

The Great War—1539th Day

British Drive Wedge in Foe At Vital Spot

Haig's Men Gain on Three-Mile Front South of Valenciennes

Carry Battle Into Centre of the City

German Line Is Threatened All the Way to the Holland Border

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 23 (By The Associated Press) (6 p. m.).—The British Third and Fourth armies to-day smashed through strong German defensive positions south of Valenciennes. They gained ground to a depth of more than 5,000 yards (about three miles) on an extended front, capturing many important villages and several thousand prisoners together with numerous guns, and driving a wedge into the enemy positions at what probably is the most vital point of the lines the Germans are holding.

The fighting was of a desperate nature, the German machine gunners holding out to the last. Large numbers of the enemy were killed.

Driving Around Valenciennes North of the 3d and 4th armies the British 1st Army continued its attacks and reached positions well to the north-east of Valenciennes, which is gradually being squeezed out. It is probable that the Germans have already evacuated it.

The British are approaching Le Quesnoy and were only about three miles from the gates of that place, according to latest reports, and were still advancing.

The heaviest fighting seems to have been in L'Esveque Wood, which is still being cleared up, although the British have passed completely around it and are before the great Mormal Forest. On the edge of this the Germans were reported to be concentrating at Proux.

Ors and Cattillon Taken Cattillon was taken early in the fighting by the British. Ors is the British headquarters. The Germans before retreating blew up all the bridges over the canal between Cattillon and Ors.

One corps holding the centre of the Fourth Army front near Le Cateau alone had taken 500 prisoners early in the day.

The advance continues and the menace to the German line to the north and south of the front attacked is growing. Further retreats are expected.

The attack of the British Third and Fourth armies on a wide front south of Valenciennes to-day is of vital strategic importance. The Allied salient here menaces the German lines all the way to the west coast of the Scheldt Canal, which flows through the city.

Asses of British tanks moved up during the comparative lull of the last few days, early to-day loaded tons of steel at the enemy on the front of the offensive, sprinkling front and rear areas freely. Later all the guns concentrated in a "crash barrage" behind which the infantry advanced in an early morning fog, storming the hurriedly constructed enemy defenses.

The Germans resisted strongly, especially the machine gunners. The enemy artillery fire was generally weak, indicating that his guns had been moved some miles east to the line known as the "Hermann Standing Piece."

This shows that the German command evidently did not have faith that the exhausted infantry would be able to hold the positions attacked to-day.

North of Valenciennes the British have completed the capture of the Raimes forest. Further north they have got well east of St. Amand and reached the Scheldt north of the Belgian frontier.

Northeast of Laon French troops have reached the line of the Serre River, having made an advance of two to three miles on an eight-mile front.

The civilians generally have displayed marked heroism. The act of one French woman stands out among many. As the Germans were ready to evacuate a certain town the woman saw them placing an explosive charge under one of the most important bridges in the region. She threw the charge a slow fuse and went away. The French woman waited until night. She then crept down the river bank under the bridge and removed the charge, indicating that his guns had been moved some miles east to the line known as the "Hermann Standing Piece."

Yanks in Hospital Laugh at Hun Bombs Patients Refuse to Get Excited Over German Efforts to Wreck Building

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 23 (By The Associated Press).—American wounded soldiers who were in the American hospital near which German bombing planes dropped explosives in the neighborhood of Rarecourt last night were so little concerned by the fact that they refused to leave the building and enter dugouts until compelled to do so by the nurses. They laughed at the efforts of the Germans.

Discussing this nonchalant attitude on the part of the doughboys, Margery Sawyer, of Buffalo, N. Y., and Mabel Butler, of New Haven, Conn., Red Cross nurses, said they found these men, some of whom had come in from the front lines only a few hours previously, as calm as though no attack had taken place, although the hospital had been damaged by bombs and the wards were filled with smoke.

The first thoughts of these nurses were regarding the wounded. Neither one had had previous experience under enemy bombing operations and expected, when they hurried to the wards, to find the doughboys panicking.

Allies Will Batter Enemy All Winter To Prevent Succor

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 23 (By The Associated Press).—Unless they are saved by their plea for peace, the Germans will be subjected to steady hammering along the greater part of the Western front throughout the winter. Indications are that it is not intended to give them a breathing spell, notwithstanding weather conditions.

