GERMANS REINFORCE RIGHT FLANK WITH NEW ARMY

VILLEMONTOIRE, FIVE MILES SOUTH OF SOISSONS, TAKEN

Franco-Americans Continue Grand Work Capture Important Point and Also Seize Oulchy Le Chateau, Sweeping on To Eastward of Town—Between the Ourcq and the Marne Americans Press Hard Against the Enemy's Line and Get Into La Fere Forest.

Paris, July 26—The Germans have reinforced their right flank of the Soissons-Rheims pocket, says La Liberte, with a new army commanded by General Von Eben which has been placed between the armies of General Von Hutier and Generol Von Boehm.

(Undated Day Summary By Associated Press.)

Villemontoire, a little more than five miles south of Soissons, has been taken by the French and Americans, while farther south they have captured Oulchy Le Chateau and swept on to the eastward of the town.

Between the Ourcq and the Marne the Americans are pressing hard against the enemy's line and have taken the southern half of La Fere Forest, which brings them up to about four miles directly south of the vital town of Fere-en-Tardenois, the centre of the roads leading back out of the Marne salient and through which the German forces along the southwestern sectors of the line must retreat. His forces, farther southeast toward the Marne, is also being emptied of the Germans.

Menacing to Germans

The capture of Ville Montoire and Oulchy le Chateau seems to show that General Mangin, while keeping up his pressure all along the German lines is beginning to concentrate large forces at vital points, the loss of which is menacing to the Germans. Bussancy, northeast of Ville Montoire has been reported unofficially to have been taken by the Allies. Its capture marks a new step in the process of closing the mouth of the bag.

The fall of Oulchy le Chateau takes from the Germans the pivot upon which their retirement farther south has been swinging. Its loss to the enemy who defended, is a serious blow.

Dominating Height

The French official statement says that the Allies have advanced eastward of this town, which should bring them to the vicinity of Hill 150, which is the dominating height in that region and which would give the Allies an observation point over long reaches of the Ourcq, as well as both banks of that stream.

There is nothing known as to British progress on the line from Gueux and Mery Pemocy, west of Rheims. The reported rapid advance of the British there, however, would seem to suggest that there was plenty of power behind their thrust and that their progress should continue. On the whole, the German retirement from the Marne salient appears to be going forward. This is quite evident on the western side of the salient, but to the southwest of Rheims, toward the Marne nothing has been reported as to enemy withdrawal.

HOW HUN HIGH COMMAND HELD UP RETREAT ON AISNE AND MARNE

Rupprecht Sent Half Million Men To Soissons-Marne Region—Decision Taken By Von Ludendorff While Americans Made Showing, Hun Commander Deeming It Unwise To Make Attack.

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

With the French Armies, July 26—How the German higher command intervened suddenly on July 21, holding between five and six hundred thousand troops in the Soissons-Marne-Rheims salient instead of evacuating this highly dangerous ground precipitately under allied pressure was learned by the correspondent today.

The decision was taken while the troops were in full retreat from the southern end of the salient and it changed the entire character of the battle. The Germans crossed the Marne on July 15 on a wide front and penetrated southward a short distance against Franco-American resistance. The troops carried three days' rations with them, expecting reinforcements from the north bank almost immediately.

In Predicament.

Instead the constant bombing of their bridges by the Allies' cannon-fire placed them in a serious predicament without supplies of all kinds after three days of fighting. The morning of the 19th the big allied counter-offensive was launched from the Aisne to the Marne, impending the safety of those on the south bank. A retreat was ordered and carried out last Saturday.

Sunday morning at three o'clock the masses of heavy German guns on the north bank which had been pounding the allied lines on the south bank suddenly ceased firing. Airplane observation at daybreak showed the enemy troops and guns flowing along northward in a general retreat.

Allied troops advancing from the west, north of Chateau Thierry, forged ahead rapidly, their progress being opposed only by the enemy's guards. Chateau Thierry, outflanked on the north, fell. The allied advance along the entire line was deep. Some elements of both French and American troops bridged the Marne and crossed the south bank. Then early Monday morning as suddenly as the retreat began the German resistance stiffened. The heavy guns were hurriedly placed in position and again began firing. The allied bridges over the Marne were destroyed. The enemy counter-attacks at many points on the line indicated the complete switch in the German plans.

Allies Advance.

Since Monday the allied advance, as Standard readers are aware, has made smaller daily progress against severe resistance. Fresh enemy divisions have appeared though the allied guns are able to hurl shells from three sides into the salient, blasting provision centres, troop formations, and convoys alike, at the same time harassing almost the entire area of the salient constantly from the air.

Enemy troops, fighting under such conditions since Monday, slowly giving way before the allied advance, have suffered terribly, mostly in dead and wounded. Some of the prisoners still being taken are identified as belonging to units which retreated from the south bank of the Marne almost a week ago. They unanimously admit suffering horribly. Their morale is at a low ebb.

Huns Fight Hard.

French experts on strategy, who are astonished to see the enemy holding with such tenacity to ground which cannot possibly be held long under the conditions in which the Germans find themselves and who have been searching for the answer to this defiance of all rules of military science, have now discovered the answer.

The higher command ordered it, figuratively kicking the retreating troops Monday back into the firing lines and demanding that they hold. They unable to do it, are suffering the consequences.

Near Fere-En-Tardenois.

French troops south of the Ourcq today are approaching Fere-en-Tardenois, the nerve centre of the German supply system for the entire Soissons-Marne-Rheims salient. A few miles directly south of this town American troops early today were biting deeper into the forest of Le Fere on the eastern side of which lies the main highway from Fere-en-Tardenois to Jaulgonne on the Marne.

