

Laon Salient is Likely To Be Wiped Out Soon

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS.
(News-Times and Associated Newspaper War Expert.)

Once more a situation is steadily developing on the western front which must lead shortly to another wide swinging German retreat, this time a retreat which will modify the whole familiar appearance of the front in Belgium and France for four years now. We have had a German wedge or salient thrust out toward Paris, with its nose resting upon the hills southwest and southeast of Laon and its sides buttressed by German defense lines stretching north through St. Quentin and south to the hills above Rheims.

The time has about come when the German must leave this salient. He has already lost St. Quentin and the hills above Rheims. The British and Americans between St. Quentin and Cambrai, the French and Americans between Rheims and the Argonne, are steadily advancing, and as they advance they narrow the neck of the salient. It is becoming too deep as compared with its width, growing more and more to resemble the Marne salient which invited the Foch blow of July 19. As a consequence Ludendorff must soon retire out of the long enduring "Paris front" of the Germans to which they retreated after the first battle of the Marne, and to which they have held ever since.

It would be a mistake to conclude that the Germans within this Laon salient are as yet in any great danger. They are not, because their western and most exposed flank is covered by the long, deep trough of the Oise, which has been flooded from Lafere northward. In the same way the other side of the salient is covered by the successive lines of the Sulpices, which has now been reached by the French and finally and most thoroughly protected.

Assured that their flanks will not suddenly crumble, because of the natural defenses, the Germans are holding on as long as possible in the Laon salient for political as well as for military reasons. It is even conceivable that if bad weather should set in during the next few days and make all further campaigning impossible, the

Germans might hold on in the Laon until spring, as they did in the Oyon salient in 1916-17, and thus materially fortify their peace offensive, based upon the assertion that no decision in the field is possible. Such a possibility, however, may practically be discarded. The pressure of Rawlinson on the west and Berthelot and Gourard on the south, has in the last few days reached an intensity which must be the prelude to a German retirement. At any moment now we may see a sudden and swift German retreat like that in the last months of the fighting in the Marne salient about Aug. 1, when, having prolonged their stay to the latest possible moment, the Germans made a run for it with their last detachments and did not halt until they had passed the Vesle river.

Exactly the same sort of retreat to a line stretching from the Scheidt, north of Cambrai, to the Aisne at the big bend about Chateau Porcien, west of Bethel, must now be looked for and when it comes the Germans will leave behind them most of their conquests in France. The necessary backward bound will take them half way from their present Paris front to the Belgian frontier. Now, as always, the German method is clear. The enemy is holding the sides of the salient, while he has now got to evacuate it while he clears it out. This is what he did at the Marne. As long as he can hold the sides there is no danger to the troops within the salient.

The very heavy fighting on both sides of the Argonne and between Cambrai and St. Quentin has been the result of this necessity to defend the sides of the salient until the troops and material inside were withdrawn. The advances of Haig, Pershing and Petain have been slow and costly, involving some of the most deadly fighting of the war, because the swift success on either side of the salient would have insured a German disaster of the first magnitude. But it seems now that the possibility of such a disaster has passed and the maximum of profit which we are to get is the most considerable advance resulting from any operation on our side

"Get" Hun in Dugout



GERMAN KILLED IN DUGOUT. BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTO. German soldier lying dead in the entrance of his dugout. He was shot while emerging from the dugout during a British attack on the enemy lines.

and on the western front since the days of the first Marne. Exactly where the German is to halt remains problematical, and it may well be that he is waiting for the weather to decide the question. Political reasons with him outweigh military. He is compelled to make just as little surrender of ground as possible and retire just as slow as possible, because otherwise the extent of his defeat might be unmistakable. He is risking all his reserves in an effort to postpone a decision this year, expecting to get peace by negotiation without more fighting, and without a campaign in 1919.

