

UPSET GERMAN PLANS

GERMANS NOW DETERMINED TO WIN LIMITED OBJECTIVES.

Weekly Review of War.—Expected to Remain Uncertain for Some Time, Says War Department.

Washington, April 7.—French and British tenacity have upset the ambitious plans of the German high command for the battle of Picardy, says the War Department's weekly military review tonight, and now the enemy, determined to gain some sort of success at any cost, is throwing fresh forces into the battle in an effort to secure limited objectives. Because of this, the situation is expected to remain uncertain for some time.

General improvement in the strategic position of the Allies is noted, and the review declares that under Gen. Foch the Allied military machine is working smoothly and efficiently in stemming the German assault.

No Mention of Americans.
There is no mention whatever of the American troops reported hurrying to the front to join the British and French, though the department again mentions that several American troop sections have taken an active part in the battle and that the American air service is cooperating with the British.

At the opening of the third week of the German offensive we find that the enemy is still far short of attaining his principal objectives, says the review.

"It is now evident that the German high command contemplated overwhelming the British at the outset, between the Oise and the Senne and driving a wedge into the Franco-British forces.

Expected Decision.
The enemy fully expected to accomplish a decision in the field in the course of one great battle. The success of this plan depended on being able to obtain a break-through of the British front and advance so rapidly that neither the French nor the British reserves could come up in time to close up the breach in the line and restore the order of battle.

"Evidence of prisoners tends to confirm that the enemy hoped to gain the line of the Somme by the evening of the first day of the offensive. As a matter of fact it took the Germans ten days. The stubbornness of British compelled the Germans to draw more heavily on their own reserves.

"The German high command is now throwing fresh forces into the battle in an effort to secure some of its more limited objectives.

"Under the leadership of Gen. Foch the Allied military machine is functioning with precise smoothness. The morale of the Allied troops remains high.

"The German offensive has not spent itself; the situation will continue uncertain for some time to come. However, the general strategic and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favorable.

"After a period of relative calm early in the week, during which the enemy was busy bringing up his heavy guns, another powerful attack was launched along the line now held by the French, stretching from the Amiens-Roye road to Grivesnes. The enemy was able to make slight headway. Fierce fighting continues and hostile units have penetrated westward to within five miles of the main line of the Paris-Amiens railroad.

"Allied forces are massed to check the invaders in this area. The French have extended their lines northward.

"There has been relatively less activity north of the Somme, though the Germans have made a number of serious attempts to encircle Arras. All attacks in this sector have been beaten off by the British.

"Allied aircraft has been particularly active throughout the week not only in maintaining superiority in the air and keeping the skies clear of hostile craft, but more especially in bombing enemy dumps, convoys, trains and rail heads. British escadrilles did fine work in dispersing German units going into action with machine guns.

"A number of American transport sections have taken an active part in the battle and the American aviation service is cooperating with the British.

"There was no unusual activity along other sectors in the west.

"Our own forces engaged have been relatively busy. Under the cover of a heavy barrage, the enemy raided one of our outposts in the Woivre area and the increase of artillery activity is noted in this sector.

"Our troop units have taken up a new position in the line and are occupying well prepared entrenchments along the Meuse hills south of Verdun.

Italian Theatre.
In the Italian theatre there has been an increase in hostile activity. Lively shelling took place along the Asiago plateau. Italian batteries effectively broke up enemy parties in various areas.

"Reports continue to be received indicating that the enemy contemplates launching an offensive thrust. The Austrian armies, with the exception of a few units operating in the Ukraine or in the western area, are now in the Italian theatre. It is possible that the enemy will initiate an offensive along a broad front.

"The Secretary of War has concluded a visit to the Italian front.

"In the eastern theatre various local conflicts took place. In the Arctic region the Bolsheviks are preparing to defend the ice-free port of Kola and the Murmansk coast, to the Finno-German forces which are believed to be advancing.

In Finland.

"In Finland the red guards have suffered reverses at the hands of the white guards who are assisted by the Germans. A large additional force of Germans has landed at Hanko and it would appear that a serious effort is being made by the enemy to gain a firm foothold in Finland. In Ukraine the Germans continue to advance and the occupation of various centers is reported."

Letter From Abroad.

