

FURIOUS BATTLE!

FEARFUL SLAUGHTER OF GERMANS IN FIERCEST FIGHTING OF THE YEAR

Every Additional Hour of the Ferocious and Sanguinary Battle Raging Between Montdidier and Compiègne, Gateway of Paris, Emphasizes Intense Character of the Fighting Wherein Enemy Is Constantly Hurling Fresh Divisions—Germans Appear To Be Striking With Greatest Blows in the Centre in Order To Encompass Fall of Compiègne.

Heavy Concentrations of Troops in Vicinity of Roye Are Being Used As Feeders For Units Which Must Constantly Be Withdrawn on Account of Losses—Crown Prince Rupprecht Attempting To Pinch Off Salient in Oise Valley—All Reports Tell of Tremendous German Losses—French Artillery Doing Bloody Execution.

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.
(By Wilbur Forrest.)

With the French Armies, Monday Afternoon, June 10—Every additional hour of the battle raging between Montdidier and Compiègne emphasizes the intense character of the fighting, wherein the enemy is constantly hurling fresh divisions. The Germans appear to be striking with the greatest blows in the center with the apparent objective of Compiègne on the Oise river, the so-called gateway to Paris, in an effort to pinch off the salient which would thus be formed.

Heavy concentrations of troops in the vicinity of Roye are being used as feeders for units which must constantly be withdrawn on account of losses. Every report tells of enormous German losses.

The French artillery is doing the bloodiest execution. An idea of the fierceness of the combat is shown at the village of Courcelles on the French left which, though now a mere stone heap, is one of the most hotly contested points on the entire line. Taken and re-taken many times, it remained in French hands today.

There will be the heaviest of fighting perhaps for many days. The line will move backwards and forwards and anxious moments arise. But the confidence among the French defenders is absolute. The battle is yet young, the allied commander-in-chief is playing his cards with care. The world can await his play with confidence also.

Huris Many Troops.

The great drive between Soissons and Rheims hardly stabilized, Ludendorff with the desperation of a tiger in a burning cage, has again launched massed waves of German shock troops against the French line in the sector generally between Noyon and Montdidier. According to the best information the German high command has at its disposition about fifty fresh divisions for this new drive, (over 600,000 men), which roughly is forty-six kilometers in width.

Perhaps the fiercest fighting of 1918 has been raging since just before day-break yesterday on the front between Montdidier and Noyon.

Dense Hun Waves.

Details now available show that the German waves came on in denser masses than ever before, hoping to crush all resistance. At midnight the latest reports from the battle line show that the enemy paid an enormous price for the smallest gains and is now locked with the French forces, who are fighting with the valor of supermen.

From the moment the German masses were hurled against the line, the French artillery, firing with perfect range, began to batch death and destruction. Even this under the German mass play system, failed to dishearten Ludendorff's shock divisions whose waves surged over their own piles of dead into hand-to-hand conflicts with the Polish. These enemy divisions fought and are still fighting with desperation but the Allied line is holding practically intact considering the rules of open warfare. It must be considered that the massing of attacks on what is known in trench warfare as the first line is impossible. The first lines in this new open fighting are merely a series of advance posts and small organized positions of defense, which the enemy must overcome before reaching the real line of resistance further back.

A Mass Offensive.

At the moment yesterday morning's attack proved to be another mass offensive, these advance positions were abandoned by the French, who took up their stand on the main positions in the rear. French batteries which had previously registered fire on every yard of ground between the forward and rear positions dealt harshly with the oncoming waves.

The first twenty hours of fighting

found the French on the main line of resistance with the exception of one point in the center where the density of the assault, though accompanied by murderous losses to the enemy, bent the defence back to the village of Resson Sur Matz, where extremely heavy fighting continues.

Fiercest Fighting.

The battle will doubtless continue for days with a fierceness not yet experienced since Verdun. The French reserves are within striking distance and will play their part. The faster Ludendorff wastes his armies against the constantly growing Allied forces, growing by reason of the rapid influx of Americans, the quicker will come the day of great retribution. The greater his mass attacks the greater his losses. The battle now raging is a struggle of man power. Even Ludendorff must know which side holds the balance of world man power.

Exactly the same methods developed in previous attacks are employed—a four hour artillery preparation, including a profusion of gas beginning at midnight, then the movement of infantry forward at 4 p. m.

The Third Stage.

The element of surprise in the big drives in Flanders and between Soissons and Rheims, which constituted two stages of what perhaps will prove the last great battle of the European war, was lacking in today's attack, as evidenced in the first hours of the conflict, which must be known as the third stage of the enemy's desperate win or lose effort, regardless of how such numbers as to bring about an overwhelming balance of man power.

French troops were holding valiantly at the moment this was written. Fragmentary reports during the first few hours of the battle indicate that the enemy's losses again were terrific. Massed men came on and on in surging waves, unmindful as usual of preceding waves being mown down by artillery and machine gun fire.

Forced to Flight.

