



THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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THE WEATHER—

For Nebraska—Fair today and Sunday; slightly cooler.

Hourly Temperatures table with columns for time and temperature.

GERMAN FRONT SHATTERED; SOISSONS TAKEN BY FRENCH

U. S. TROOPS HOT ON TRAIL OF HUNS WHO FLEE IN NIGHT

Retreat Marked by Sharp Encounters at Few Places; Cramaille, Cramoiselle and Saponay Occupied; Fires Tell of Destruction of Huge Ammunition Dumps by Germans.

BULLETIN.

Washington, Aug. 2.—American troops pursuing the enemy, whose forces on the Soissons-Rheims front began to fall back this morning, have penetrated to a depth of five miles and their progress is continuing.

By Associated Press.

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, Aug. 2.—The French and American troops north of Fere-en-Tardenois advanced simultaneously early Friday, the French occupying Cramaille and Cramoiselle before 7 o'clock, and French infantrymen entering Saponay at 8 o'clock.

The Americans meantime kept pace with the French through the forest of Nesles.

Several locomotives and 40 railroad cars were taken at Saponay.

The allies advanced under barrage, the Germans withdrawing northward through the valley stretching from Saponay, feebly replying at intervals with artillery.

There were many fires behind the line, the Germans having destroyed munition dumps before starting northward. The allies in this district encountered virtually no resistance.

The French tonight are sleeping in Saponay for the first time in two months.

Hard Blows Planned.

Plans have been made to strike hard blows against the resisting German rear, but the German war council evidently had decided that the time was inappropriate to fight, for when the allies moved forward it was only to follow upon the trail of the retreating enemy.

At a few places there were sharp encounters, but they were nothing as compared with the terrible engagements that previously had been fought or what was expected.

The French cavalry operated near Dravegny, about two and a half miles north of Coulouges, with the American infantry close behind, while another detachment of mounted French troops opened the way a short distance to the west with French infantry and American foot troops close up.

The penetration by the French and Americans to the region of Dravegny, would place them only a scant eight miles southeast of Fismes, on the railroad line between Soissons and Rheims.

To the westward the French reached the southern borders of the Loupigne, Mareuil and Aiguizy woods, and the French cavalry to the southern borders of the Moines wood.

Americans Move Cautiously. Occasional bursts of machine gun fire challenged the advancing line, but it was apparent early in the movement that the Germans had gone. The stiffest fighting encountered by the Americans was in a little piece of ground southeast of Chamery, where, according to the German newspapers, the body of Lt. Quentin Roosevelt was buried after his airplane had been brought down early in the present operations.

Through wheat fields and over wooded trails soaked with the rain that fell almost all day, the Americans moved slowly and cautiously, but almost continuously, over farms and past villages, among them Coulouges and Colhan. To the westward another force of Americans also was moving steadily through and around the Nesles woods and the rolling country east of the woods. To both the east and west of that part of the line held by the Americans the French were meeting with similar success.

Few prisoners were taken during the day. One, a captain, admitted the German artillery had been withdrawn. His story confirmed tales of other prisoners that the Germans were determined to make their next big stand on the Vesle, and not the Ardre, and that their movements under way indicated the fortifying of Fismes as the center of the next fixed line of battle.

With only a slight advance in addition to that of today the heavy guns of the allies will be in position to shell Fismes and any part of the line the Germans may determine to stand on could be made uncomfortable.

Edward A. Rumely

Life Story of Man Who Bought New York Mail for the Kaiser on Page 13 of This Issue.

TEUTONS HUSTLED IN RETREAT BY THREE VICTORIOUS ARMIES

Whole Chaudun Plateau Abandoned to Allies Who Have Crossed Valley of Crise; Enemy Completely Destroys Country Evacuated.

By the Associated Press.

With the American Army in France, Aug. 2.—Soissons has been retaken and the valley of the Crise has been crossed.