But the logical line for his next stand is the Scheidt from Ghent to a point between Valenciennes and Cambrai, thence across country through Guise and behind the upper Sere to the Aisne near Chateau Porcien, and thence to the Meuse near his present line. Such a front would cover the vital Metz-Mezieres-Valenciennes rail-

way, his most important line of lateral communications, without which his armies in Belgium and northern France and those defending Alsace Lorraine would be practically separated. This line would hardly be more than a temporary halting place, but, given the lateness of the season, it might serve until spring, when the German must make his real retreat, which may take him behind the Meuse from Liege to Stenly, and will certainly leave him no territory west of the Antwerp-Namur-Mezieres line.

It is well to recognize, however, that the German is still the master of his own time-table in the matter of his retreating. We have just got Cambrai, but we have been at its gates for a fortnight. He held on to St. Quentin with similar obstinacy. And is still holding onto Laon, although it is plain to every one now that he must promptly retire from it. Nor can his occupancy of Lille and Douai be extended many days, but we are not dealing yet with route armies or with a general staff which has become demoralized. The German is losing palpably, patently, uninterceptedly, but he is putting up a determined and scientific defense, yielding to better generalship than he has ever possessed, but displaying generalship of his own only less brilliant.

Foch is unquestionably the master of Ludendorff, but it is hardly too much to say that Ludendorff is steadily improving, that he is the best German commander we have yet had to deal with in more than four years of war.

(Copyright, 1918.)

Roll of Honor

Listing Men From Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky on Casualty Lists.

The following casualties are reported by the commanding general of the American expeditionary forces: Killed in action, 35; missing in action, 56; wounded severely, 12; died from wounds, 6; died from accident and other causes, 6; died of disease, 21; died from airplane accident, 3; wounded, degree undetermined, 4. Total, 201.

KILLED IN ACTION.
Karl G. Vansick, Detroit, Mich. PRIVATE.
John Adair Sandusky, Mich. PRIVATE.
DIED FROM AIRPLANE ACCIDENT.
Lieut. Elmer Earl Rothenberger, Lafayette, Ind. PRIVATE.
DIED FROM ACCIDENT AND OTHER CAUSES.
Paul Haldick, Detroit, Mich. PRIVATE.
James E. Wood, Owensboro, Ky. WOUNDED SEVERELY.
SERGEANTS.
Harold I. Hissen, Louisville, O. Merton Osborn, Louisville, Ky. CORPORALS.
Park McAlpine, McGregor, Mich. PRIVATE.
Ralph H. Jones, Calverton, O. David Puljak, Peru, Ind. Fred J. Sanford, Port Huron, Mich. Terry J. Cherry, Zaleski, Ill. Albert C. Brockman, New Haven, Mich. Clarence William Smith, Athens, O. Mechal George J. Revoldt, Imlay City, Mich. PRIVATE.
Grover W. Benson, Kokon, Ind. Benjamin Harrison Constock, Detroit, Mich. Warren W. Davis, Crawfordville, Ind. Harvey C. Deamer, Byron, Mich. Matt Burandt, Chicago, Ill. Grindo Dolorezo, Detroit, Mich. Steve J. Cook, Frankfort, Ind. Gilbert W. Cox, Sanborn, Ind. Elmer J. Huppert, Marshall, Ill. Lewis H. Hovm, Melton, Ill. Mark Anthony Ryan, Louisville, Ky. John Yanno, Youngstown, O. Edward R. White, Greensburg, Ind. Egnace Markovitch, Chicago, Ill. Clarence E. Maronde, Franklin Grove, Ill. Tony Mars, Rockdale, Ill. Leo Frank Quinn, Saginaw, Mich. Lawrence H. Robbins, Havana, Ill. Earl W. Roush, Rockford, Ill. George W. Watrana, Chicago, Ill. Walter E. Seeger, Springfield, Ky. MISSING IN ACTION.
Cpl. Byron Edward Foster, Pittsfield, Mich. PRIVATE.
Andrew Bolling, Cartland, Ky. Lee Jaymes, North Salem, Ind. Shaffer Robinson, Mulcola, Ky. Oscar Daniel Rose, Fowlerville, Mich. Charlie E. Seeger, Bensenville, O. Merle Haskin Smith, Juxsekong, Mich. William Francis Smith, Chiy, Mich. William L. Thornton, Chicago, Ill. John Tomaszunas, Chicago, Ill. John J. Skureth, Chicago, Ill. **(MARINE CORPS CASUALTIES.)**
(summary of Casualties to Date.)
OFFICERS—Deaths, 44; wounded, 76.
Sgt. John L. B. MEN—Deaths, 1,082; wounded, 2,100; in hands of enemy, 24; missing, 120. Sol, total, 3,378. Grand total, 3,476.

