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DESPERATE BATTLE ON AISNE SECTOR

Allies Give Ground in South, But Line Holds and Reserves are Coming
GERMANS ADVANCE 8 MILES
Germans Claim Capture of Many Towns and 15,000 Prisoners, But Later Reports Favor the Allies
—Americans Take Cantigny in Brilliant Assault—
Italians Make Gains

The great German military machine is in full motion along the twenty mile front in the Aisne river sector between Vailly and Berry au Bac, and greatly outnumbered, the British and French are giving ground.

According to the German official communication numerous towns and villages in the fighting zone have been taken by the enemy and 15,000 Allied troops already have been made prisoner.

At the last accounts the Germans were endeavoring to press back the defenders upon the Vesle river, which runs parallel with the Aisne, and at several points had reached positions dominating the Vesle valley. The offensive is being carried out with the greatest rapidity, for the German high command evidently is well aware of the fact that Gen. Foch's reserves have been reported to be coming up rapidly to reinforce the hard pressed British and French, who are fighting valiantly against the terrible odds, and making wave upon wave of the enemy pay dearly in casualties for every foot of ground they obtain.

Allied Front Intact
Notwithstanding the rapidity of the drive and the large number of the enemy pressing it—some unofficial reports place the number of shock troops alone at twenty-five divisions, or about 300,000 picked men—the Allied front nowhere has been pierced, but under the onslaught it has bent back in perfect order and all the time giving battle.

With such precision has the retirement been conducted that both the British and French troops have been able to carry back with them all of their supplies and guns or destroy those they were not able to handle.

Eight-Mile Salient
At present it is impossible geographically to depict the extent of the German gains, but it would seem evident that the deepest salient they have driven is due east of Vailly—about eight miles.

Huns Sorely Harassed
Although the Germans, for the moment at least, seemingly are having their own way on the southern part of the line in France, or the sectors around Montdidier and southwest of Ypres they are being sorely harassed by the Americans, British and French.

American Victory
Tuesday's fighting in the vicinity of Montdidier will mark an epoch in the war, so far as the American troops are concerned. Here in an attack they captured their first village—Cantigny, which lies a short distance northwest of Montdidier. They also took several other objectives and held all of them in the face of counter attacks. The Germans suffered severe losses in men killed and wounded and in addition left behind them 200 men made prisoner, among them two officers. The American casualties were relatively small. The German official report announces the taking of American prisoners. The report

EARLY FRENCH REPORT

Battle Rages Fiercely Between Vesle and Aisne
Paris, May 28.—The Germans last night crossed the Aisne between Berry-au-Bac and Vailly, it is announced officially. The battle continues fiercely between the Vesle and Aisne rivers.

The announcement follows: "Last night about ten enemy airplanes which were flying toward Paris were reported by our lookout. An alarm was given at 10:32 P. M. and anti-aircraft batteries threw up a curtain of fire."
"Several bombs were thrown on the more remote suburbs. No enemy machine flew over Paris. The 'all clear' signal was given at 11:45 P. M."

GERMANS PUT ON NOTICE

Not to Communicate Through Red Cross Organizations
Amsterdam, May 28.—A notice appears in German newspapers giving warning against attempts to communicate by mail with Germans in America through neutral Red Cross organizations under cover of Red Cross envelopes. The notice says such letters are invariably opened by the American authorities and may give valuable information regarding conditions in Germany.

The warning does not apply to war prisoners and interned civilians.
—W-S-S—
NOT RECOGNIZED BY ALLIES
London, May 28.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, said that the diplomatic representatives of the Allies at Jassy had notified Rumania that their government could but consider as null and void the stipulations of peace forced upon Rumania, inasmuch as they violated the interests of the Allied Powers and the principles for which they were fighting.

from American headquarters shows only two Americans missing.
Huns Yield Ground
Likewise south of Ypres the enemy received hard usage at the hands of the British and French, east of Dickebusch lake, where Monday the Germans in an attack had taken ground. Starting immediately after the gain was made the British and French began counter-attacks in an endeavor to wipe out the captured salient, and Tuesday succeeded in completely nullifying the enemy's maneuver.