The allied line this evening runs from Pommiers to Soissons, thence to Belleau, the valley of the Crise, Chacrise and Arcy-St. Restitue through the center of the forest of Nesles to the village of the same name and through the center of the forest of Rheims to Lagery, Lheryd and Tramery. North of the last named three places French cavalry has advanced about another mile to the Bois Le Moine and Treslon. Broulitt is still in the enemy's hands in flames, and further east, near Rheims, Thillois has been retaken.

The day was one of continued success for the armies of Generals Mangin, De Goutte and Berthelot. All along the line the Germans have been forced to hurry their retreat, especially on the west and center of the salient.

Entire Country Devastated.

The enemy is completely devastating the country as he retreats, carrying out the settled German policy.

The Germans are in retreat on all sides of the salient between the Aisne and the Marne. On the west the French and British troops, continuing their push of Thursday, have reached the valley of the Crise, a little river which joins the Aisne at Soissons.

The Germans, therefore, have abandoned the whole of the Chaudun plateau between the Coevres and Crise valleys.

This ground has been a desperately disputed battle field for weeks. It had been swept by the German heavy guns from the north of the line and from the east and probably was the hottest sector of the whole battle front.

Cavalry Reaches Nesles Forest.

In the center the French cavalry are in the big woods called the Forest De Nesles, a mile northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois. On the allied left the troops are in touch with the forests of the Ardre, two miles north of Villers Agron.

The Germans, disregarding the military considerations which counseled frank acceptance of defeat and rapid retreat many days ago in order to spare their men for a new attempt, have been obliged to accept the inevitable and are falling back, probably to the Vesle river.

The German crown prince's offensive on the Marne has failed as signally as that of von Kluck in 1914, and the last word is with the allies.

Victory Or Destruction.

A copy of the Berlin Tageblatt received behind the French line contains the following article written recently by Herr Hegeler, its war correspondent: "From the strategical point of view, the seven days' battle has been a complete failure. Nevertheless success has been gained which I can register today. A new part of France has been laid waste. Everywhere are ruined towns, villages and farms. Fires light up the nights and all day thick clouds of smoke, caused by violent explosions, float over the ravaged corn fields and destroyed forests."

GUNNER DEPEW.

His story of experiences is stirring the folks back home—a stirring appeal for those who cannot wear the fighter's uniform, but who can surely wear the fighter's spirit for home sacrifices. He is telling his story to fulfill his promise to the starving prisoners in the hell holes of German prison camps—there's more Americans there now than then. It won't cost a cent. If you feel charitably inclined you will have the chance to contribute your mite to the Babies' Milk and Ice Fund conducted by The Omaha Bee. Admission is free. BOYD THEATER, Sunday night.

JAWS OF FOCH TRAP CLOSING

Thillois, West of Rheims, Taken Simultaneously With Capture of Soissons; Armies in Death Grapple.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The collapse of the German defensive positions just north of the Ourcq was forced by the dash of American troops in the center and the brilliant French and British flank operations is sweeping the enemy out of the Aisne-Marne salient. The rush came so quickly it was difficult for army officials here to appraise the extent of the victory. There was a strong possibility the Germans would be unable to hold the Vesle line toward which they are hastening and would be driven to the heights north of the Aisne.

Tonight's official report from Paris carried the most startling message in several days. Soissons, the key of the German right flank in the whole Aisne-Marne position, was again in French hands. At the same time the brief announcement that Thillois, west of Rheims, had been taken shows that the jaws of the great trap created by General Foch at last had begun to close.

Two Jaws Advancing.

The re-entry of Soissons is noteworthy. The French were forced out of the city, the largest on that sector of the front, in the first German assault on the Chemin Des Dames last May. Its capture by the enemy was a long stride on the road to Paris, a stride that was in fact definitely checked only when the Germans met American troops northwest of Chateau Thierry weeks later and were halted in their tracks and hurled back. To many officials here the little stretch of line, where the first two American divisions came into action (Continued on Page Four, Column Two.)