It is pointed out that decreased activity would enable the Germans to recuperate to such a degree as to make certain a prolongation of the struggle. During previous winters the enemy has been able to rest, in his forces and replenish his supplies, especially ammunition, and there is no reason to believe he would not avail himself of the same opportunity now, due to a much greater advantage.

There are two places on the front where it is conceded that military operations during the winter will be virtually impossible, but American officers insist that 75 per cent of the front offers no real obstacle to a continuance of the fight. It is not conceded that operations will be slowed down, but, even so, the advantages will be with the attacking side, especially since it is known that German material is growing scarcer.

Last winter was much more severe than is ordinarily the case and those responsible for plans of campaign calculate that, by way of average, the coming winter will be milder. It is indicated that the Americans are settled indefinitely into their present positions and their part in the general program is well defined.

It is to be expected that they will continue to deliver short-smashing jolts against the pivotal center of the long sweeping line. The big gains made between the American front and the sea are conceded to have been due in large measure to the menacing demonstration by the Americans and by the enforced employment by the Germans of thirty divisions here. The enemy will be compelled to continue to mass forces of men and material in front of General Pershing's troops at the expense of other places, because to fail to hold the line between the Meuse and Grandpre would endanger an enormous area.

British Take 2,000 And Dominating Hills Along Harpies River

LONDON, Oct. 23.—Two thousand prisoners were taken by the British in today's new attack, which was south of Valenciennes, on a front of five to six miles. The enemy is resisting stiffly.

The British gained the high ground overlooking the Harpies Valley. Some guns were taken.

North of Valenciennes the British have completed the capture of the Raimes forest. Further north they have got well east of St. Amand and reached the Scheldt north of the Belgian frontier.

Northeast of Laon French troops have reached the line of the Serre River, having made an advance of two to three miles on an eight-mile front.

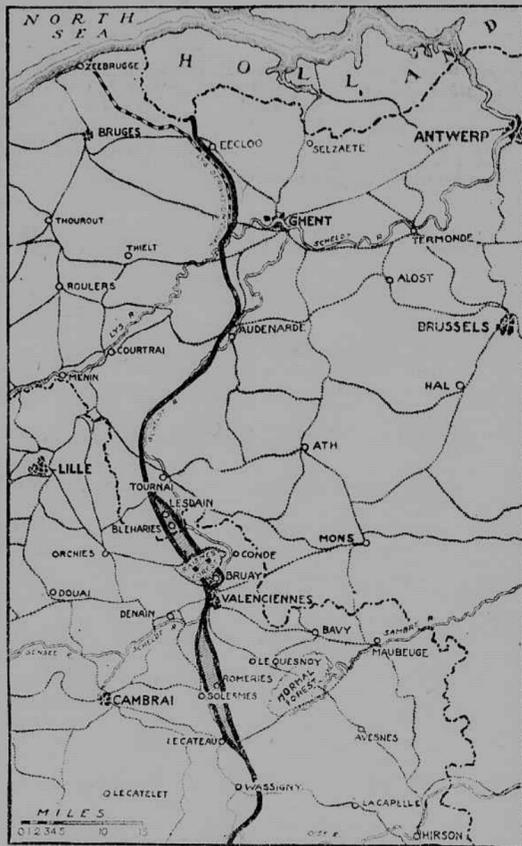
Evacuation of Ghent Reported Under Way Last Boats in Port Being Towed by Germans Toward Selzaete

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 23.—The evacuation of the Germans of Ghent, Belgium, is in full swing, according to a dispatch to the "Telegraph" from Savva-Gent. The last boats in Ghent are being hastily towed toward Selzaete, near the Dutch frontier, south of Savva-Gent, the dispatch adds.

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THE DRIVE AT VALENCIENNES



In their new attack yesterday, on both sides of Valenciennes, the British occupied the shaded area. The solid line indicates the battlefield.

Military Comment

By William L. McPherson

THE Allied armies in Flanders have virtually destroyed the line of the Scheldt as a barrier to their advance toward Antwerp, Brussels and Mons. Valenciennes was occupied yesterday by the British forces, after some lively rearward street fighting. To the north of this city practically all of the big bend of the river around the Forest of Raimes has been cleared by the British Fifth Army.

