fighting. The troops on this part of the front did equally as well as those on the front further north, taking quantities of material and prisoners who continue to stream back to our lines. In one town alone on the south part of the front under attack the Franco-American forces captured 18 guns. Hastily organized counter attacks against the Americans developed here and there, but all were broken up, and our troops continue

TO ADVANCE.

Probably the most stubborn resistance to the Allied advance developed in the region west of Chateau, which is four and a half miles west of Soissons. The Americans and French, fighting side by side, however, refused to be checked. The American machine guns mowed the enemy down and then our troops went on. The fighting still continued in the region this p.m. and seems likely to become heavier when the German reserves arrive. In the region of Soissons, where the attack was especially successful, the Americans carried all before them by storm. Early this afternoon they had passed their final known objective. From the second to the third objectives they swept behind a third barrage. The second objectives were usually taken by troops of the first units who had dug in at the first objectives. The resistance to these troops was especially vicious. At some places the American advancing troops were held, but only temporarily.

FRENCH CAPTURE HEIGHTS.

LONDON, July 18.

Up to one o'clock this p.m. French troops had captured the heights overlooking Fontenoy on the extreme left, and had progressed to Monte-De-Paris within a mile of the city of Soissons.

SURPRISE ENEMY.

PARIS, July 18.

The front upon which General Mangin attacked this morning measures about twenty-one miles. The enemy was totally surprised. The attack was made virtually without artillery preparation. Our infantry supported by many tanks advanced rapidly under the protection of a barrage fire which was extended before the advance. The forest of Villers Cotteret is now virtually cleared.

GENERAL GOURAUD ADDRESSES HIS MEN.

ON THE FRENCH FRONT, July 17.—In stirring phrases imploring them to stand firm General Gouraud in command of French and American troops east of Rheims and in Champagne appealed to his men before the German offensive began. In an order issued to the soldiers he said: "We may be attacked at any moment. You all feel that a defensive battle never has been engaged in under more favorable conditions. You were warned and are on guard with powerful reinforcements of infantry and artillery. You will fight on the ground you have transformed by your hard work into redoubtable fortresses which are invincible if the passages are properly guarded. The bombardment will be terrific, but you will stand it without weakening. The assault will be violent clouds of smoke, dust and gas, but your position and armament are formidable. In your breasts beat free men's brave, strong hearts. Nobody will look behind nor recede a pace. Each of you will have one thought to kill and kill many until they cry 'enough.' For this reason your General says you will break this assault, and it will be broken gloriously."

TALK BEFORE THE BATTLE.

PARIS, July 18.

Southeast of Villers Bretonneux, Colonel De Thomassin, a military writer, in concluding his article on the battle situation to-day says he cannot resist the pleasure of quoting a passage concerning the Americans from the semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung. The German paper declared that "the American soldiers are cannon fodder. They are incapable of standing up to our seasoned troops. America has been powerless to train the forcibly enlisted men who had shipped to Europe." The way the Americans treated a crack German division at Fossler, says the writer, perhaps may give the German writer food for reflection.

EMPEROR WATCHED ATTACK.

AMSTERDAM, July 18.

The Emperor watched the opening of the latest German offensive from an advanced observation post north-west of Rheims, his favorite correspondent, Karl Boser, reports in a despatch to the Berlin Lokai Anzeiger.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, July 18.

Southeast of Villers Bretonneux, south of the Somme, the British line

has been advanced on a front of more than one mile, says to-day's official statement from British headquarters in France. The British positions to the east of Hebuterne also were improved somewhat. South of Bucquoy on the fronts southeast of Arras, a German raiding party was driven off. The German artillery showed considerable activity during the night on the Flanders front north of Bailloul.

ENEMY ENTIRELY DRIVEN FROM SOUTH BANK.

WASHINGTON, July 18.

General Pershing's communique for yesterday reports that in the American sector on the Marne the enemy has been entirely driven from the south bank.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF U BOATS.

LONDON, July 18.

Within the past three months the number of German submarines destroyed has been greater than any during any similar period since the beginning of the war. Depth charges have played an important part in putting an end to the activities of the U boat.

CAREY ALL BEFORE THEM.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 18.—(By the A. P.)—The American troops carried all before them by late in the afternoon and had succeeded so fast that cavalry was thrown into action. All the American headquarters staff to-night were well inside the territory which the Germans held this morning.

TWENTY VILLAGES CAPTURED.

PARIS, July 18.

More than twenty villages have been recaptured by the French and American troops in the offensive begun yesterday morning, according to the official announcement to-night which reports also the occupation of the plateau dominating Soissons on the southwest. The text follows: After breaking the German offensive on the Champagne and Rheims mountain fronts on the 15th, 16th and 17th the French troops in conjunction with the American forces attacked the ene-

my positions on the 18th, between the Aisne and the Marne, on a front of 45 kilometres, approximately 28 miles. The front comprises Amblenay, Longpont, Troesnes and Bourneches. We have made an important advance into the enemy lines and have reached the plateau dominating Soissons. On the southwest and the region of Chandun, Villers, Heion and Noroy Ourcq, violent engagements have been in progress south of the Aurocq. Our troops have gone beyond the general line of Marisy Saint Genevieve, Hautevesnes and Belleau. More than 20 villages have been retaken by the admirable dash of the Franco-American troops, as well as several thousand prisoners and important war material.

At the City Hall.

The Municipal Council held its regular weekly session last evening. The Mayor presided and Councilors Morris, Brownrigg, Ayre, Vinnicombe and Tait were present.

After reading and confirmation of minutes the following matters were disposed of:—

A. Carnell was granted permission to connect his house on the Torbay Road with the water main.

George Summers wrote regarding purchase of houses by the Council some time ago.

John Gunn wrote he was not prepared to go to any expense in connection with the extension of the main on Topsall Road.

The Hon. Secretary Church of England Orphanage wrote thanking Council for giving water connection to Steer's Farm on the Long Pond Road. C. W. Johnson asked Council's permission to install a motor in shed rear of Theatre Hill. No objection.

R. J. Walsh asked Council to repair the wall near his house. Repairs will be made.

Michael Hickey called the attention of the Council to the tank near his house on Barter's Hill.

Tessier and Company will be asked to submit plans of proposed repairs to their building.

Plans of repairs to Bishop, Sons

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and Company's building, Water Street, passed.

Alice Buckley asked permission to repair house on Plymouth Road. Granted.

Kaleem Noah requested Council's sanction to the erection of a concrete wall rear of house 322 Water Street. Engineer to enquire.

The Health Officer reported two cases diphtheria during the week. Mrs. M. Sullivan, Circular Road, was granted sewerage under provisions of the Small Homes' Act.

S. Lewis applied for permit to build a back kitchen on Golf Avenue. Granted.

A resolution was passed in connection with Workingmen's Houses. It was decided to ask the Government for a guarantee of a loan of \$25,000.00 for proposed houses on Quidi Vidi Road, and that plans and specifications for twelve five-room double houses be submitted to an architect and that as soon as possible Council will advertise for tenders for about 16 or 18 houses.

The City Engineer reported on the

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grading of several streets, water and sewer work and other routine work during the week.

Tenders will be asked for 800 feet 1½ inch rubber hose.

The fountain formerly on King's Road was arranged to be shifted to a more suitable place.

After disposing of some routine business and passing payrolls and bills, the meeting adjourned.

NOTICE.—Correspondents are requested to accompany contributions with their REAL NAMES, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The editor refuses to accept any matter unless this rule is adhered to.



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