Railroad Ticket Scalpers Ordered to Quit Business

Washington, Aug. 2.—Notice was served today on ticket scalpers by the railroad administration to quit business at once under penalty of prosecution, through charges of conspiracy. A special division of the railroad administration has been created to direct this work, headed by H. A. Koach of Chicago, formerly connected with the railway ticket protective bureau.

Pro-German Pastor Found Guilty on Disloyalty Charge

Bismarck, N. D., Aug. 2.—Rev. J. Fontaina, pastor of the German Evangelical church here, was found guilty of sedition by a jury in federal court. Sentence will be passed Monday.

FOE DRIVEN BACK ALONG 36 MILES OF RAGING BATTLELINE

Allies' Splendid Gains Foreshadow Necessity of Retirement of Crown Prince's Forces Beyond the Aisne; Guns So Placed Enemy Will Suffer Severely in Seeking Haven of Refuge.

By Associated Press.

The crisis in the allied offensive on the Soissons-Rheims salient apparently has been reached.

French troops have entered the town of Soissons, the western anchor point of what remains of the famous salient, and all along the 36 miles of curving battle line from Soissons to Thillois, which lies about three miles west of Rheims, French, American and British troops have pushed in the entire enemy front and sent the Germans backward everywhere in retreat.

Over the battle front the allies, by quick and forcible methods of onslaught, have deeply indented the German defense line for splendid gains, which seemingly foreshadow the necessity of the eventual retirement of the forces of the German crown prince.

Country Dominated by Guns.

The plains behind the northwestern portion of the battle front are dominated by the allied guns; in the south the French and Americans have negotiated almost all of the hill and forest country and are encroaching perceptibly toward the Fismes railway, while in the east the British and French are almost astride the Rheims-Soissons railway and have their guns now so placed that the enemy is sure to be sorely tried as he endeavors to press back and gain a haven of refuge along the Vesle river.

Just how far the retreat of the Germans will continue cannot at present be forecast, but with the southern line swinging northward in conjunction with that on the east towards the Vesle, and with the French dominating the Aisne eastward from Soissons, it is not improbable that the Germans may be compelled to take refuge north of the Aisne.

Rord Crise River.

Numerous towns and hamlets have been captured by the allied troops during the latest fighting, and at some points they have advanced from two to three miles. South of Soissons the entire Crise river has been forded by allied troops; northeast of Fere-en-Tardenois the allied line has been pushed well to the west of the region of Grand Rozoy and the town of Saponay has been taken. In the center the Nesles wood is being swept clear of Germans by the French cavalry and American and French troops are pressing the Germans hard north of Sergy and the hamlet of Nesles.

Further eastward almost to the gates of Rheims, combined forces of British and French everywhere are sorely harassing the enemy. In this latter region, in addition to Thillois, the village of Ville-en-Tardenois is in allied hands and the French now are on the heels of the Germans two and a half miles north of the Dormans-Rheims high road over a front of nearly four miles.

Complete Success in Sight.

Altogether, viewed from the war maps, the situation for the allied troops at present is a most promising one for complete success in ridding the Soissons-Rheims salient of the enemy.

Throughout the latter phases of the battles the Germans have not shown their stamina of previous days and at some points the allied troops, particularly the Americans, were enabled to make their way into German positions with virtually no opposition. All behind the battle lines the smoke of burning towns is visible, which seemingly would give weight to the prevailing belief in the allied capitals that the Germans at the present are nowhere near the end of their retreat.

Aside from the Soissons-Rheims salient there has been little fighting in any of the war theaters. The British are continuing their raids and the Germans at last accounts were heavily bombarding the British south of the Somme and near Ypres.

'Desultory Fighting,' German Description Of Day's Operations

Berlin, via London, Aug. 2.—"On the battle front there has been desultory fighting," says the official statement from general headquarters this evening.

The day's communication dealing with the fighting of Thursday, said that the allies between Soissons and Fere en Tardenois suffered complete repulse and failed to gain territory.

British and French ranks which crossed the front German lines and reached the heights north of Beugnez were shot to pieces, according to the report.