On Italian Front
The Italians are keeping up their offensive against the Austrians on various sectors in the mountain region and along the lower reaches of the Piave river. At Cape Sale near the Adriatic coast, the Italians penetrated the enemy lines to a depth of more than 750 yards, including numerous casualties.

Air Raid Fails
Again the Germans have endeavored to carry out an air raid over Paris. Ten of their machines succeeded in reaching the suburbs of the French capital and dropping several bombs, but the air defenses kept them from invading the city itself. The long range German guns continue to hurl projectiles into Paris.

German Frightfulness
"Frightfulness" has been carried out against American hospitals, behind the lines by German airmen. Several bombs were dropped near the hospital, but no damage was done.

London, May 28.—Field Marshal Haig's report from France tonight:
"Counter-attacks this morning by French and British troops re-established our line east of Dickebusch Lake."

The text of the official report from Field Marshal Haig tonight reads: "Counter-attacks carried out early this morning by French and British troops successfully re-established our line east of Dickebusch Lake. Several prisoners were captured in the enemy's attacks yesterday in this sector and to the south as far as Leure four German divisions are known to have been engaged."

"In the course of the fighting heavy losses were inflicted on these divisions. The Allied line has been maintained at all points."
"On the remainder of the British front there is nothing to report beyond artillery activity on both sides in the different sectors."

German Advance Stopped
Paris, May 28.—Heavy counter-attacks by the French troops stopped the German advance on the heights of Neuville-Sur-Margival and Vreigny, northeast of Soissons, and other heights dominating the valley of the Vesle river, according to the war office statement tonight. The Germans however, succeeded in crossing the Vesle in the region of Bazoches and Eismes.

Situation More Reassuring
Paris, May 28.—The situation tonight is more reassuring. The latest advices from the front show that while the violence of the enemy's effort as yet is unabated, he is only making headway on the center and that even there the German momentum is giving signs of slackening. The Allies are beginning to react with effect on the wings.

MUST RETAIN BELGIUM

Declares Admiral von Tirpitz in Address at Dusseldorf
Amsterdam, May 28.—"We must retain Belgium economically, politically and militarily," declared Admiral von Tirpitz, former German minister of marine, in an address at Dusseldorf on Sunday, as quoted in the Nachrichten, of that city.

The admiral's address was delivered before the Dusseldorf branch of the reactionary of the Fatherland party, of which he is one of the leading spirits. Speaking of Germany's requirements of the war, he said: "Neither Central Europe, the Orient nor Northern Europe can supply us with the raw materials requisite to our industries. We need to have the sea free from Anglo-Saxon tyranny for that purpose."

Apparently the admiral did not mention the submarine warfare, which was discussed at the same meeting in a highly optimistic manner by Herr Bachmeister, a Deputy in the Landtag.
—W-S-S—
PARIS-TO-LONDON AIR MAIL
Paris, May 28.—Aviators De Vienne and Lorgnat flew from Paris to London and back in a hydro-airplane yesterday in three hours and ten minutes, carrying mail.

It was the first trip in connection with an aerial postal service between England and France which is being organized.
—W-S-S—
KILLED ON AVIATION FIELD
New York, May 28.—Cadet Charles B. Passwaite, of Nobleville, Ind., was killed at the Hempstead, L. I., army aviation field today, when an airplane in which he attempted to negotiate a "tail spin" at an altitude of 2,000 feet crashed to the ground.

GERMANS STRIKING HARD BEFORE U. S. GETS MEN OVER

Trying to Break Through Before U. S. is Ready
AS WASHINGTON VIEWS IT

American Military Men Believe Attacks Yesterday Are Only Preliminary Moves

Washington, May 27.—Germany apparently has launched another desperate attempt to smash her way through the Allied armies to victory before American troops can reach the battlefields of France and Flanders in great force.

