

OUR MEN IN NEW SECTOR

Now Hold Eight Parts of Line from Montdidier to Belfort.

REPRESENTS A BIG ARMY

Latest Post Taken Over Is in Alsace, Near the French and German Boundary.

FOE DOOMED, SAYS PREMIER

Tells Americans Their Valor Does Not Surprise Him—Saw Their Forefathers Fight.

BY EDWIN L. JAMES.

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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE MARINE, June 28.—American forces are now in eight sectors on the western front, at points from Montdidier to Belfort. The latest sector to be taken over by Americans is in Alsace near where the battlefront crosses from Germany into France. The eight American sectors are in the following vicinities: Near Montdidier, northwest of Chateau-Thierry, immediately east of Chateau-Thierry, at Toul, in Lorraine, and three in Alsace, one near the border line, another south of that, and one in front of Belfort.

I am not permitted to state the number of Americans holding these sectors, but in the aggregate they represent a sizable army. Some sectors are held by the Americans unaided, and others by Americans with the French. Of the Americans in the line, the forces which have been holding the sector northwest of Chateau-Thierry have seen by far the most fighting, next come the Americans near Montdidier, and after them the forces on the Toul sector.

Clemenceau Knows Our Men.

June 27.—When Premier Clemenceau thanked the commander of the American forces northwest of Chateau-Thierry this morning for their good work in helping hold back the Germans from their advance toward Paris, he praised the bravery and efficiency of our troops. He placed due emphasis on the fact that the successful operations had been planned by American commanders and executed by American soldiers unaided.

This sent a thrill of joy through the American fighters, for because of the necessary extended training of Americans under the direction of the French, the German command had drawn for home consumption the lesson that the Americans were not to be trusted to fight unaided. Propagandists and correspondents have been pushing this idea hard. It was the first time that Clemenceau had personally thanked an American unit in the line for good work.

Our officers today found the French Premier thoroughly familiar with their record since June 1. Speaking perfect English, he told the General and his staff that he had entered Richmond five days after Grant and had then learned the valor of American fighters which the descendants of the fighters of 1861 are now living up to. He said the bravery of the American soldiers and their numbers made the doom of the German hopes of victory certain. He observed that Americans were now arriving in France at the rate of 300,000 monthly.

Despite his seventy-odd years, the Premier was hale and hearty, and showed the enthusiasm of a boy in his praise of the Americans. Just a short time after he left the front, the Germans shelled the village through which he passed.

Gives Lie to German Claim.

The statement of the French Premier that northwest of Chateau-Thierry both American officers and soldiers had shown that Americans are efficient fighters gives the lie to the eloquently bombastic claims of the Germans. As to the American results, this sector should be a lesson to the German people. The fact is that the American units, which were reported to them destroyed three weeks ago, are today busy strengthening their lines around Belleau Wood, where their complete defeat had been reported.

In the Berliner Tageblatt, Lieut. Gen. Baron von Ardennes wrote:

"In the woods near the Busslars-Boursches railroad, in a two-day battle, one German regiment conquered and almost destroyed this unit, but a few of the Americans saved their lives by flight or by being captured."

These American units, which were "destroyed" on June 7 and 8, are today holding Belleau Wood completely. General von Ardennes condescended to pay a small tribute to individual American bravery when he wrote: "The American leaders apparently have not yet learned the principles of combat with combined arms, or battle routine, without which all the courage displayed by the Americans was sacrificed in vain."

The Wolf Bureau in the Deutsche Tageszeitung feeds the German people the lie that the American fighting was done under the immediate French command, saying:

"On the front northwest of Chateau-

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Thierry an American unit made the first attack on June 7. The contested point was Belleau Wood. Here a German regiment under the personal leadership of its commander inflicted unusually heavy losses upon the Americans. Hand to hand, with grenade and bayonet, the enemy division was thrown back from the edge of the wood. Early the next morning the [deleted] renewed its attack. It came forward in successive waves. Our artillery let them approach very closely before a murderous fire from cannon and machine guns was turned loose. Only a few Americans escaped, either by hasty flight or by being captured. Masses of dead lay piled up in front of Belleau Wood."

This correspondent is correct in stating that masses of dead were piled in front of Belleau Wood, but they were German dead. On the days mentioned the American lines did not advance beyond the wood, on the edges of which they made a stand that defeated the Germans. This correspondent continues:

"It would seem the use of Americans in the battle northwest of Château-Thierry on June 8 was also intended to raise the confidence and morale of the Allies. Hardly had Clemenceau given assurances of American aid when some American units launched an attack. According to our army reports,

their success consisted of being driven back with heavy losses beyond their starting point. Such a beginning is not promising. Furthermore, one is forced to the conclusion that the attack made there by the Americans was made only under French command; for alone they would not be intrusted to such a hard task. We, therefore, are of the opinion that the Americans there did not make this attempt alone, but were put in among the French front line. To announce an American victory in the line was Clemenceau's purpose, in this way to quiet the uneasy French population."

Captives Now Total 302.

General von Libert, in the *Tägliche Rundschau*, ridicules the claim that America has half a million more men in France. Of those here, he says:

"Mobile warfare will show the worth of these American troops, and the insufficiency of their tactical preparation will soon be proved."

These critics may now have to explain how the American units which the Germans "almost destroyed" on June 8 are now holding the positions back of which the critics claimed they had been driven almost three weeks ago, and also that before the same American units seven German divisions have been used up to date.

Except for a harassing artillery fire, there is quiet on the American front northwest of Château-Thierry today.

The final count of yesterday's prisoners gives a total of 302. More than 600 boche dead are lying in the woods taken from the Germans. Our soldiers today are holding all their gains.

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