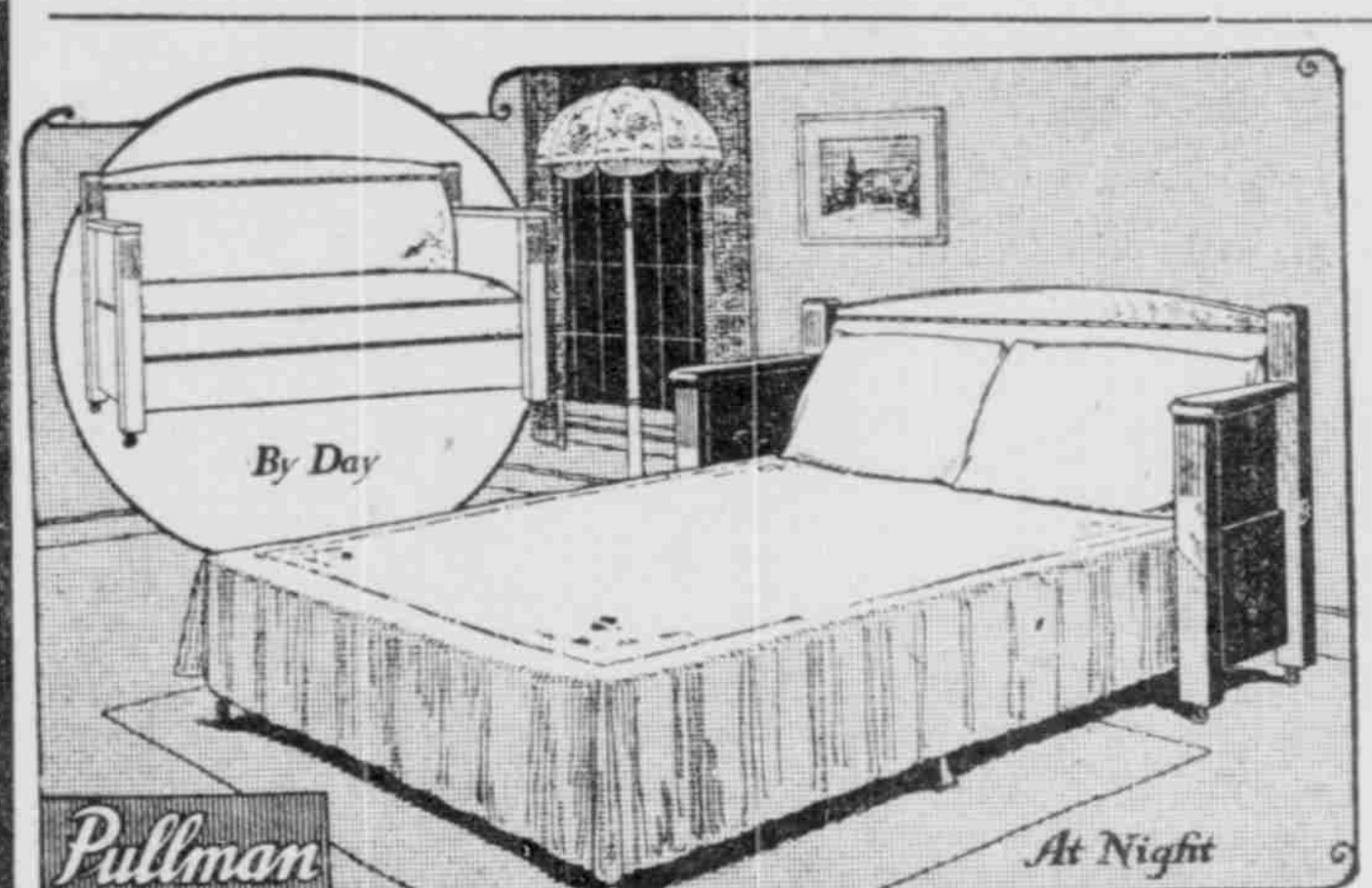
PREVIOUS LIST
The following casualties are reported by the commanding general of the American expeditionary forces: Killed in action, 49; missing in action, 59; wounded severely, 106; died from wound, 6; died from accident and other causes, 4; died of disease, 9; died of airplane accident, 1. Total, 235.