Associated Press reports from the British and French fronts telling of the new assaults which may mean that the supreme test of power is at hand, were conveyed to President Wilson just as he was leaving the White House for the capitol to ask Congress for legislation to provide more money for the war. The President, emphasized his request by telling the House and Senate in joint session that the great enemy offensive apparently had been resumed.

Brief Conference
Later Mr. Wilson went to the State War and Navy building for brief conferences with Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels. It was taken for granted that the primary object of the visit was to seek official news from the battlefield, and while there were reports that the President discussed other phases of the world situation with the department heads, they were not given the slightest confirmation in official quarters.

No official information had come to supplement the press dispatches from the front.
Preliminary Moves
Army officials studied the press accounts closely for signs of the German purpose. The fact that on a blow was launched at the southern end of the Picardy-Flanders battle line and the other at almost the extreme north end of the 200-mile front, was taken as direct evidence that today's attacks were only preliminary moves in the German strategic designs.

Extension of the active battle front to the Aisne sector on the south would mean adding forty or fifty miles to the fighting lines at a time when the German army needs every unit it can get together in centralized positions within the wide salient driven into the Allied lines by the first rush. Officials here agree with the French critics that the most probable place for the renewal of the drive to develop would be in the Albert sector of the Amiens front. An advance there would menace Paris and the channel ports.

Explanation of Delay
An explanation of the long delay of the Germans in renewing the offensive has been found in the forty-mile stretch of shell-torn roads over which they had to move up guns and ammunition before they could resume pressure of the Amiens line with massed power. Many officers thought tonight's extension of the offensive to the Aisne theater was merely a feint preparatory to a later attack in the Albert region, or near Amiens, the point of maximum penetration, and where American units now block the road with British and French comrades. It was pointed out the long sweep of the French line from Montdidier southeast to Pinon, the northern flank of the new German thrust, had constituted a great menace to the whole German position in the Picardy sector.

Others contended that the new blow was struck directly at Paris and the long range gun brought into action against that city again in order to force Gen. Foch, supreme commander to mass reserves on that side.

From the French point of view the road to Paris must be defended at all costs. The British, of course, attach supreme importance to the channel ports. The new German thrusts appeared to be cunningly planned to exert the greatest popular pressure on the Allied leaders to draw their reserve strength to the south and north, gradually weakening the line in the center. The center is north of Amiens probably, from a military standpoint, around Albert. Some observers are convinced that if the blows to the north and south prove effective for a few days, compelling reinforcements of both lines, the situation will change overnight at the psychological moment and the real weight of Germany might be hurled at the weakened center.

—W-S-S—
NOT TRUE, SAYS PRIEST
Refutes Charge of Sinn Fein Conspiracy with Huns

Dublin, May 27.—The Rev. Malachi MacBranan has given out the following signed statement:
"As a priest and a member of the Sinn Fein executive for the past year, I give you my word of honor that the government's official statement that negotiations have been carried on between the Sinn Fein executive and Germany is a falsehood and that a German invasion was never discussed by the Sinn Fein executive committee."

MILITARY CRITICS ARE MUCH PUZZLED

Unable to Decide What German Objective Is
MAY BE THRUST FOR PARIS
Or Same Old Effort to Crush British and Split Allied Line

Washington, May 28.—Military men here are without sufficient information about the new German drive on the Aisne front to form conclusive views as to what developments are to be expected. In spite of the wide front of attack and the large forces used by the enemy there still was doubt in the minds of most officers tonight whether a real thrust toward Paris by a new route was in progress, or whether the blow is only a bloody strategic move to pave the way for later renewal of the effort to crush the British army and split the allied line near Amiens.

On the basis of accounts so far received the opinion prevailed that no substantial success had yet awarded the German effort. In the north, around Loere, he has evidently suffered a complete repulse.

Reports Unsatisfactory
It was admitted however, that reports from the Aisne front in the south were unsatisfactory in that they showed little or nothing of what is transpiring beyond the fact that a crossing of the Aisne had been forced by the Germans. Where great caution and a few words of any positive nature mark the official communication, observers here have been led by experience to fear that greater inroads than are announced have been made by the enemy.

