

them to an early retreat toward the Ardennes, across the front of the powerful allied right wing.

The way back to Germany lies through two bottle necks separated by the Ardennes, the one between Liège and Dinant and the other between Montmédy and Verdun. The latter is already partly blocked.

In this region, the Champagne and the Argonne, the Germans are offering very strong resistance in a desperate effort to keep their escape routes open. Understanding this, the French forced a crossing of the Aisne near Vouziers today, while the Americans on both sides of the Meuse are advancing slowly.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE WAR OFFICES

Further Large Area in Flanders Regained by Allies.

LONDON, Oct. 18.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in Flanders and France issued by the various war offices:

FRENCH (NIGHT)—To the east of the Oise the troops of the first army resumed this morning their pressure from the forest of Andigny to the river. These valiant troops, which for more than a month have been fighting the enemy, powerfully fortified, have won again to-day further successes.

They have reconquered the village of Mennervet and the forest of Andigny, the eastern outskirts of which they hold, making at that point an advance of more than five kilometers under conditions particularly difficult.

They have reached the outskirts of Hannappes, Le Grand Verly and Noyales. They have captured the villages of furious resistance by the enemy, the villages of Grougnis, Almonville and Boyonville.

Further south our advance guards have continued to pursue the enemy between the Oise and the Serre. We have advanced our lines to the north of Seray les Lières, to the southern outskirts of Fontaine and to the north of Nouvion and Catillon. We have captured about ten villages and made numerous prisoners, the number of which actually exceeds 1,500.

On both sides of Vouziers (Champagne) our infantry has crossed the Aisne on a front of five kilometers and taken on a footing on the east. The village of Vandry and several farms organized as supporting points fell into our hands. The capture of several hundred prisoners is announced.

Further east the fighting which has been going on since yesterday has developed to our advantage. We have succeeded in making progress in the wooded region between Oilly and Grand Pre.

FRENCH (DAY)—On the right bank of the Oise the enemy confined his reactions to artillery fire. Between the Oise and the Serre French pressure continued during the day. A few days ago the enemy began a new withdrawal. Debouching from Aehery and Choiny toward the end of the night the French troops pursued the German rear guards and occupied Angoulcourt.

West of Grand Pre the battle continues with extreme stubbornness and was extended this morning as far as the heights of Vouziers. The French have crossed the Aisne in this region.

BRITISH (DAY)—The prisoners reported in our operations yesterday on the front of Bohain and Le Cateau exceeded 4,000. We also captured a number of guns.

Further north our advance continues on the whole front between the Seneze Canal and the Lys River.

We have crossed the canal on a wide front north of Cambrai. We are astride the Douai-Cambrai road, four miles southeast of Douai, and have captured a number of villages.

Northeast of Lille we are within a mile of Tournai.

BELGIAN—The main feature of the day was the vigorous resistance of the enemy on the front of Bruges, Oostcamp, Wynghene, Thielt and Oostroobeke. We have, nevertheless, broken that resistance east of Oostcamp, between Wynghene and Thielt, and east of Oostroobeke.

Southwest of Bruges the Belgian army realized an important advance. At several points it crossed the canal, running from Bruges to Ostend, and is progressing northward. Belgian infantry has occupied Ostend and has reached the outskirts of Bruges.

The second British Army is also progressing south of the Lys and at several points has crossed the railway running from Courtrai to Mouscron. In the evening it occupied the towns of Roubaix and Tournai. Southward of the Lys the country is intact and very well cultivated, there are very many inhabitants there. The Germans, however, took with them a great number of men below the age of 40.

Tournai and Roubaix are intact. There are 60,000 inhabitants at Tournai and 65,000 at Roubaix. The municipal administrations have been taken over and there is a sufficient food supply for fifteen days.

Several stations, bridges and ammunition depots had been mined.

GERMAN (NIGHT)—Between Le Cateau and the Oise renewed attempts by the enemy to break through failed.

In Flanders north of the Lys, on the Aisne on both sides of Vouziers, and west of Grand Pre violent attacks failed.

The day was quieter on the Meuse (where the Americans are fighting).