KILLED IN ACTION:
Lieut. Oliver B. Cunningham, Chicago, Ill. Cpl. Henry Hahner, Chicago, Ill. PRIVATE.
Antonio Battaglio, Cleveland, O. Albert Brittenhoff, Port Warren, Ind. Roy F. Crutehley, Atlanta, Ga. Arthur P. Harp, Kokomo, Ind. DIED FROM WOUNDS.
Pet. Earl H. McDevitt, Lisbon, O. DIED OF DISEASE.
Pet. Jasper Morris, Harborsburg, Ky. WOUNDED SEVERELY.
SERGEANTS:
August William Eiseledek, River Rouge, Mich. John Coleman, Owosso, Mich. Anthony Gibbs, Chicago, Ill. CORPORALS.
Leroy W. Crawford, Chicago, Ill. Walter Bell Miller, Monroe, Mich. Mechanic Joseph Pakoski, Detroit, Mich. PRIVATE.
Frank W. Cronan, Alpena, Mich.

A Word to the Wise Young Lady Buy Your Furniture Before He Gets Home

He Braves The Deep Sea He Gets Home

This is for the wise and thrifty YOUNG LADIES who will become wives when OUR BOYS come home. We are suggesting this because dozens of young ladies are buying their furniture at Heller's and asking us to hold it until the Boy comes home. It is a saving in time and money to buy furniture now, and YOU are the ONE to be pleased anyway. A small deposit will hold your purchase and you can be paying on it. I urge you young ladies to think seriously and act quickly.



You Don't Need that Extra Bedroom, Really—

Since the Pullman davenport contains such a comfortable, full-size bed, since the Pullman will hold a full-weight heavy mattress; since it is so simple and easy to operate, you can change your living room into a sleeping room. Many families are doing this. We sell a great many Pullmans. They are so beautifully designed—they do not show from the outside that they contain a bed—they are so very satisfactory in every day, that we know you will like them.

A real davenport by day, and a real bed by night. Priced from \$58.50 up

What Have You to Exchange as Part Pay



Wool Knap Blankets \$3.95

This is the last shipment of blankets we can get this year. They are bargains at this price and you should receive yours now. Full size, beautiful gray with stripe border. Only one to a customer.

HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINET

Which is the Better: Slave in the Kitchen— or Have the Hoosier Cabinet

It is not a question of can you afford the Hoosier, but can you afford to be without it. Can you afford to spend twice the time in doing your kitchen work and deny yourself the pleasure you deserve? It saves you miles of steps and brings smiles at the end of the day instead of frowns. Come in now and let us demonstrate a Hoosier to you.



HELLER'S The Furniture Store of South Bend

When Heller Says It's Oak It's Oak

\$1.00 Cash; \$1.00 a Week

You Old Cabinet Taken in Exchange as Part Payment

INTER-COLLEGIATE CROSS COUNTRY RUN HAS BEEN CANCELLED

NEW YORK, Oct. 10.—The inter-collegiate cross country championship run to have been held at Van Courtlandt park, this city, on Nov. 23, has been cancelled. This action was taken by the advisory board of the I. C. A. A. after a canvass of the leading colleges of the east. At a majority of the institutions the athletic associations have temporarily suspended activities and the presidents of the colleges in replying to the communications stated that there was little possibility of teams or individual runners competing in the cross country race. The annual meeting of the I. C. A. A., scheduled for March, will be held, however, to review the many plans for the reconstruction of college athletics which must be considered for the period following the close of the war.