Pressed by a weary people Germany is demanding of her military rulers an immediate victory or peace at any price. The German military leaders are actually forced to continue the battle which began in Flanders on March 21 until the German armies win

or lose. The fifty fresh divisions they still have are being thrown into this new furnace with the desperate hope of accomplishing what the eighty divisions, (about 950,000 men) alleged used up in the Flanders and Soissons Rhinings stages failed to accomplish.

The first two drives—the first beginning March 21—have come and gone. Roughly speaking, the Germans disposed of 130 divisions which they considered sufficient to overwhelm the Allies. In the new method of massed attack, forty of these divisions were shoved into the Flanders furnace mainly against the British two and a half months ago.

Such massed man play as the attack methods of Von Huger, who placed ends before means, call for, took territory but failed to realize the ends sought—the separation of the French and British armies, the cutting off of Britain's channel communications and the smashing of the British armies.

Cost Half Million.

It was a bold play and it cost forty German divisions. On May 21 the German crown prince sent his divisions forward between Soissons and Rheims, presumably with the prime object of irrevocably smashing the French troops opposing him. Again the sheer forces of charging human bodies, outnumbering the defenders overwhelmingly gained territory, but again the bright red apple which the crown prince so much desired slipped out of reach.

The French armies were not smashed, but fought through an admirable elastic retreat making the Germans at the same time pay in the heaviest possible manner. About forty more divisions which participated in this offensive, are at the rear today licking their wounds.

Buffered Heavily.

These divisions felt the bite of the French reserves and suffered heavily. But more important, it was here on this front, within past few days, that something happened which must have hastened the third stage of the battle. The Germans for the first time seriously felt the bite also of the American forces which in the opinion of those looking at the situation in the light of cold facts forced Ludendorff to strike again quickly in a desperate effort to forestall and beat the American menace.

(Continued on page 2.)

Several Small Places In Montdidier-Noyon Sector Taken by Huns

Paris, June 10—Several small villages were occupied by the Germans on the centre in the Montdidier-Noyon sector, including Mery, Belloy and St. Maur, according to the war office announcement tonight.

This was done by repeated assaults and at the cost of great sacrifices.

South of Soissons-Sur-Matz the Germans gained a footing in Marueglise. Further to the east the battle continues in the southern outskirts of Elincourt.

The text of the statement reads: "On the second day of the offensive the enemy sought by powerful attacks in large force without cessation by new effectives to advance in the direction of Estrees St. Denis and Ribecourt. Our troops fulfilled with tenacity their mission of resistance.

"The enemy was able to take successively by repeated assaults and at the cost of heavy sacrifices the villages of Mery, Belloy and St. Maur. The plateau of Belloy was the theatre of heroic engagements.

"South of Reshons-Sur-Matz the Germans gained a footing in Marueglise and further east the battle continues in the southern outskirts of Elincourt.

"On our right the enemy succeeded in debouching from Thiescourt Wood. On our left, between Courcelles and Rucescourt we broke the enemy attacks and held our positions. East of the Oise a German attempt to retake a fort failed.

"On June 9 our pursuit escadrilles destroyed or put out of commission eleven enemy airplanes. Our bombing airplanes attacked without respite enemy troops behind the front of the attack.

"In the day of June 9 and the following night, despite the bad weather, eighteen tons of projectiles were dropped on concentration points, convoys and railway stations, particularly the station at Roye, where a great fire, followed by explosions, broke out."

FOUR DROWNED IN AROOSTOOK RIVER

Caribou, Stricken By Serious Fire, Mourns Death of High School Students, Miss Mona Davis, Miss Georgia Lyons, Max Simpson and David Hitchins.

Aroostook Junction, N. B., June 10.—Caribou, the thriving Maine town on the Canadian Pacific railroad near here, is sorely stricken. In addition to the serious fire reported elsewhere, the town is mourning the loss by drowning of four members of well known families. The dead are Miss Mona Davis, aged 17 years, daughter of Deputy Sheriff Otis Davis; Miss Georgia Lyons, aged 17, daughter of John Lyons; Max Simpson, aged 17, son of Mrs. Frank Simpson, a widow; David Hitchins, aged 23 years, son of Herbert Hitchins.

All four were drowned in the Aroostook River about three o'clock Sunday afternoon. The young people went out on the river in a canoe after dinner, and were paddling at a point above a dam and about a mile from the village.

Changed Seats.

The accident is believed to have

NO SUBMARINE BASE ON COAST

Report of Mysterious Signals Denied—Pinar del Rio's Men Rescued.

Washington, June 10.—Methodical survey of the entire Atlantic coast from the Mexican line to Halifax has failed to bring to light any evidence that German submarines have employed a shore base or have had touch with the shores at any point, Secretary of the Navy Daniels said today. This was taken as an official denial of reports that strange signals had been seen at night from remote sections of the coast.