This army, which began to appear in the news very recently, was the one commanded by Gough last March. It was broken and overwhelmed in the first Ludendorff offensive west from St. Quentin. It was apparently reinforced and reorganized during the summer and held as a reserve. After the German retreat from the Lys Valley salient it was brought into line between the Second Army and the First Army. So that the disposition of the Allied armies in the north since the beginning of the September offensive on the Ypres front has been from the coast down: The Belgian army, De Goutte's French army, the Second British Army, under Plumer; the Fifth British Army, under Birdwood; the First British Army, under Horne; the Third British Army, under Byng, and the Fourth British Army, under Rawlinson. Next to Rawlinson's army is the First French Army, under Debenedy. The appearance of the Fifth British Army and the transfer of De Goutte's army from the Marne to Flanders gave the Allies a numerical preponderance in the north, and account in part for the very rapid progress which has been made in the last three or four weeks on that long relatively quiet sector of the Western front.

The British Fifth and Second armies have now reached the Scheldt at many points between Valenciennes and Tournai and between Tournai and Oudenarde. The French and Belgians, having further to go to reach the Scheldt, are approaching it at Ghent, which, according to unofficial reports, the Germans are already preparing to evacuate. West of Ghent the Allied forces have crossed the Canal de Derivation de la Lys—an artificial waterway running from the Lys, southwest of Antwerp, to a point on the Belgian coast a little east of Zeebrugge. The distance due west from Ghent to this canal is only five miles.

A recent issue of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" contained a statement, evidently inspired, to the effect that it is "not to Germany's interest to make a slow defensive retreat from Belgium" and that "fighting there will not be unnecessarily prolonged a single day." This announcement harmonizes with the policy outlined in Baron von Lamcken's letter to Cardinal Mercier, promising the release of Belgian political prisoners and the return of Belgian civilians deported to Germany.

Military prudence and political interest coincide in counselling a German retirement from Belgium. If Ludendorff had felt able to defend Belgium Germany would never have asked for an armistice. The Germans are therefore trying to make a virtue of a plain military necessity. The evacuation of Bel-

70 Germans Killed in Blast

BASLE, Oct. 23.—Seventy persons were killed and fifty wounded in an explosion which occurred in a factory at Dessau, on the Elbe, sixty-seven miles northwest of Berlin. Other victims are believed to be still in the ruins.

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Official Statements

FRENCH

PARIS (NIGHT).—There was great artillery activity on the Oise front. Between the Oise and the Serre we gained ground north of Cattillon-au-Temple and carried our lines as far as the outskirts of Chevresis-les-Dames.

Further east we captured a wood which was energetically defended to the northeast of Mesbrecourt and Riebecourt. One hundred and fifty prisoners remained in our hands.

There was stubborn fighting during the day on the Serre-Souchy front. Our units succeeded in debouching between Froidmont-Cohartille and Pierrepont and in maintaining themselves on the east bank opposite Braucourt, despite strong German counter attacks.

Southeast of the Aisne lively fighting was carried on in the region of Vouziers. The Germans attacked the village of Terron and our positions east of Vandy, but were repulsed with serious losses. Between Olizy and Grandpre we captured the Moulin Beaupre, taking prisoners.

In Flanders the French army on the right bank of the Lys has made progress in the course of the day. Waerghem was occupied and 200 prisoners taken.

PARIS (DAY).—On the Oise front heavy artillery fighting continued during the night. The booty taken by the troops of the 1st Army in the fighting of October 17 and 18 includes 81 cannon, about 100 trench mortars, more than 700 machine guns and munitions depots and war material of all kinds.

On the Serre front the enemy continued to show his vigilance and to oppose by his machine gun fire our efforts to cross the Serre and the Souche. Further east we made progress between Nizy-le-Comte and Le Thour, taking prisoners.

BRITISH

LONDON (NIGHT).—The attack this morning was delivered by Anglo-Scottish troops of the Third and Fourth Armies between the Sambre Canal and the River Scheldt, south of Valenciennes.

An advance was made over country that was difficult, over many streams and through villages and woods which were defended with much resolution.

In the period of assembly and the early stages of the battle the hostile artillery displayed great activity with high explosives and gas shells. We have fought our way forward, in spite of obstinate resistance, especially by the enemy's artillery and machine guns.