The forest east ending from the river six miles to the northward is there separated by Hill 228 from the Bois De La Tournelel on the west. Both the wooded regions are full of nests of German machine guns. The enemy's system of retreat involves first the evacuation from the territory to the abandonment of supplies and cannon and then the leaving of hundreds of rear-guard machine guns to retard the Allies' advance.

Accompanied by tanks which now are dealing with machine guns wherever found the Franco-American line south of the Ourcq moved forward on Thursday morning from two to three kilometres. The French pushed on from Armentieres, just south of the Ourcq, encountering resistance to the southward around the village of La Poterie and Hill 141.

It is expected that the push will be continued into the important road junction town of Coincy, crossing the railroad beyond and advancing into the outskirts of Tournelle Wood.

French Progress.

In their progression the French passed the quarter mile square Chatelet wood. capturing the village of Bracy south of Coincy and carefully leaving the wood completely surrounded behind the line. The wood contains scores of machine guns and probably hundreds of Germans who this morning are being plastered with shellfire and probably will surrender en masse.

The American portion of the line which was forced to fall back from the village of Epieds on Wednesday, brilliantly retook that village on Thursday omrning and forged on in a three kilometre advance despite the heavy resistance which was encountered in many places. Machine guns were numerous at the Moucheton Chateau and in the village of Courpmil, but both were taken and the American line is cutting into the forest of La Fere, where the battle is being continued this morning. Once the road beyond this wood is cut the enemy probably will be forced to give up his entire footing on the Marne because roads are practically non-existent in this vicinity to the eastward.

Smoke columns behind the enemy lines still denote that he is burning vast supplies which had been brought to the north bank of the Marne for the troops who crossed and then were forced to retreat. The Allies have now reconquered practically half of the lower end of the salient and it is reasonable to expect that once the enemy leaves the Marne he will retreat north probably making a stand on the lower reaches of the Ourcq. The heaviest of the enemy forces still are centered north of the Ourcq and south of Soissons and desperate resistance is being encountered on the wooded hills west of Rheims. This indicates that the Crown Prince is planning eventually to straighten his line almost across the mouth of the salient where he will seriously attempt to halt the advance.

Huns Forced Back

Though today finds the Germans in actual contact nowhere with the Marne their lines at the southern end of the salient still follow in the proximity of the stream, though they are slowly being forced back.

Activity is still intense along the river bank from the vicinity of the village of Mezy on the south bank facing Mont Saint Pere on the north bank as far as twenty miles eastward.

I watched Allied troops crossing the historic river on a new pontoon bridge that experienced one of the hottest, though most interesting hours, of the war late Thursday.

Two French officers, another American correspondent and myself passed over the ground where the American troops brilliantly counter-attacked drove the enemy back into the river from the hilly south bank just ten days ago. We arrived at a battered village just in time to be machine gunned by an enemy airplane overhead, shelled by enemy guns from over the hills, bombed by enemy planes, and watch a thrilling air battle overhead in which within half an hour a French sausage balloon and two aeroplanes were victims. The Franco-American soldier told us that this was usual now-adays. In the meantime the crackle of machine guns in the back hills where the line meets the enemy, was constant.

Six months ago some German statesmen announced that Germany was prepared to lose a million men if necessary to win the war this year, figures at my disposition today calculated with every effort to avoid exaggeration, show that Germany's approximate losses to July 25th have been a million. In addition Germany faces the necessity henceforth of filling the gaps in her various armies with seventeen year old boys and with the wounded who have recovered their health. However the figures also show that the German armies with their new defectives gap filling material still muster about 2,760,000 fighting men.

Opposing these are the French armies who despite the belief of the German general staff that they have been bled white, have born the brunt of Europe's greatest battle during the last ten days, the still intact British armies to the north, the American divisions many of whom have become wonderful fighting veterans during the last fortnight.

He added that this sentiment today is Germany's greatest defeat on the battlefield of Europe and the consequent condition of the German armies on the western front counted divisions there of between forty and fifty and the hard fighting Italian forces backed up in their ensemble by the ceaseless waves of American soldiers which are flowing into Franco-British shores by thousands daily. The sober military view is that Germany's war is irretrievably lost through tthe enemy armies, inferior in quality and weakened, will fight on until the wiser statesmen and the people clamouring for peace prevail. It can prudently be stated that the American fighters alone have now inspired popular apprehension in the German ranks which has been evidenced dozens of times in the last few week but never in a more convincing manner than by a statement which an intellectual German officer has just made to the French military authorities.

He announces that a serious setback which was to be made in June by several divisions against a sector in the region of the Ourcq though fully prepared was suddenly countermanded by the army commander when he discovered that it would be against con-

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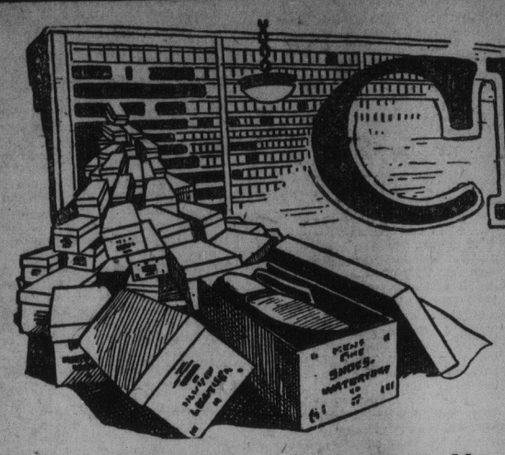

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