

AMERICAN UNITS EAST OF RHEIMS DID THEIR SHARE

Less Spectacular Part of Battle Even More Complete Check

HUNS HALTED IN TRACKS

Yankees Get in Great Work With Bayonet During Vain Thrust for Chalons

When, on the morning of July 15, the long-delayed German offensive was launched on both sides of unyielding Rheims, the world's searchlight swung along the line and settled at that point where, furiously resisted by Franco-Yankee Infantry and Artillery, the enemy's three-five platoon divisions from the armies of the Crown Prince flung their spears triumphantly against 35 kilometers of the Allied line. And nothing happened.

As surf dashes against a granite breakwater, so this huge, confident German army dashed against the Allied line. It is back against it started from with 50,000 casualties to charge up to profit and loss. In the opinion of officers high in the French staff, this was the severest defeat either side had suffered on the western front in three years. It made possible the counter-offensive which was springing three days before the salient between Rheims and Soissons.

There is not a shadow of doubt that the Germans expected as swift an advance as they had experienced in their big thrusts in March and in May. But this time there were two elements present which had not been in March and May. One element was the exact advance knowledge that the French command possessed as to the place, the force, and even the hour of the offensive. The other element was the American soldier—in great numbers.

The Yanks Drop In

That Champagne sector was commanded by General Gouraud, him they call the lion of the Argonne. He was the youngest general France had in August, 1914. One arm is gone now, one hip is shattered and the wound stripes on his sleeve are five. There were Americans among the troops who received his now famous order announcing that the offensive was at hand and that there should be no weakening. There was none.

Unforgettable Bayonet Work

Our fire kept them from going back and they had not yet received the order to go forward. They caught, they were badly mauled that one division had to be withdrawn incapacitated at the last moment.

The Men Who Waited for Death

That offensive on the line east of Rheims began at 4.47 on the morning of July 15. By 11 o'clock on the same morning, the Champagne offensive was over—definitely, completely finished. It had gained nothing, unless you count that strip of evacuated trench that was vacated before they started. Since then, at his ease and without meeting any resistance whatever, General Gouraud has quietly taken the greater part of it back.

No Nearer Than Before

The Germans are now no nearer Chalons than they were the day they started, and if you leave it to any of the Americans who helped bear their path to tell the reasons, you will first have to hear their glowing account of the French machine gunners, who, they say, were the first line trench at all, but stayed there alone to confuse the advance and cut to pieces as many of the Huns as they could before their own turn came, as come it surely would.

Blocking the Path

The Hunnank placed his men along a roadside ditch. He placed Scotty and his shoosho beside a tree and squarely opposite a narrow woodland path that opened across the way. He could see straight down that path, and the Boches were bound either to come along it or to cross it.

At a crossroad they saw troops approaching them in column of squads. The officer in charge caught them in the focus of his field-glasses. They were Boches—coming on. The Yanks waited, itching to open fire, but biding their time. Suddenly, the Boches deserted the road and came at them through the forest.

YANKS HURLED GERMANY'S BEST

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chime gun, only those can tell who have lived through such memories as the Bois de Trigny and the capture of Epiais. The first battle progressed, it became apparent that the Germans were going to make a stand, whether as a sacrifice to cover a further withdrawal from the dangerous pocket or as a point of departure for a counter-offensive to recede the shattered prestige of the Kaiser's eldest, it was hard for the officers on this side of the line to tell. But on the 27th, 28th and 29th the enemy resistance doubled and there appeared in the path of the advancing Allies not machine gun rearwards, but counter-attacking German infantry, whose divisions ranged in position and under orders to stand fast.

With Bayonets Held High

At the place of their crossing it was no more than 20 feet wide and not more than four feet deep. They rushed it at dawn, crossing on bridges, wading across, with their rifles held high above their heads and their bayonets shining brightly in the sun. The Yanks were breathless, stripped to the waist sometimes, and all of them dripping wet, who swarmed up the sheer slope in the face of machine gun fire and on the heights met and fought to a finish the Prussian Guards who were thrust into the battle to meet them.

Resting Where They Had Fought

You could have seen it in terms of ground gained if, instead of measuring maps with a piece of string, you had been privileged to follow in the wake of the advancing Allied line from the Marne to the Ourcq—watched the balloons move forward each day like high sentinels of the march, or seen their regiments going into repose in the very shell-torn fields over which they had fought.

ARMY AUTOMOBILES NOW STANDARDIZED

Four Types of Trucks and Three of Passenger Cars

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, August 1.—Standardization of cargo trucks and passenger cars for the Army has been completed. There are four types of trucks and three of passenger cars.

SOLDIER SCOTTY DIES ON HIS GUN; 30 HUNS GO FIRST

Continued from Page 1
that historic 18th of July, his regiment got the order for which, through many a month of dreams, it had longed—the order to advance. It went 18 kilometers without stopping, chasing the Boche up hill and down dale, fighting its way through patch after patch of inviting words that would prove treacherous with hidden machine-guns.

Good Soldiers and Catholics

But the men of Company H had another character. They were good Catholics, most of them. No one knows where they got the idea or who first suggested it, but had you been watching at dawn on the morning of the 18th, you would have found that when they went over the top, each one of the Indians wore something that is no part of issue regulations looped around the left shoulder strap of his blouse. It was a rosary.

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M.P.'S SEMAPHORE TURNS THE TRICK

Not Every Military Signal Is a Hurry Call for a Barrage

This war game is full of halson and camouflage. Sometimes they are blended into one mixture. And not all expert signallers belong to the Signal Corps. Also, there is more than one standard way to semaphore.

Doughnut and Ice Cream Days

It seems that the Red Cross, at this station, furnishes certain supplies for troops during passing through. One day it is doughnuts. The next day it is ice cream. On doughnut day the M.P. on guard makes the circular motion describing the large O. On ice cream day, he makes the grinding motion as if turning a freezer.

FOUR LIGHTLESS NIGHTS

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, August 1.—A lightless Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for an indefinite period began last week, by order of the fuel administration, for New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

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NEW LABOR PLAN ON

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, August 1.—The Government's labor recruiting and distributing machinery plan went into effect today. A State advisory board for each State is to supervise the apportionment among communities of the number of workers to be supplied to each.

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