

of the Somme the Allies were unable to advance in that section this morning, being occupied with relating the freshly organized enemy counter attacks. The Germans are putting forth the most desperate efforts to hold up the British and American thrust in that neighborhood, presumably with the intention of gaining time to bring gas reserves and to remove as much of his stores as possible.

Allied armies have been feverishly active all day. The Germans attempted to throw pontoon bridges across the Somme between Ham and Peronne, but the British and French fliers destroyed these as they were put in place. In addition they dropped tons of bombs on the retreating enemy transport columns, blocking the roads and inflicting heavy losses. The most serious blow was the return of the German lines, and the retreat at some places has been brought to a complete halt.

Among the prisoners are Generals, Colonels and officers of all grades. More than 1,000 enemy officers have been captured. Eleven of Gen. Hutier's divisions have been identified. The Associated Press correspondent with the French army says the German defense was stiffening this morning in the region southwest of Noyon, the French nevertheless gained some ground on the heights of Thiesscourt.

Hutier to Make Stand.

There are indications that Gen. von Hutier is organizing a line of resistance on the general front of Roye, Lassigny and Noyon to protect the withdrawal of the great masses of munitions and supplies gathered just to the rear and in case a retreat which is becoming more difficult to keep in hand.

The showing up of the French advance in that sector was a definite and the difficulty of bringing up munitions and supplies over roads encumbered by the debris of the German retreat, the highways also having been blocked in many places by trees felled by the retreating troops.

In spite of these obstacles the French advanced their lines south of the Roye-Amiens road and near Montdidier and the line the enemy is organizing between Roye and Lassigny is considered not likely to prove, at the most, more than a temporary obstacle to the French advance.

With his right flank menaced and with a third French army, under Gen. Humbert, harassing his rear to a point where his retreat is being cut off, Gen. von Hutier's army, it would appear, will have to fall back beyond the Roye-Lassigny line to escape a veritable pulverization from the three French armies under the three armies under Gen. Rawlinson, Debeney and Humbert.

Artillery Like Machine Guns.

The last three days have witnessed machine-like movement by these three armies, each reaching its designated objective without a single hitch. The speed shown in maneuvering is regarded as a masterpiece for such a large number of troops, all the armies functioning perfectly.

The advance of twelve miles by Gen. Rawlinson's army, the most of the offensive was accompanied by a push from the French First Army. Gen. Humbert then delivered his stroke from the south and joined with precision in executing the prearranged plan.

The Allies are fighting their way forward and the armies of Gen. von der Marwitz and von Hutier are in full retreat in the direction of Peronne, Nesles and Ham. Important rear guards are being sacrificed by the Germans to insure the safety of the main armies, and there is well defined feeling among military critics that the German reserves are not as important or numerous as was originally thought. The schismers with which Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria is believed to be causing Gen. Ludendorff some worry.