New York, June 10.—Captain J. MacKenzie and 16 members of the crew of the American steamship Pinar del Rio, who have been missing since the vessel was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Maryland, on

been caught by the breaking of a seat when the girls attempted to change places. The canoe was about four hundred feet from the shore at the time and the water is very deep at this point. The cries of the drowning boys and girls attracted many people to the scene, but no boat or canoe was available and the relatives and friends of all four were obliged to stand helpless on the bank and watch the victims go down for the last time. The boys struggled gamely, but handicapped by their clothes and the cold water were soon exhausted.

Search was kept up for hours yesterday and today. All the bodies have been found.

Miss Davis, Miss Lyons and Max Simpson were members of the senior class of the Caribou high school and were to have actively taken part in the programme at the approaching graduation. The Misses Davis and Lyons belonged to the Camp Fire Girls, a patriotic organization.

ARRESTED FOR BREAK IN RAILROAD STATION

Philip Collett Alleged To Have Robbed M. and B. At Notre Dame—Sawyer Recovering.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, June 10.—Philip Collett, a young man about 19, was lodged in the Moncton jail tonight charged with breaking into the Moncton and Buc-touche railway station at Notre Dame, Goods. It is alleged, were stolen from the station. The arrest was made by the C. G. R. police, the road now being operated by the government.

Lorenzo Sawyer, the young man shot near Buctouche by the military police some time ago, and who has been in a critical condition in Moncton hospital, now appears to be on the road to recovery.

ENEMY NOWHERE ABLE TO PIERCE THE ALLIES

French Giving Ground Only Where Forced To Do So By Superiority of Numbers—Germans Capture Three Villages in Five Mile Thrust.

Near Bussiàres, Northwest of Chateau Thierry, Americans and French Deliver Strong Attacks Taking More Ground—Austrians Active in Italy—348 Killed in Hospitals By Fiendish Boches.

The Germans in the centre of their new attack on the front between Montdidier and Noyon have gained additional ground against the French, but on both the right and left wings, they are being held.

In violent successive attacks, Monday, they captured the villages of Mery, Belloy and St. Mauriand, also pressed forward and gained a footing in the village of Margueglise, the last named place representing the deepest point of penetration since the offensive began, between five and six miles.

The French still are exacting a heavy toll in lives from the Germans as they deliver their attacks in waves and are giving ground only when forced to do so under superiority of numbers. Nowhere has the enemy been able to pierce the front, which has been bent back in perfect order whenever the necessity arose.

The battle is described by correspondents as one of the most furious that has been fought since the war began, with the enemy unusually reckless in wasting lives to gain his objectives. (Continued on page 2)

Fire Obliterates the Business Section of Busy Town of Caribou

Most Disastrous Blaze Aroostook County Town on Canadian Pacific Railroad Has Ever Experienced Causes Total Loss of Nearly Half a Million Dollars—Several Towns Sent Assistance.

Aroostook Junction, June 10.—The most disastrous fire that Caribou has ever experienced has caused a property loss reaching toward half a million dollars. The conflagration destroyed the business center of the town. The business district has been practically wiped out, and a number of private residences destroyed. The fire was discovered at a little after one o'clock this morning. The loss is estimated at \$400,000, while some of the insurance men are of the opinion that when the heavy stocks that were carried in many of the business houses are catalogued, the damage will extend to not less than \$450,000.

The fire had its start in the kitchen of a restaurant and getting beyond immediate control the flames spread with great rapidity, entirely baffling the efforts of the local firemen, although they fought the fire with gallantry and vigor and were assisted by all the male population. As it was soon realized that the fire could not be subdued by the Caribou department, aid was summoned from the neighboring towns and men arrived from Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, Washburn and as far away as Houlton. But so big a start had been gained that it was several hours before the flames could be conquered, and then not until the main business section of the thriving town lay in ashes.

The buildings burned, consisting of ten business blocks and two residences, were located on the east of the Main street; the south side of Main street, the south side of High street and the north side of Water street. None of the churches, schools or other public buildings were burned.

The principal loss of \$50,000 was sustained by Milton, Holland and Bishop, whose three story wooden block contained their grocery store and meat market, the Odd Fellow Hall and offices, the Caribou Clothing Co., and O. T. Pierson and Co. Clothiers. Each sustained a loss of \$35,000 and the Caribou Drug Co., \$40,000. Most of the business concerns carried heavy stocks

U. S. GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE W. U. AND TELEPHONE

Wall Street Hears Interesting Report—Motion Made in United States Senate To That Effect.

New York, June 10.—There is a strong impression in some circles that the government will soon take over the Western Union and American Telegraph and Telephone Companies. Preparations are said to be under way looking to that consummation, not only by the government but by the companies themselves. It is hinted that this may open the way to take over other public utilities in need of aid.

Washington, June 10.—The President would be empowered to take possession of all cable, telephone and telegraph lines under an amendment to the \$12,000,000,000 army appropriation bill introduced today by Senator Shepard of Texas. The purpose would be to assure secrecy of military information and to prevent communication.