

ST. MIHIEL DRIVE A DISTINCT AMERICAN SUCCESS

GENERAL PERSHING WAS IN COMPLETE
COMMAND OF FRENCH AND AMERICANS
IN HIS FIRST BIG OPERATION OF WAR

**Germans Were Preparing For Franco-American
Attack, But Preparations Were Not Finished
When the Blow Fell—Huns Fought Without
Heart and Thirteen Hours After Artillery Pre-
paration Commenced All Objectives Had Been
Obtained and the Battle Won—Tanks Aided in
Capture of Villages—Toll of Prisoners More
Than 20,000.**

(By Wilbur Forrest.)
Special cable to the N. Y. Tribune
and St. John Standard.
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With the American Army in Lorraine, Sept. 14—in our participation in the second battle of the Marne, American divisions fought under French army commanders. The beginning of the St. Mihiel salient saw French units participating under an American army commander, General Pershing, in command of America's first distinct operation in the European war.

American divisions engaged are some of those which have already covered themselves with glory in other battles, although it must be stated that in the day's fighting the enemy's resistance was neither heavy in guns nor men. The Franco-American attack was not a surprise to the German high command, which ordered the seven division commanders to fortify their sectors. This work had proceeded feverishly for two weeks, but had not been sufficiently completed. The division commanders evidently ordered the evacuation of their heavy artillery when the American artillery preparation began at 1 a. m. When the barrage began at five a. m., "like a fiery waterfall upside down," as an American officer explained it, the enemy units fought without heart and then trailed northward leaving machine gun nests here and there to retard the advance.

Fire Hot But Brief.

Before noon the American advance met with heavy opposition at two places, Montmatt Wood, which was well filled with machine guns, and the village of Saint-Haumont, which was drenched with artillery fire. An officer who advanced into Bausant said it was the hottest fire he had ever seen, but like everywhere else the enemy had fled and was giving up a parting hate from guns far to the north. Our line was held up temporarily until the fire ceased and then advanced. At 2 p. m. our line stretched across from Nonard Pannes-Bovilleville to the important road center of Thiaucourt.

The Tanks at Thiaucourt.

Tanks surrounded Thiaucourt before the infantry arrived and when the first patrol entered the edge of the town, the tanks were sitting around in a circle, waiting for the "doughboys." Thiaucourt has been burning in places from our shells since early in the morning.

The enemy in spite of the wrath he filled the village of Fey-en-Hay, west of Pont-A-Mousson with mustard gas. Our leading wing discovered the situation and deftly plotted itself around the village leaving it alone until the fumes were dissipated. American tank crews shoved themselves ahead, with courage worthy of the highest credit, though some tanks were bogged in route, others were ahead of the infantry, cutting off Boche villages, towns and prisoners.

In addition to their work at Thiaucourt the capture of Pannes goes first to the tanks who there worked the same maneuver. The attack was planned by the staff of America's first army in phases. The tanks and the doughboys advanced to these objectives, or phases, so rapidly that those in the rear division and army corps headquarters were unable, figuratively, to keep up. During the early hours of the attack, wires were stretched behind the advancing wave and aeroplanes sent back messages which generally read "Going strong."

Before 2 p. m. the messages changed to "Objectives reached, digging in, awaiting orders." Meantime prisoners were coming back by thousands and America's first important all-American divisions gloriously won.

More Than 20,000 Prisoners.

New York, Sept. 14.—The Associated Press today issued the following: The scope of the victory won by the American first army in Lorraine in its initial offensive effort continues to grow. The number of prisoners taken is now said to number 20,000, which is virtually the equivalent of two enemy divisions.

General Pershing's forces in two days drove in to a maximum depth of 13 miles, which is approximately the distance from the tip of the salient below St. Mihiel to Hattenville, a mile and a half north of Vigneulles through which the American line was last reported as running.

The Germans are reported readjusting their lines on the edge of the former salient, the probabilities being, however, that they are not being allowed to do this in peace by the American forces or the French on the flank.

French Also Advance.

The French this morning attacked on both sides of the River Ailette and in the region of the Aisne to the south and southeast.

General Petain's troops started with a great rush which took them into the German lines at points for a distance of one to two miles. Prisoners began coming back rapidly, 1,800 having been taken in one section of the front alone in a early hour.

The French pressure seemed to be particularly effective south of the Ailette where they captured the important height of Mont Des Singes and the towns of Allemont and Sennecey. Their advance here threatens the right flank of the Chemin Des Dames. This movement also represents a further closing in on the St. Gobain Massif, which is accentuated by the progress of the French north of the Ailette, where they are working into the upper forest of Concy, beyond the former German line.