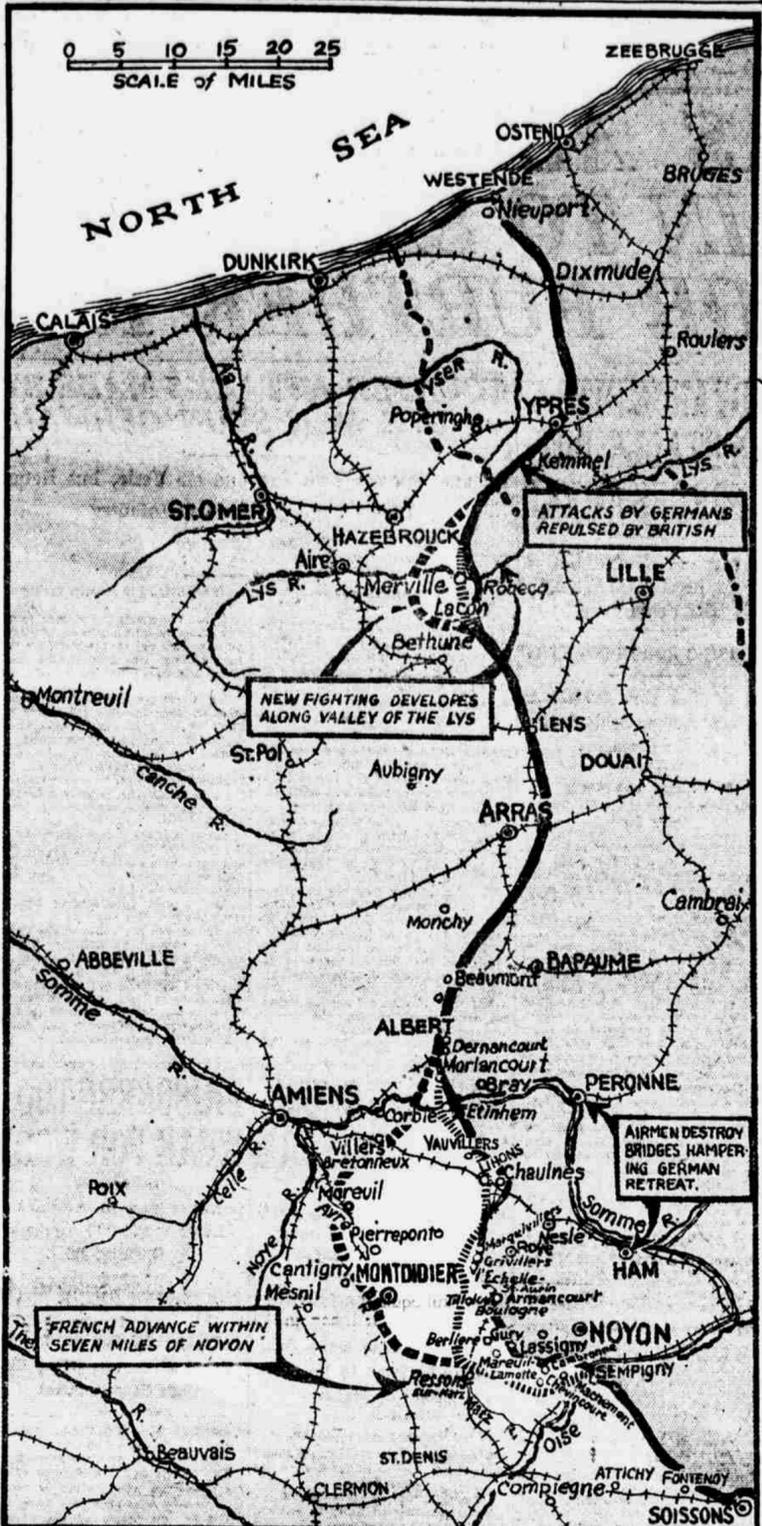
A temporary lull may be expected in the fighting on the present lines, as the Germans are desperately striving to save their material and retire their troops to the old Hindenburg line and rectify the front, where they intend to make their stand.

Besides crushing the enemy hope of further penetrating Paris the German retreat under pressure from the Montdidier region has restored to the Allies the belief in the possibility of which had previously handicapped their transport.

The converging front of the three armies has made it possible at certain points to employ a cross artillery fire upon the German columns, making the problem of von Hutier in extricating his rear guard from the Montdidier pocket a serious one.

In the Flanders battlefield the British announce a slight gain at Robecq, and also a repulse of a German attack in the Lys Valley.

Where Allies Continue to Advance Lines Against Germans.



GENERAL RETREAT MAY BE FORCED Allied Victory Grows More Important Daily.

PARIS, Aug. 11.—The allied victory daily is assuming larger proportions and the military experts are discussing the possibility of a general withdrawal by the Germans.

The Associated Press correspondent is declaring that the retrograde movement already is becoming a general one.

The battle yesterday developed according to the plan. Gen. Humbert's army, when it was thrown into the battle, compelled von Hutier to abandon Montdidier, and under the pressure of the retrograde movement in the Marne region caused a rapidity verging upon that of a rout.

As soon as the French infantry had scored an advance of between six and eight miles, the cavalry and tanks, keeping upon the heels of the enemy, pushed on considerably further, reaching even as far as the eastern outskirts of Roye. Gen. Humbert's troops have now established contact with those of Gen. Debeney to the west of the town of Bus. In other sectors where the British and the French were fighting important battles, was accomplished even at points where the Germans offered a resistance which was at times desperate.

The Echo de Paris predicts that the developments will force the Germans to evacuate Lassigny and that they will be unable to hold either Roye or even Noyon for any length of time.

The capture of the Chilly ridge, on the left flank of the attack, is pointed out as extremely important, as the indications were the enemy was endeavoring to offset the gains on his left wing by holding here.

With the expected capture by the French First Army of the town of Roye, the Germans under Gen. von Hutier will face the unavoidable necessity of giving up their entire position from the Montdidier area to the eastward, and retreating behind Noyon, on the outskirts of the Forest of St. Gobain, in the opinion of the military commentator of the Gazette.