HUNS IN PERILOUS POSITION

Germans Facing West and Allies Shooting at Enemy's Back and Enfilading Line in Crise Valley.

By Associated Press.

London, Aug. 2.—The capture of the Plessier Huleu ridge by the allies Thursday was expected to result, as it did, in the rolling up of the enemy line north of Soissons and get rid of the Plessier wood, which had been a great obstacle to the allied advance.

The situation now is that the Germans are facing west and the allies are shooting at the enemy's back and enfilading him down the northern part of the Crise valley.

It is believed that the enemy's retreat will be continued and that he cannot avoid an eventual retrograde movement behind the Aisne or the Vesle, which would mean the collapse of the crown prince's offensive, at least until September, when the 1920 class will be put in the field. This class will yield 400,000 men and possibly might help to bolster the at present defeated Germans.

Allied Front Straightened.

"The advance on the front of General Mangin's army continues," says a dispatch from Reuter's correspondent at French headquarters.

"In the main battle sector, between Hartennes-et-Taux, on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road and Fere-en-Tardenois, we pushed forward along the whole line of 10 miles. We occupied Hartennes itself and the wood to the south and brought the line up to Cramaille and Saponay, making an almost straight front from Hartennes to Fere-en-Tardenois.

"In the center we have passed the road running east and west from Ville-en-Tardenois to Coulouges, north of the Ourcq valley, and are a couple of miles beyond Sergy," the dispatch says. "In the central sector, as is usual when the enemy is retreating, his resistance is feeblest on the flanks. On the eastern flank of the salient our troops have taken the wood a mile east of Romigny and are within pistol shot of Villers-Agron, on the Ville-en-Tardenois-Coulouges road. Our patrols were able to advance a thousand yards north of Ville-en-Tardenois this morning.

Pressed On All Sides.

"The effects of the French victory at the Marne and in Champagne, and General Foch's counter offensive between the Aisne and the Marne are now being felt. The enemy, pressed on all sides and with his communications swept by our guns has again been forced to give ground

GUNNER DEPEW TELLS AUDIENCE OF HUN HORRORS

American Boy Who Has Been in Five German Prisons Declares Atrocities Not Half Told.

Gunner DePew thrilled a Council Bluffs audience last night and made it realize some of the things American boys and their allies are undergoing at the hands of the Hun. He told such a tale of atrocities that not to hate a Hun would stamp the person hearing it as an abnormal creature. "I'm not going to tell what I have heard others say or what I have read about a few, very few, for it would take a long time to tell all of the things that I have seen and some that I have suffered," said the American boy. Then followed a recital that made people lean forward and half rise.

Unspeakable Truths.

"Believe everything you have heard and all you have read and then multiply it by 100 and you will still be short of the hellish truth," he said. "Stories of unspeakable mutilations of men, women and children, cruel torturing of wounded soldiers and starved and helpless prisoners came in a perfect torrent of words, for the gunner in verbal action can only be likened to a rapid fire gun operated by Americans eager to get revenge.

"This is the foe your boys are fighting tonight and must continue to fight, for there is no improvement possible in the moral makeup of the Hun. I want you to get it out of your system that we are fighting the Kaiser and the war lords.

"I've been in five German prisons, dragged from one end of the sin-blistered country to the other and I tell you that all are Huns and all alike guilty of cruelties that would shame a savage.

"You have always heard of the cruelties of the unspeakable Turk, but we met the Turk in the Dardanelles, and he is so much superior to the Hun in every way that there can be no comparison. He's a fair fighter and we never heard of one case of cruelty to the wounded, but on the other hand there were hundreds of real kindnesses. They brought our wounded close to the barbed wire so the stretcher bearers could get them, and when we were suffering for water they threw hundreds of bottles into our trenches, and not one drop was poisoned or fouled."

Heavy Tax on Tobacco.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Heavy increases in the present war tax on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes were agreed to today by the house ways and means committee as part of the new \$8,000,000,000 revenue bill. The tax imposes three times the existing rates on some items of the schedule and is planned to raise approximately \$340,000,000