Thousands of Huns Trapped.

American Headquarters in France, Sept. 14.—(Reuter).—When the St. Mihiel operation began there were from 90,000 to 100,000 Germans inside the salient. They escaped at the rate of 1,000 hourly, but the pincers closed and trapped a hitherto unknown number. The 13,300 already taken prisoner does not include the bulk of those believed to be trapped in the salient.

An entire German regiment with its commander and all the staff were captured. Prisoners taken were from seven divisions, namely: The 13th Landwehr, the 122nd, the 7th, the 25th and the 307th, while there were also some from Landsturm units.

BOLSHEVIKI RULE HAS BROUGHT RUSSIA TO BRINK OF NATIONAL DISASTER AND RUIN

"Today It Is Russia or the Bolshevik," Says A. J. Sack, in Tracing the History of the Revolutionists.

It is many centuries since the map of England wrested from King John the Magna Charta, sowing the first seeds of the liberty whose pursuit is one of the salient features of Anglo-Saxon tradition.

It is not quite 100 years since the first definite move was made by the Slav peoples, in the great despotism of Russia, to win for themselves and their posterity something of that same liberty, so necessary to vigorous growth and abundant self-respect.

Beginning with the uprising of December, 1825, for which the leaders paid with their lives or by being exiled to Siberia to the present day, the history of Russia has been one long unbroken chapter of efforts on the part of liberty-loving zealots to encompass for their people what they saw growing steadily in other parts of Europe, and what was flourishing in the new country across the seas.

The great Russian poet, Pushkin, sent a great word to the exiled "Decembrists," as those first rebels were called, and they replied, undaunted by their condition: "The spark will burst into flame." The prophecy has been justified; throughout the years the spark has lived, alternately smoldering and bursting into fitful flame, until 1905, when great masses of men and women rose up in open antagonism to the autocratic system of government which held them in a vise.

Play a Fatal Role.

"At the time of that uprising," said A. J. Sack, director of the Russian Information Bureau in the United States, whose book, "The Birth of the Russian Democracy," presents an excellent picture of the long struggle, "the Bolsheviks played the same fatal role which they played in the revolution of 1917. Lenin was leader then, and he did everything in his power to destroy the united front of the Russian Democracy." The Duma, which was a great concession to the people upon the part of the autocratic government, was discredited everywhere by the Bolsheviks as a "bourgeois institution." This was done at an unhappy psychological moment when the Duma, with the Constitutional Democrats in power, had presented the Imperial Government with demands for liberal reforms and a responsible cabinet.

The term Bolshevik was used for the first time in 1903, when the Russian Social Democratic party divided, the larger faction under Lenin taking that name. Though nominally Socialists, says Mr. Sack, the Bolsheviks since the war are Anarchists, not in theory but in practice. The revolution of 1905 was not successful, but it broke the back of Czarism, and paved the way for its ultimate downfall, known as the abdication of Nicholas in March, 1917. The general disorganization which followed was indescribable, and the Provisional Government under Kerensky, under the pretext of guiding the masses out into order again.

But the disorganization of transportation brought hunger and cold to the Russian cities, and created an atmosphere in which every kind of Anarchistic situation could be successful.

Tyranny of the Bolshevik.

Lenin and his followers, with their slogan of immediate peace, with their hatred for the wealthy classes, with their plans for the dictatorship of the laboring class, naturally would appeal more to the suffering, comparatively uneducated Russian people, already exhausted by the war and the crimes committed against them by the old regime, than the arguments of a Socialist leader like Kerensky, who appealed to the masses to stay in the war, and, if necessary, suffer more and more for the freedom of the country and the great cause of the world's democracy.

Once in power the Bolsheviks established a tyranny never exceeded even under imperialism. The worst press has been suppressed, prominent liberal and revolutionary leaders have been arrested, municipal councils of Petrograd, Moscow, Nizhny-Novgorod and other cities have been dissolved, though these councils were elected by the entire population of the cities in accordance with the law of universal suffrage.