The Petit Journal speculates as to whether the enemy troops in the sector of Chaulnes will be able to escape the dangerous trap which has been set for them, pointing out that they are being driven toward the Somme, where all the bridges from Peronne to Ham have been destroyed by Franco-British aviators.

The enemy will not be able to fall without a violent counter attack, in the opinion of *La Journal*, as he is rushing up troops for this purpose, it declares. Reconstructing air squadrons, says the newspaper, report that strong German columns are being brought up at top speed from Cambrai, Peronne and St. Quentin.

Various newspapers comment upon the fine showing again made by the Amer-

ALTHOUGH the Germans stiffened their resistance to the north of Chaulnes, the railroad centre of the Germans in the Somme salient, that town fell to British Colonial troops. To the north of Chaulnes, in the vicinity of Lihons, the Germans offered stern resistance to a further advance by the Allies, but failed to check them. To the southeast of Montdidier the French continued their advances and have approached within seven miles of Noyon, probably the centre of

the next German line. In this sector the French occupied Cambrenne, Chevincourt and Machelmont.

In the Flanders section there was a short revival of fighting. In the vicinity of Mont Kemmel the British report a German attack repulsed, while they advanced their lines near Robecq. The German report says that there was renewed fighting in the Lys valley and asserts that no advance was made. It was here that the Germans made their retreat before the forces of Field Marshal Haig last Friday.

U-BOAT SINKS NINE AMERICAN VESSELS

Navy Department Report.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—Coming to the surface in the midst of a fleet of fishing schooners off the Massachusetts coast a German submarine today sank nine vessels of the fleet, the Navy Department tonight announced.

The schooner sank include the Kate Palmer, the Amity May, the Reliance, the Starbuck and the Progress. The names of the four other vessels were not contained in Navy Department dispatches.

Four survivors from the crew of the Kate Palmer, picked up by the fishing schooner Helen Murley, have reached port in safety. No information had been obtained by the Navy Department tonight as to the fate of the crews of the other schooners.

The submarine held the crew of the Kate Palmer prisoner for one hour. The men were then set adrift in a small boat.

Malvy Crosses Frontier as Exile.

BORDEAUX, Aug. 11.—Louis J. Malvy, former Minister of the Interior, who was found guilty of holding hostages during the war with the enemy and sentenced to five years' banishment, passed into exile today. It is announced that he crossed the Spanish frontier at an unrecalled point.

WILSON CALLS COAL SHORTAGE A PERIL

Continued from First Page.

with the staff of Provost Marshal General Crowder pointed out that the country is running at maximum capacity to meet requirements for projectiles and cannon for the American forces abroad, are consuming more than twice the amount of coal they normally require.

Great as is the need for steel for war purposes, the proclamation of the President taken here to indicate that the demand for coal has outstripped that of steel and that comprehensive and intelligent cooperation must be rendered by those engaged in its production if a repetition of last winter's difficulties are to be avoided.

The White House statement is issued at a time when the production of coal has shown a steady decrease for three successive weeks. Operators claim this is largely due to their inability to secure enough coal to keep their mines in continuous operation.

Reports on Coal Shortage.

Reports of the Geological Survey today show that the production of coal is down 1.7 per cent in central Pennsylvania to 38.8 per cent in the Kentucky fields. While the output is 14.3 per cent over that of the same week last year, it is 3 per cent less than it was in the previous week and 15 per cent under that of three weeks ago.

The mines were able to operate only 82.4 per cent of their full time, it is shown. Their losses in percentages were due to 74 per cent coal shortage, 4.2 per cent to labor shortage, 4.1 per cent to mine disability and 1.7 per cent to other causes.

The output for the three last weeks on which reports are made are: July 30, 12,954,000 tons; July 27, 12,850,000 and August 3, 12,421,000 tons.

Several days ago officers connected

AMERICANS IMPROVE CAMPS IN FRANCE

Roads and Board Walks Being Built for the Winter.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 11.—Plans are under way to make comfortable winter the concentration camps of American soldiers in France, according to the Stars and Stripes, the official army paper.

The roads are being improved in order to get away from the mud which has perched the men so severely last winter and board walks are being put down.

"There are certain patriotic back home," the paper says, "who admit they are willing to support the army programme 'up to a certain point' but who insist upon the right of giving any man sent abroad. There's no fifty-fifty people in the soul of the soldier. These are the States who are not willing to go the whole distance with the kingdom of liberty and the kingdom of Kaiserism. All should choose one or the other."