The good results of unified command under Gen. Foch, officers here believe, already are to be shown in the new operations, in striking contrast to the confusion in the Allied ranks that followed the original attack begun March 21. There are as yet no reports tending to show the new attack has been attended by any developments for which Gen. Foch had not been prepared in advance.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S IMMENSE TASK.

South Carolina has at last reached the million dollar mark in the sales of War Savings Stamps. This figure was reached about May 1. It marks an important stage of the War Savings campaign in this state, and the South Carolina War Savings Committee feels that now is the time when the people of this state should become deeply impressed with the magnitude of the War Savings problem that confronts South Carolina.

In the Third Liberty Loan, South Carolina's quota was nearly \$15,000,000, of the national quota of three billions of dollars. IN THE WAR SAVINGS CAMPAIGN THE NATIONAL QUOTA IS TWO BILLION DOLLARS, AND YET THIS STATE MUST RAISE \$32,000,000—twice the amount allotted in the Liberty Loan. The Liberty Loan quota was based on the state's bank resources; the War Savings quota is based on the population, and during the year an average of \$20 for each individual is expected to be invested in War Savings Stamps. When it is realized that no one individual can invest in over \$1,000 worth, the magnitude of the campaign becomes evident. For the state to succeed, it means that practically every man, woman, and child must save during the year, and lend the savings to the Government.

Four months have passed and South Carolina has purchased only one million dollars' worth of the stamps—only one thirty-second of the state's quota. Unless South Carolina purchases an average of four million dollars' worth monthly during the remaining months of the year, the campaign will fail—and South Carolina will be branded as a slacker state. South Carolina, which has freely given its men, will be known as a state which failed to lend money at good interest to back up those fighting men, who are leaving for the battle front with the confident assurance that the home people will stand by them. Let us save for them, so that their confidence will be justified.

We know that the people of this state can save thirty-two million dollars and lend it to the Government. We know they want to. We believe they will—but not unless every man, woman, and child saves regularly, often, and conscientiously, and invests the money saved in War Savings Stamps, which bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, compounded quarterly. Our people must practice thrift—must dispense with the lavish purchase of non-essentials and lend the money instead to the government. That means saving for victory, for humanity, for everything that we hold dear.

Signs are encouraging. The first million dollars' worth of stamps have been sold, half of which were sold within the last six weeks. During the past two months the weekly sales have been increasing substantially, and this increase must continue. Those who have not started saving in this way should start without delay, while others should add constantly to their war savings certificates. The Government of the United States relies on the War Savings movement as one of the most powerful weapons it can wield against Germany, and South Carolina must help build the weapon. You are not asked to GIVE—merely to LEND—lend at liberal interest and on the strongest security the world knows.

Don't let South Carolina be known as a slacker state. Buy, Think, and Talk War Savings Stamps—invest in them to the limit of your resources. It is a duty that only slackers will evade. Since as little as 25c can start a person buying war Savings Stamps, there can be no excuse for any loyal American not investing. Save—save for victory, for America, for South Carolina, for yourself, for all that free people hold dear.

LOCAL RED CROSS LEADS AMERICA

It is with a feeling of pride in the county that I submit the final report of the Second War Fund Campaign. The fund amounts to \$42,500—four times our allotment, with \$500 over. This is a record which, I am sure, has not been exceeded by any community in the United States. It is material evidence that the people of Clarendon "are of one spirit, purpose and determination with our warriors."

To mention the part of the county which has stood out by reason of its good work and generous contributions would be simply to say "Clarendon," for there is no community which has excelled the others. True, some localities may have given more than others, but they had a greater population and larger wealth. Everywhere our people have subscribed liberally, in accordance with their means, which is the true measure of giving. Nor

has there been any distinction as to race or color, for the colored people of the county have reason to be proud of the splendid way in which they have responded to the call.

Each and every worker in the campaign has done his best, working early and late, and neglecting his business in many instances, so that everyone in the county could have an opportunity to subscribe. To each of them a large measure of praise and thanks is due.