"They dared to declare," said Mr. Sack, "that the Constituent Assembly, the realization of the sacred hope of generations of Russian revolutionists who have died for it in prison cells, in fortresses and in the tundras of Siberia, would be illegal if the majority proved to be against the Bolsheviks. They knew that the majority of the assembly would assuredly be against them. They knew that the unfortunate country, prostrated by the three and a half years of bleeding and by the terrible crimes committed against her, would never surrender to the Bolsheviks and would fight them to her legitimate representatives in the Constituent Assembly. Therefore they prevented the meeting of the Assembly by armed force, arrested prominent members and finally dispersed the Assembly with bayonets."

Great Russian Leaders Against Bolshevik.

It is a significant fact that the greatest revolutionary leaders in Russia, including such names as Peter Kropotkin, George Plekhanoff, V. M. Chernoff and E. C. Breshkovsky—names familiar to the Grandmother of the Russian Revolution—are arrayed against the Bolsheviks. The Russian peasantry, who constitute about 85 per cent of the population, are likewise antagonistic to the Bolsheviks. Numerous manifestos have been issued throughout the entire Leninist regime by various groups from among the masses, repudiating the Bolsheviks and denouncing their promises.

"The Bolsheviks are promising the people immediate peace, bread, land and liberty," declares one manifesto. "What a lie and what a sham—all those promises calculated to win the masses, who are worn out and do not understand clearly the situation. Not peace, but slavery is before them. Not bread, land and freedom, but civil war, bloodshed, loss of land and the triumph of the knout will they bring by increasing the chaos and making it easy for the dark forces to restore the accursed regime of the Czar."

With so much opposition the question might justly be asked how it is that the rule of Bolshevism endures as long as it did. The reason, according to Mr. Sack, is that the country is passive because it is exhausted; and, in addition to that, they have the support of what remnants of the army remain, because they allow the soldiers to do pretty much as they please. The people are temporarily prostrated because of the 8,000,000 casualties suffered in the early days of participation in the war and by the complete industrial and financial upset which prevails throughout the country.

The Shame of Peace.

The Bolsheviks were equally inadequate to Russia's needs both in their internal and their foreign policies. As the result of the latter there came the Brest-Litovsk peace, which cost the

Russia about 780,000 square kilometers of territory, with 56,000,000 inhabitants, or over 30 per cent of her entire population. She lost also about a third of her total mileage of railways, amounting to about 13,350 miles; 75 per cent of her entire iron production and 39 per cent of her total coal production.

As a result of the internal policy, complete disorganization speedily held sway. The terrorizing of the industrial class and the "workmen's control," established in the factories destroyed even the best established industrial enterprises. The impeded transportation facilities, together with the steady decrease of output of raw materials and fuel, has resulted in the cessation of work even in those industries where the workmen have been eager to continue. The portions of the country remaining since the Brest-Litovsk peace are all broken up into separate states, largely isolated from one another. Hunger rages through entire provinces, epidemics appear here and there, and the very existence of millions of persons is in daily jeopardy.

Lenin, the Betrayer of Russia.

Nicholas Lenin, called by the opponents of Bolshevism a betrayer of his country, early in the war published a paper in Switzerland, called the Social-Democrat, in which he advanced the idea that Russia must be

defeated in order to further Russia's democratic progress. In a verbal combat between him and Kerensky, at the All-Russian Congress of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, on June 22, 1917, Lenin suggested the immediate overthrow of the capitalist system as an inevitable step in ending the war. He expressed indignation at the accusation against the Bolsheviks that they desired a separate peace. "Down with separate peace!" he cried; "We will never consent to it!"

On July 25, 1917, the executive committee of the All-Russian Councils of Workmen's, Soldiers' and Peasants' Delegates adopted by overwhelming majority a resolution demanding that the Bolsheviks immediately explain the accusation which had been recently brought against them to the effect that they were in contact with Germany and that some of their leaders, including Lenin, who had escaped arrest and were in hiding, appeared for public trial before an open accusation of treachery which has gained a considerable amount of credence.

The Rule of Ruin.

In November, 1917, the Provisional Government under Kerensky was overthrown and the Bolsheviks organized their own Cabinet, with Lenin as Premier and Leon Trotsky as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

While Russia was still under Imperialistic domination Leon Trotsky had been elected president of the St. Petersburg Council of Workmen's Delegates, an important political organization, just after its former president had been arrested on revolutionary charges. On May 18, 1917, just a day after having returned from the United States, Trotsky again came to prominence by numbering among those opposing a resolution of the Petrograd Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, approving the entrance of Socialist Ministers into the Cabinet. He pointed out that their co-operation would be dangerous. "Division of power will not cease with the Socialists' entry into the Ministry," he declared. "A strong revolutionary power is necessary."

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