GERMAN RETREAT REACHES OLD LINE

Allies Push Ahead Toward the Upper Part of the Somme.

TANKS DO GOOD WORK

Enemy Troops in Large Numbers Fleeing Without Arms, Airmen Report.

By the Associated Press.

With the BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 11.—The allied forces continued their victorious advance all along the line last night and to-day, pushing in the general direction of the upper reaches of the Somme. They were smashing the stiff resistance interposed by the rear guards of the retreating Germans, the bulk of whom, according to reports, are fleeing in disorder. British cavalry are reported this afternoon operating close to the town of Nesles, 24 miles southeast of Chaulnes.

Many hours ago the British, French and American troops had reached roughly the old line held by the Germans before their retreat to the Hindenburg line. They have now pushed beyond in many places. The Germans are retiring gradually everywhere in the face of the fire from British guns, rifles and machine guns.

WOODS RECK WITH GAS

The Americans and British north of the Somme had further hard fighting, and with fine spirit pushed on toward Bray. They have traversed the northern spur east of Chilly, and Euseinens and the eastern extremity of the wood had long since been cleared of the enemy, the allied forces passing around the wood, which was reeking with gas from many directions.

Here both the British and Americans were helped on their way by tanks. At one place a tank containing twelve volunteers, without a single casualty, engaged the enemy, who were seven officers and two hundred men were captured. This permitted the infantry to get to the line it was holding this morning.

The Americans in the fighting of the last twenty hours had further casualties, principally caused by machine gun bullets. But their casualties were no more than could be expected among troops constantly delivering attacks against the enemy who here put up probably the stiffest resistance of any along the line.

A considerable number of additional prisoners were taken here and the Germans suffered extremely heavy losses. Up to date thirty-one German divisions have been in contact with the allied forces. Of these twenty-one have been engaged between the eastern left of the allied tank and where the French join the British. A number of prisoners from these divisions have also been captured by the French. The divisions of Prince Rupprecht's reserves have been identified in the fighting.

Large groups of prisoners, hungry, thirsty and weary, appearing thoroughly disheartened, continue to arrive at the collecting cages. Among the captured were five regimental commanders and two battalion commanders.

Late today strong enemy forces were concentrating east of Bray and apparently were making preparations to oppose a detour.

However, the German object probably is merely to cover the retreat of the large enemy forces. They have the additional means of attempting to delay a great amount of heavy material, which they recently lost a large quantity, and feel the military necessity of raising main positions in order to protect the remaining supplies.

The scores of allied observers in airplanes reported that long streams of smoke, and the sound of firing, were heard eastward, including the vicinity east of Bray. Great columns of Germans were crossing the Somme River even by the bridges that had been damaged by allied bombers, who have dropped many tons of explosives at vital points. The enemy bombers also have been busy and repeatedly were chased away by the British.

The Germans were reported to be retreating eastward from Peronne in the greatest disorder. Many were said to be without arms, apparently having discarded their weapons. Among them were many wounded men staggering along on foot.

FIRE WITHIN GERMAN LINES

Reports from the south received here that the French continue to push along the Hindenburg line. Many fires and explosions are reported within the German lines as their retreat goes on. Much of this destruction was caused by the German themselves. In some cases shells from allied guns struck and exploded enemy ammunition dumps.

Chaulnes was shrouded in clouds of smoke, shot with flames. Among other buildings in the town the railway station was reported as having been burning for many hours.

The German resistance thus far generally appears to become weaker as the battle progresses toward the center, especially opposite the positions held by the British. The German living artillery of the Allies' front ranks is reported to have been ordered to lift the fire a thousand yards at a time, so rapid has been the advance of the infantry. The counter attacks that the enemy has tried to make on the line have failed, notably to the east of Follen, where extremely heavy casualties were taken by the Germans.

"Whippets" again performed tremendous services at a small cost to themselves all along the line. At one small town, south of the Amiens-Roye road, the advancing French infantry sent word to the British that they could not get on because of heavy machine gun fire from the town.

Five ponderous armored monsters went over and rolled directly into the place. Their crews discovered that the houses were crowded with Germans manning machine guns. The tanks were ordered to smash their way through the windows. One tank leisurely advanced upon a house while a hail of bullets splashed off its metal hide. After receding a few yards the tank was backed off and charged home. Its great weight crushed in the whole building and it continued forward until the structure was flattened in terror by enemy machine gunners thoroughly effaced.