Advancing with great steadiness some hours before dawn, our infantry penetrated the enemy's defenses along the whole of the front, and at an early hour had captured Pommereul Forest and Romeries. On the extreme right there was strong resistance, especially by the enemy's machine guns and the railway nearby, but at both places the enemy's defense was quickly overcome.

During the morning we pressed on over the whole of the front, carrying the enemy's positions to a depth of over three miles, driving him from many strongly defended villages, farms, woods and other localities organized for resistance.

The English 25th Division had hard fighting in the Bois l'Esveque, but progressed through the wood. East of the Bois l'Esveque, a depth of three and a half miles, captured Bousies.

The Anglo-Scottish troops secured the heights overlooking the village of Wood and captured Vendegie village. English and New Zealanders operating on their left reached the crest of the hills and established themselves on the high ground north-west of the village. Further north the village of Escarman was captured.

In these highly successful operations several thousand prisoners and many guns were captured by our troops, whose advance is continuing on the whole of the front.

LONDON (DAY).—At an early hour this morning our troops attacked on the Le Cateau-Solesmes front and are reported to be making good progress.

Further north, between Valenciennes and Tournai, we have taken Bruay and reached the west bank of the Scheldt at Bleharies and Espain. Considerable resistance was encountered on this front, yesterday, and sharp fighting took place, in which our troops, pressing the enemy vigorously, inflicted many casualties upon him and drove him from his positions, capturing a number of prisoners.

AMERICAN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22.—On the Verdun front we have maintained and extended our gains of the preceding days. Violent counter attacks on our new positions on Hill 247 and in the Bois des Rappes brought the enemy only severe losses, our line remaining everywhere intact. Further east our troops have taken the Bois de Foret, capturing seventy-five prisoners. Artillery has increased in intensity and aviation has



Lunch Without a Menu

"Menu is a nuisance—too many choices—sure to regret it this afternoon." Ever feel that way? Lunch on Borden's Malted Milk. No heaviness—no regrets. A pure, nourishing, food-drink. All flavors—all fountains.



Been more active on both sides of the Meuse.

GERMAN

BERLIN (NIGHT).—On both sides of Solesmes and Le Cateau we frustrated by renewed attempts of the British to break through. Violent fighting came to a standstill on the line of St. Martin, Neuville, Bousies, Ors and Cattillon.

On the north bank of the Serre, on both sides of Vouziers and west of Grandpre attacks by the French broke down, as did also heavy attacks by renewed attempts of the British on both sides of the Meuse.

BERLIN (DAY).—Fighting in the Lys lowland continues. The enemy launched violent attacks on both sides of Deynze. North of the town they were brought to a standstill west of the Deynze-Olensro road by a counter attack. East of Combrail we pressed back from the western outskirts of Vichte to the eastern outskirts. On both sides of that place strong enemy attacks broke down. The heights near Kreiters were renewed but bitter fighting against the assaults of the enemy, which were renewed four times.

There were partial engagements in the Scheldt lowlands and on both sides of Tournai and Valenciennes. South of Marle (northeast of Laon) we evacuated the temporarily defended bridgehead at the junction of the Serre, Aisne and the Western front line behind the brook sector. On the Aisne we repulsed violent attacks on both sides of Nanteuil.

On the east bank of the Aisne and on both sides of Vouziers and of Olizy the engagements have assumed greater extent. Behind the strongest artillery action the enemy attacked early in the morning between Terron and Falaise and also between Olizy and Beauchaire. On the heights west of Balay the attack gained some ground, but on the night of the 22d the French repulsed the attack. In the afternoon the enemy, after renewed artillery preparation, advanced to the attack. In a stubborn defense we held the heights east of Chesters against several assaults of the enemy, who was in superior numbers. On the rest of the front, also, the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses.

Between the Argonne and the Meuse and between the Meuse and the Moselle there was lively nocturnal fighting. Parting engagements west of the Meuse and west of the Moselle (American sectors) were without special result.

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Italians Drive Back Austrians in Albania

ROME, Oct. 22.—Austrian rearguards in Albania, hard pressed by Italian cavalry and Albanian detachments, have retired to north of the Matia River, thirty miles north of Elbasan (northeast of Durazzo), according to an official statement from the Italian War Office to-day.