It has been a source of inspiration to your chairman to take part in this noble work, for everywhere the call has met with such a generous response and such unflinching loyalty and sympathy that I have felt that the "day of righteousness and justice and peace" of which our President speaks, must be nearer.

E. C. HORTON,
Chairman.

THE PRISON CAMP INQUIRY

Germany States How Prisoners May be Interviewed

Washington, May 28.—In response to this government's inquiry regarding regulations in German prison camps, Germany has replied through the Spanish embassy in Berlin that prisoners may be interviewed by inspectors without presence of witnesses, if previous notice of inspection has been given; otherwise witnesses must be present.

HUNS LOSE MANY PLANES

London, May 28.—Fifteen German airplanes have been destroyed by British aviators and three others driven down out of control, according to the British official communication on aviation issued tonight. The communication says also that five tons of bombs have been dropped on the Mannheim-Metz railroad station.

FRENCH CRITICS BELIEVE THIS TO BE MAIN DRIVE

French Critics No Longer Consider it Diversion

HUNS TAKE STRONG POSTS
Initial Efforts of Crown Prince Unfortunately Resulted in Some Notable Advantages

Paris, May 28.—The military critics now consider that the idea that the German offensive launched yesterday between Soissons and Rheims is a diversion must be abandoned, since the movement has developed into a great battle along a thirty-mile front.

The enemy's initial effort, says The Temps, having unfortunately obtained for the troops of the German Crown Prince some notable advantages, as they succeeded in carrying back the Franco-British contingents from the Ailette to the Aisne. The enemy command has at once made every effort to exploit the success.

Huns Paid Dear
The results of the first day of the long expected German offensive are considered in competent French quarters as satisfactory. By paying the price, it is contended, it was inevitable that the enemy could gain ground. After the terrific struggle throughout the day of yesterday the Germans, at a ruinous cost, advanced at the farthest point three and a half miles.

Enough for Cemetery
Military officials say the enemy has won enough ground to bury his dead and that is all. At no point has the Entente Allied Line been pierced. In close contact with the foe, it has moved back step by step, according to schedule, giving Gen. Foch all the time he needs to place his reserves—those reserves whose whereabouts is an anxious mystery to the Germans—just where he wants them.

Opinion Divided
Military opinion is divided as to whether the German drive on the Aisne front is an effort to break thru at Soissons and make a dash for Paris by way of Villers-Cotterets, or whether it is a maneuver preliminary to and for the purpose of concealing the eventual main attack against Amiens.

Sums Up Situation
The military critic of The Temps sums up the situation as follows: "The enemy, who had a carefully prepared plan, who had chosen the hour for its execution, and who had his reserves ready to strike where they could be employed most effectively, engaged Monday evening with fresh forces, which were in highly superior number to those with which we opposed him."

The Aisne Crossed
"The enemy in consequence of this has succeeded in crossing the Aisne between Vailly and Berry-Au-Bac, on a front of about twenty miles. The Franco-British forces withdrew to the valley of the Vesle, which flows some six miles south of the Aisne, in the region of the plateau, behind which our reserves are arriving."

Henry Bidou, the military critic of The Journal Des Debats, says the enemy began the offensive with some thirty divisions.
"He had enormous numerical superiority," M. Bidou continues. "Against these the Allied front was held by a few French divisions, and on the right in Champagne by a small number of exhausted British divisions."
M. Bidou calculates that the Germans had from ninety to 100 divisions for use in the battle, of which they employed one-third for the initial shock.

BRITISH CASUALTY LIST

London, May 27.—British casualties reported in the week ended today reached a total of 33,694. They are divided as follows:
Killed or died of wounds: officers, 168; men, 3,527. Wounded or missing: Officers, 735; men, 29,264.

The total for last week was 36,677 or the week before, 41,612, the largest of any week since the beginning of the German offensive. The falling off in the totals reflects the lull in the fighting between the attack which ended in April and the one now beginning.