TANK CRUSHES WHOLE VILLAGE

After this success, the four companion tanks, pushing like giant elephants, the enemy and the house working machine proceeded to roll down and flatten nearly other houses. This tank literally crushed the entire village and all the enemy within.

When the French infantry, who had paused until the way was made clear by the tanks, advanced, they proceeded on their way they met with the resistance. On the other side of the road, Germans who had witnessed its demolition, fled in terror.

German prisoners have boasted that their forces now are equipped with new anti-tank rifles, firing a large projectile at great velocity and with accuracy. These rifles, however, demonstrates that they are complete failures when trained

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLES.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—This morning the enemy delivered strong attacks with fresh divisions, brought up from his reserves against the British positions at Lihons and to the south and north of that place. All these attacks have been repulsed after severe fighting in which our troops inflicted great losses upon the enemy's advancing line.

At one point, immediately to the north of Lihons, German assault troops broke into our positions and penetrated to the west side of the village. They were then counter attacked with determination by our troops, and in the course of fierce fighting over the difficult ground were driven back to the east and north of the village. Our line was completely restored.

On the right of the British troops French forces, acting in co-operation with them, have made progress southwest and south of Roye.

On the remainder of the British front a few prisoners have been captured by our patrols during the day.

BRITISH (DAY)—By a successful operation during the night we advanced our line north of the Somme on the high ground between Etinehem and Dernancourt. South of the river local fighting is reported at different points.

The French troops made further progress along the south bank of the Avre River and reached the outskirts of L'Escheille-St. Aurin.

Early this morning the enemy launched a local attack against positions north of Kemmel. The attack was repulsed after sharp fighting, prisoners being left in our hands. Hostile raiding parties were driven off north of the Scarpe. We improved our positions slightly east of Robecq (Flanders front).

FRENCH (NIGHT)—Our troops have continued to gain ground between the Avre and the Oise, in spite of the resistance of the enemy.

To the south of the Avre we occupied Marquilliers and Grivillers, and have reached the line of Armancourt and Tilloloy and progressed north of Roye-sur-Matz, about two kilometers, as far as the outskirts of Canny-sur-Matz. Further to the south we captured and passed the village of La Berliere.

Between the Matz and the Oise our advance has assumed a more pronounced character north of Chevincourt, Machelmont and Cambrenne are ours.

FRENCH (DAY)—During yesterday evening and last night the French troops continued their progress along the entire front between the Avre and the Oise. They captured the entire massif of Boulogne-la-Grasse and carried their lines to the east of Bus.

Further south they penetrated the wooded region between the Matz and the Oise, reaching the outskirts of La Berliere and Gury. They took Moreuil-Lamotte and realized an advance of three kilometers in the region to the north of Chevincourt.

GERMAN (NIGHT)—Violent enemy attacks on the battlefield between the Ancre and the Aisne have failed.

GERMAN (DAY)—Between the Yser and the Ancre the fighting activity decreased during the day, but was revived at many points in the evening. Strong enemy thrusts on both sides of the Lys were repulsed.

On the battlefield the enemy has extended his attacks so far as the Oise.

Between the Ancre and the Somme they collapsed before our lines. Directly south of the Somme the enemy infantry remained in action after their failures on August 9. Strong partial attacks of the enemy near Raincourt and against Lihons failed as the result of our fire and counter attacks.

The main strength of the attacks yesterday was directed against our front between the Ancre and the Avre. East of Rosieres and on both sides of the Amiens road and Roye we repulsed many times repeated enemy attacks. In the fluctuating battle against the masses of armored cars the unshakable attacking strength of our infantry again made itself fully felt at this point. On many occasions the enemy's assaults broke down even as a result of our artillery fire.

Before the sector of a single division alone more than forty armored cars are lying destroyed.

Between the Avre and the Oise the enemy, after violent artillery preparation, made strong attacks against our old positions from Montdidier as far as Outhell. He was not able to reach our new fighting line east of Montdidier, which we announced yesterday.

Our rear guards received the enemy in our old positions with a strong fire and then yielded, fighting beyond the line of Laboisserie, Hainvillers, Riquebourg and Marest.

There has been very lively aerial activity over the battlefield. We have shot down twenty-three more enemy airplanes and one captive balloon.

On the Vesle the enemy was repulsed between Flimes and Courlandon.

In Champagne, west of the Somme-py-Sorain road there were local engagements in which we took prisoners.

On the armored tanks. A number of the weapons have fallen into the hands of the British.