PARIS IMPRESSED WITH THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF PRES'T WILSON'S REPLY

PARIS, Oct. 10.—The last paragraph of Pres't Wilson's note made a deep impression on Paris and caused much favorable comment, as it was understood by the population to directly concern the Hohenzollern family and the military party of Germany. The general feeling is that the diplomatic tables have been turned on Germany which tried to place the allies in a difficult position, and that Germany now finds herself with a great problem which she attempted to force the allies to solve.

CLOSE ALL PUBLIC PLACES IN UTAH ON ACCOUNT INFLUENZA

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Oct. 10.—Effective Thursday every church, school, theater, motion picture house and all places of public assembly in the state of Utah were ordered to close by order of the state board of health here Wednesday. This order affects even the colleges of Utah, where thousands of young men are in training for the army.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC SPREADING OVER KANSAS

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 10.—Spanish influenza is spreading in 60 of the counties of Kansas and closing orders have been issued against public gatherings in 15 cities. A statewide closing order is being considered.

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FRIDAY BARGAINS

No Telephone Orders or Goods Sent on Approval Your Excursion Ticket to Economy

These Low "Fares" Good for One Day Only

- Mercerized Poplin, 27-inch, in black, white and colors; good heavy quality. Worth 59c. Friday only, yard... 39c
- Heavy Fall Coatings, 58 inches wide, in dark green, brown, burgundy, navy and black. Friday only, yard... \$3.98
- Cotton Toweling, 48-inch, full bleached, with red border; \$1.20 value. Friday only, 6-yard lengths, for... 87c
- Mercerized Table Damask, 60 inches wide, good quality. Friday only, yard... 69c
- Golden Fleece Knitting Yarn, extra quality. Friday only, hank... 95c
- Stamped Corset Covers, stamped on fine sheer nainsook. Regular 25c value. Friday 12 1/2c only
- 18-inch Round Embroidered Doilies and 30-inch Squares. Regular 49c value. Choice Friday only... 35c
- The Government wants you to do your Christmas shopping early. Begin now.
- White Voile and Lawn Waists, one small lot to close out. Regular \$1.98 value. Friday only... \$1.29
- Fiber Silk Sweaters, in assorted colors. Regular \$7.50 value. Friday only... \$6.50
- Children's Gingham Dresses, new shipment, 2 to 14 years. Very special Friday... \$1.00
- Muslin Underwear Special, envelope chemise and corset cover and drawer combinations, slightly soiled. Good \$1.00 values. Friday only... 79c
- Women's Cotton Hose, sizes 9 to 10 1/2, in black and white. Special at pair... 25c
- Palm Olive Soap, 13c value. Friday, bar... 9c
- Palm Olive Shaving Cream, 35c value. Friday special... 19c
- Shears and Scissors, assorted sizes. Friday... 33c
- Bias Seam Tape, full 12-yard bolts. Friday only... 9c
- Comforter Challies, 36-inch, big assortment of pretty patterns. Friday only, yard... 21c
- Cotton Bats, 3-lb. size, extra quality cotton. Friday only... \$1.39
- Eden Cloth, 30-inch, suitable for gowns, pajamas and children's wear. 39c quality, yard... 29c
- Coal Hods, 16-in., heavy black japanned, with a 23-inch heavy fire shovel. Friday at... 69c
- American Family Soap, Friday, 10 bars for... 68c
- American "Steel Wool," for cleaning aluminum or any cooking utensil. Friday, package... 9c
- Crystal Stove Boards, wood lined, size 33x33. Friday... 85c
- Aluminum Tea Kettles, 3-quart size. Friday... \$1.69
- Pearl Buttons, assorted sizes. Friday... 4c