

HELP HAIG HOLD CRITICAL POINT

Pershing's Recruits to See Service With Tommies In Vital Sector Defending Channel Ports.

BRITONS ARE CONFIDENT

Believe Coming Battle Will Be Turning Point In Favor of Allies—Artillery Duel Still Rages.

By Associated Press.

With the American Army in France, May 18.—Troops of the new American army have arrived within the zone of the British forces in northern France and are now completing their training in the area occupied by the troops which are blocking the path of the Germans to the channel ports.

Their commander already has commanded American forces in the trenches on the French front.

The British officers and men who are training the new force say the Americans are the finest material and are certain to give a most excellent account of themselves.

British troops greeted the Americans not only as comrades in arms but as warm friends. On arriving within the British zone they were cheered lustily by the sons of Britain, many of whom bore unmistakable signs of battle. They had not seen the Americans before, but they knew they were coming.

The last stages of their training before entering the line were begun almost as soon as they reached their destinations. From that point they could hear the rumble of the not distant guns.

How long the American troops have been with the British, when the news that they are making their presence felt along the line may be expected, and where the homes of the men are cannot be disclosed.

Washington, May 18.—The American troops referred to as "the new American army" in dispatches today reporting their arrival in the zone of British operations in France, are the forces being brigaded and trained with the British, probably on the Flanders battle front.

They are not troops detached from General Pershing's present forces, but are part of the new movement of troops from the United States forecast by Premier Lloyd-George some time ago.

So far as is known, these Americans are the first troops to get into the fighting zone as units brigaded with the British. They are part of the force which has been dispatched from the United States in the new movement of troops forecast after the German offensive was started in March.

It is not improbable that there will be a renewal of the German thrust in the Flanders area shortly, either as a separate operation or in conjunction with a reopening of the offensive on a great scale all along the battle line.

The German guns have been persistently active all around the Lys salient, where the enemy's wedge protrudes toward Hazebrouck, the railway junction which is the key to the transportation system in this whole area and an increase in the intensity of the bombardment there is reported by the London war office today.

On the Somme front the chief activity continues to manifest itself in the vicinity of the railroads, where the German salient in Picardy has its tip.

The French have been putting into the German advanced line here recently and the guns of the opposing artillery forces are again hammering hard at each other's positions, as if in preparation for some new movement by one side or the other.

Except for raiding operations there have been no infantry actions on either of the battle fronts. The air forces have been extremely busy however, and incidentally the Americans are showing effective work in this branch of the fighting service.

AWAIT NEXT HUN MOVE.

By Associated Press.

With the British Army in France, (Thursday), May 16.—The allies are still waiting for Field Marshal von Hindenburg to show his hand. No more magnificent weather could be imagined than has favored the western front in the last 48 hours, and even this has brought no change in the military situation.

The Germans continue to remain comparatively inactive in their sun baked defenses, and were it not for the grumbling of the guns, the clouds of dust along the lines of transport and the flight of airplanes winging their way across the battle zone, it would be hard to realize that a war was going on.

Notwithstanding this, there has been no relaxation of the tension which has existed along the front for many days. It is realized that the enemy may strike at any time. Certainly no one doubts that an ambitious offensive is in preparation, and the time necessary to complete the plans must have about run its course.

The delay is in itself an added indication that the next German push will be one of great magnitude and fierceness. This next battle may easily be the crucial one, for the Germans undoubtedly will attempt once more to smash entirely through the allied lines.

Supreme Test Near.

If the Germans again fail to achieve their aims and all along this front there is confidence that they will—the defending forces will feel easy once more, for they believe that if the enemy cannot break through this time he will have played his last high trump. If he is held again it will be the beginning of the end for the central powers, military experts say.

In this connection, the assistance of America fast coming to the rescue is emphasized. It is felt that with steadily growing man power the allies will be able to resume the offensive and reclaim the land overrun by the invaders. Dependence is being placed on the war industries board and General Pershing, who holds the balance of power and the prospects are being discussed eagerly throughout the length of the line. Everywhere there is the greatest confidence in America on the part of allied officers and men.

As the correspondence of the Associated Press travels up and down the front he is besieged constantly by friendly inquiries as to how American preparations are coming along. Sometimes there is a certain anxiety expressed to be sure, but there is no impatience. Officers are loud in their praise of the work they understand already has been accomplished by America. Such troops as have been

Lost--One Building; Chicago Policemen Are on Trail of It

Chicago, May 18.—Chicago policemen, who think nothing of searching for lost children, dogs, cats, pigeons and almost every other kind of human or animal or article, were mystified tonight when they received a request to search for a "lost" three story brick building.

According to the owner, Joseph Johan, of Spring Lake, Mich., the building "mysteriously vanished" after February 15, 1917, when he purchased it from his mother's law. A broken leg, Johan declared, kept him from coming to inspect his property until today and when he arrived he found the building had disappeared so he reported it to the police.

Failure of Johan to have the transfer of the sale recorded, the police believe, resulted in the building being wrecked when the appraisers could not locate the owner.

seen from the United States have pleased the veterans immensely for the overseas recruits shape up well. It is felt that with an army of such material, victory is certain, for the allies will hold the Germans until that army gets into action.

AIR FIGHTING INCREASES.

London, May 18.—In spite of determined opposition by German airplanes, British aviators on Thursday dropped bombs on factories and the railway station at Saarbrücken, in German Lorraine, starting a fire on the railway. After bombing the town, the Britishers turned on the enemy and in aerial fighting, says an official statement on aerial activities issued last midnight, One of the British airplanes was lost.

In intense aerial fighting on the western front Wednesday 3 German airplanes were accounted for by British aviators, while 11 British machines are reported missing.

WAR COMMUNIQUES

London, May 18.—The German artillery fire is increasingly active from Locon to Hinges, along the western side of the Flanders salient and between the forest of Nieppe and Meteren on the southern side of the salient, the war office announces.

"A hostile raiding party was repulsed last night in the neighborhood of Moyenneville, south of Arras.

"There was great artillery activity on both sides during the night in the Pacaud wood sector north of Hinges. The British artillery also has shown increased activity between Locon and Hinges and from the forest of Nieppe to Meteren."

Paris, May 18.—"Americans are fighting in the region of Hailles, southeast of Amiens is reported in today's official statement.

The announcement follows:

During the night there was a violent bombardment in the region of Hailles. Near Mesnil-St Georges we repulsed a German raid and took prisoners.

"South of Samy-Sur-Matz (southeast of Mont Didier) French detachments penetrated the German lines at two points, bringing back 40 prisoners, including an officer.

"On the southern bank of the Oise German attacks on small French posts in the sector of Varennes, were broken up by our fire.

"Elsewhere the night passed quiet."

SMUTS IS OPTIMISTIC.

May 18.—Ideal flying weather yesterday coming by the thousands, by the tens of thousands, I might say, by the hundreds of thousands, every month, and therefore there is no doubt about the result," General Smuts, of the British army, declared in an address here today.

"The French have been putting into the German advanced line here recently and the guns of the opposing artillery forces are again hammering hard at each other's positions, as if in preparation for some new movement by one side or the other.

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