During the advance east of Rosieres British cavalry sent back word that they could not proceed because of heavy fire from a woods on their front. A number of swift "whippets" rolled around to the back of the wood, but the Germans saw them coming and ran for their lives toward the rear. This gave the cavalry an opportunity and they charged into the enemy, who made a vain attempt to rally. The Germans were a hard right and left and 700 of them surrendered.

That was only one of the many instances where British cavalry during the course of the battle, in addition to scouting far ahead of the advancing infantry and rounding up enemy forces, has made thrilling charges with the traditional dash of the mounted forces.

If the Germans have had a hard time of it with the allied infantry and artillery, they have had doubly a hard one with the cavalry and the tanks.

The battle is progressing at this hour from one end of the line to the other and the most favorable results are reported everywhere for the Allies.

Our cavalry, noting this leaped their horses over the fences and, sabering the panic stricken Germans, right and left. Seven hundred prisoners were taken by the horsemen.

A general places the arrival of the tanks and armored cars as the first intimation the enemy had of the advance. The tank tanks have been particularly valuable. At one place, in a field, I saw tank tracks running in a circle. The tank apparently had been running around helplessly, but on closer investigation I found an enemy machine gun position that had been literally flattened out by the tank, which had run bodily over the gun and gunners.

The circle of tracks simply showed that the tank had been looking for a favorable avenue over which to charge the machine gun position.

The benefits conferred on our infantry by the tanks in routing the enemy machine gunners cannot be overestimated. Doubtless they saved thousands of lives. All the troops are wildly enthusiastic over the tanks. Their casualties are not heavy, either in men or machines.

Of the whole fleet probably less than fifty were put out of commission, and were crippled were towed back to temporary machine shops and were being put in condition for more raids on the enemy.

Our tank men kept a close watch for the enemy's so-called close watch for anti-tank gun, but there was no evidence of any such weapon. Some of our light tanks were knocked out by concentrated gas fired at a few places. They were stuck in the marshes, but these were pulled out. The tanks had a tremendous time, although the strain on the crew was great.

At one point the French had trouble in a village which was defended by machine guns, so they had to borrow five or six big tanks. These rolled into the town, and no sooner did they appear than German machine guns were smashed away from them from the windows of houses. The houses in this town are of a flimsy character, being of the plaster type.

The tank commanders, after studying the situation briefly, finally lined up in the town, they charged the houses with noise elephants, knocking them off their foundations and sending the machine gunners, along with their weapons, into a shattered mass of dust and plaster. In this way they knocked down practically every house in the village.

Our cavalry was held up at Marquilliers by machine guns and the horsemen withdrew until a fleet of small tanks could be called into action. These tanks, along with the machine guns, worked of the town and made about 100 yards into the village.

When the Germans saw the tanks coming they scooted out of the town and tried to escape across the open country.

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Paris Thrilled, but Calm.

The French people may become really excited for the first time during the war if the news from the front comes in upsetting the German plan for the north widely acknowledged. At one of the British Home heroes said last afternoon: "I've not been so well received in Paris since I landed in 1914." He is not alone. The first great results of the united command are beginning to be felt, and if there is one thing that delights those who have the future of France at heart, it is a knowledge of the political results which will flow from the really allied use of troops from the three countries.

In the fighting between the Aisne and the Marne, French, British, American and Italian troops were engaged and Generals Mangin and Berthelot paid tribute to the fighting qualities of the men which were the result of the great words of the French commanders were those of soldiers to soldiers, and their chief effect perhaps, has been peace.

Great credit is due to the French for French war correspondents who these time have been working under most difficulties, but who have told the truth from the front in a way to make a proper echo in the rear. The British press has been ungrudging in its praise of the Allies and a special plaudit only to credit the maps on which all such tributes were well deserved. Likewise the British papers have at all times recognized the power of the French armies.

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In the fighting between the Aisne and the Marne, French, British, American and Italian troops were engaged and Generals Mangin and Berthelot paid tribute to the fighting qualities of the men which were the result of the great words of the French commanders were those of soldiers to soldiers, and their chief effect perhaps, has been peace.

Great credit is due to the French for French war correspondents who these time have been working under most difficulties, but who have told the truth from the front in a way to make a proper echo in the rear. The British press has been ungrudging in its praise of the Allies and a special plaudit only to credit the maps on which all such tributes were well deserved. Likewise the British papers have at all times recognized the power of the French armies.

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HUTIER'S ROUT ENDS THREAT ON PARIS

Humbert's Series of Heavy Blows Still Driving Germans Back to Old Line.

BIG ADVANTAGES GAINED