Lt. D. Graham Copeland, who a few weeks ago sailed from America for service abroad, writes from England his experiences during his stay in the land of the Briton. The letter was written from London on February 20, and reached Bamberg a few days ago. Lt. Copeland's address is as follows: "Civil Engineer D. G. Copeland, U. S. Navy, American Expeditionary Forces Abroad." Portions of the letter follow:

"My trip across was not at all pleasant—in fact it was very, very, disagreeable; disagreeably cold, and although I was not sea sick, I felt so rotten as not to be able to do anything. It was quite an experience through, especially when we reached the war zone. I can't say that I liked that part of the voyage at all. One feels so absolutely helpless. Anyone with the least stamina can face the roughest kind of fight without fear, but this thing of knowing that dozens of 'Hun's sharks' are all around and may get in a shot at you any minute without you even seeing them is, to say the least of it, a bit disconcerting. You go to bed with the thought that possibly the second you go to sleep a torpedo will wake you up; you take a bath and at least hope you will be able to dress before the torpedo strikes. And so it goes—an unforeseen foe with most powerful engines of destruction against you and practically helpless to help yourself.

"So I say it was a bit tense and we all hailed with delight the appearance of an American convoy who skillfully piloted us through 'Boche' mine fields and guarded us against submarines, finally taking us into Liverpool all safe and sound and quite happy.

Liverpool is a city of about a million inhabitants, and quite unlike our cities. From what I've heard, it must resemble Pittsburg for the buildings are fearfully dirty. Everything black and smoked. An army officer whom I met on board secured a machine and took me over the city. Visited the parks which were pretty and green and largely given over to the cultivation of vegetables. Food is somewhat scarce, that is compared to the conditions in the States. You can get plenty but cannot "gorge" yourself. Meatless and wheatless days are rigorously observed. Butter is scarce and there is no sugar at all. For breakfast one morning in Liverpool, I asked for oatmeal, which was served without sugar. I told the waiter to take it out, and a British officer sitting at the next table offered me a teaspoonful from a small bag he was carrying in his pocket.

"The climate over here is not unlike ours. Temperature at present is about 45 degrees, which isn't bad except there are no fires at all. You may imagine how rather unpleasant it is to stay indoors when I tell you that every morning while dressing I can 'see my breath!'

"The trains are fine and service excellent, though the cost is great. However, the government pays for it. Arrived in London day before yesterday and expect to move on tomorrow. Expect to have very pleasant duty, though I cannot say much about it. London, like Liverpool, is fearfully dirty, and, in addition, full of fog. Day and night are very similar on account of lack of light. Fog keeps light away by day and street lights and window illumination are shaded by night on account of air raids, keeps everything in darkness. The streets are extremely busy and full of people. There are no street cars and street travel is by bus and taxi. There are only a few of the latter, however, as everything has been taken over and utilized in the war. Gasoline is \$1.50 a gallon and it is not furnished to private cars at all.

"The people here have given up everything for the war, and America doesn't know any hardships yet. I hope the war will be over before it strikes home in the States, but rather fear that it will not.

"Haven't seen many of the sights yet as I have been occupied every minute. Went through Westminster Abbey yesterday and enjoyed the trip very much. It is a magnificent building and full of wonders. If I stay longer I want to take in the Tower of London and many other of the great show places. Attended the theatre and saw Ellen Terry in a scene from the 'Merchant of Venice.' It was wonderfully good and she was encored and encored. Instead of flowers, she was presented with a basket of eggs (which are extremely scarce) and a basket of fresh vegetables!"

Lieut. Copeland ends his letter with a request for some sugar to be expedited to him, and in accordance with this request Mr. J. D. Copeland, Jr., sent him a small parcel (the postal laws limits the amount to only a few pounds) by return mail, which will doubtless be received with relish, as sugar is not obtainable there at all.

Peace Talk

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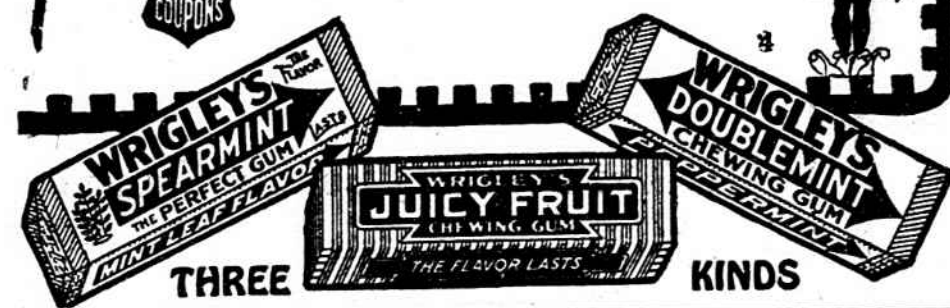
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