Yank Aviator Downs One, Fights Six Enemy Planes

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 22 (By The Associated Press).—Lieutenant Sidney White, of Elizabeth City, N. C., to-day brought down a German

30,000 Serbians Die in Bulgarian Camps

BRITONS, Just Released, Tell of Atrocities Committed by the Enemy

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The first party of 1,000 British prisoners taken by the Bulgarians and liberated under the peace agreement between that country and the Allies, passed through Sofia yesterday en route to Salonica, according to a dispatch to "The Mail" from the Bulgarian capital. They reported that because of ill treatment at the hands of the Bulgars, 30,000 of the 50,000 Serbians in Bulgarian prison camps have died.

SALONICA, Oct. 23.—During their occupation of the Greek town of Seres the Bulgarians not only deported many of the population, but also treated harshly those left in the town. The first persons to be deported were the priests, professors and other well-known persons.

The holy books of the Greek churches



The Coat Of The Connoisseur—Stein-Bloch Underwear Cut To Fit, Not Chopped To Hang

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Don't put off till November what you can put on in October!

JOHN DAVID STEIN-BLOCH SMART CLOTTES Broadway at 32nd Street

and the school books of the Greek schools were burned and replaced by Bulgarian books. The residents of Seres, having refused for several months to attend church services in the Bulgarian language and to send their children to schools where only Bulgarian was taught, suffered terrible punishment.

Major Emery Free; Safe in Copenhagen

Major Emery is a former professor in Yale University and a former member of the American Tariff Commission appointed by President Taft. He went to Petrograd in September, 1917, to represent the Guaranty Trust Company and was married in Petrograd in July, 1917. With Mrs. Emery and a number of other neutrals he was traveling from Russia to Sweden by way of the Aland Islands last March when arrested by the Germans, being the only member of the party to be molested. The Finnish government endeavored to obtain his release, but in vain. He was taken to Danzig and later to several other prison camps in Germany.

Guaranty Trust's Representative in Russia Had Been Prisoner in Germany

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 23.—Major Henry Crosby Emery, Russian representative of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, who was made a prisoner by the Germans on the Aland Islands last March, has been released from imprisonment in Germany. He arrived in Copenhagen last night.

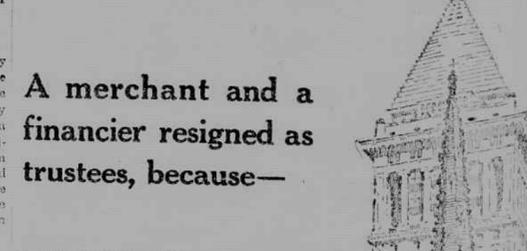
Winant Escapes Germans

Word has just been received here that Cornelius Winant, son of Mrs. Frederick Winant, of 103 East Seventy-first Street, who was taken prisoner by the Germans early in the spring of this year, when he was flying in the French aviation service, has escaped and is now in France. Young Winant was believed to have been killed.

Two Naval Aviators Are Thought Prisoners of War

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—Lieutenants Kenneth MacLush, of Clinton, Ill., and Artemus L. Gates, of Clinton, Iowa, naval aviators, who have been missing for several days, are believed to have been taken prisoner. The Navy Department was advised today by Vice-Admiral Sims.

A merchant and a financier resigned as trustees, because—



A PROMINENT merchant of this city and an equally prominent financier were appointed under the will of a friend to handle his large estate.

Neither had the time nor the inclination to give to the details of handling the estate. Both resigned, under the condition that this Company should serve in their stead.

Consider whether your friend can afford to take the time and responsibility of handling your estate. This Company is organized for that purpose, and our officers will be glad to talk to you about our ability to serve.

Ask for booklet "The First Step in Making Your Will."

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Advertisement for Clemons Civilian Army and Navy Tailor, featuring a suit and text: 'THE difference between my Made-to-Measure Suit at \$30 to \$60 and a stiff-and-stodgy "ready-made" at the same prices is the difference between a race-horse and a cab-horse.'

Advertisement for Knox Coats and Knox Hat Company, featuring illustrations of men in coats and hats, and text: 'KNOX COATS DISTINCTIVE MODELS EXCLUSIVE FABRICS THE finest imported materials that hand and loom can make.'

Advertisement for Bankers Trust Company, featuring a large illustration of a building and text: 'A PROMINENT merchant of this city and an equally prominent financier were appointed under the will of a friend to handle his large estate.'