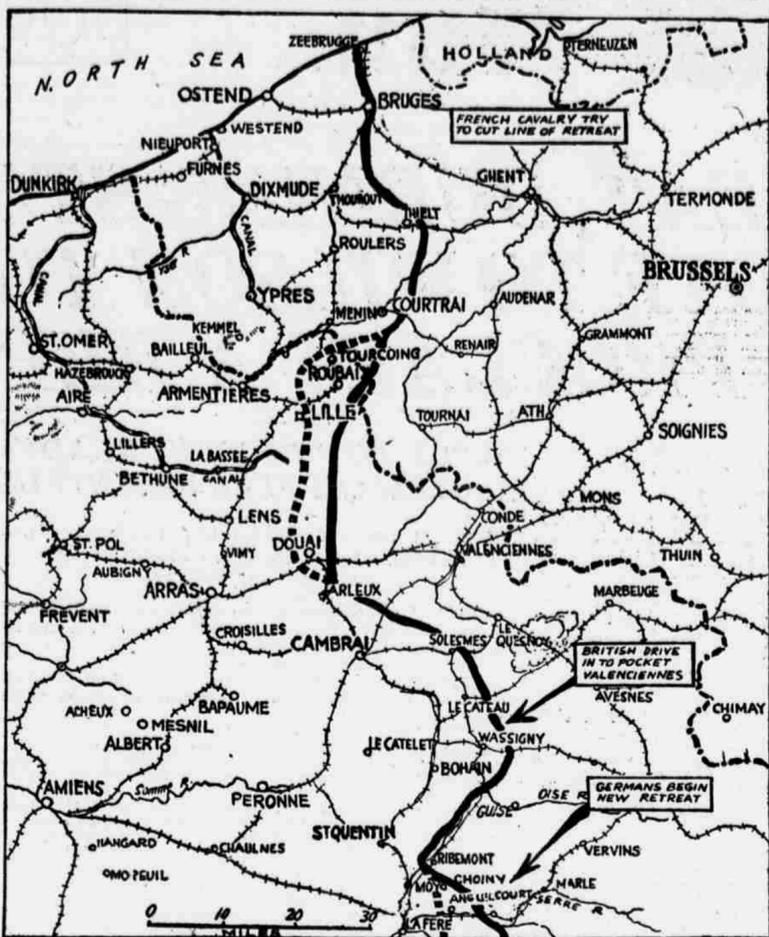
GERMAN (DAY)—During the last few days we have evacuated parts of Flanders and northern France, including Tournai, Ostend, Roubaix, Lille and Douai. We have taken up positions in our lines in the rear.

Between Bruges and Lys yesterday the enemy frequently followed in pursuit with strong forces. We repulsed British companies which pressed forward across the Lys north of Courtrai. They were thrown back by counter attacks.

East of Lille and Douai we were only in slight fighting contact with the enemy.

Between Le Cateau and the Oise the battle has blazed up again. The British and Franco-Americans bringing into the action powerful fighting forces, again endeavored to break through our front on both sides of Le Cateau. The enemy's attack broke down. Local

Where Germans Are Withdrawing in Belgium and France



GERMAN withdrawal or retreat from the western part of the line in Belgium and France continues at an accelerated pace. Lille, Ostend, Zebrugge and Bruges, all of which were reached Thursday, were occupied yesterday, as were also Roubaix and Tournai, about seven miles northeast of Lille.

While enormous quantities of stores have been taken by the Allies, the German retreat is being conducted in a most orderly and highly skillful manner. There is as yet no definite indication of how far east it will extend.

British troops are driving in a new salient in the region of Le Cateau, which is fast placing Valenciennes in a dangerous pocket. Valenciennes is one of the main points on the trunk railroad upon which the Germans depend for supplies for all the armies on the western front. A considerable number of American troops are engaged in this operation.

Still further south, in the angle between the Oise and the Serre, the Germans began yesterday a new retreat on a large scale toward Hirson, another important point on the railroad.

breaches were cleared by counter attacks.

Between Le Cateau and Aisonville the enemy penetrated our lines at isolated points. We brought the enemy to a standstill before our artillery positions at the Le Cateau-Wassigny road, near La Vallée Mulatre and Mennervet and northeast of Aisonville.

Wherever the enemy advanced beyond this line he was thrown back by our counter attacks. Aisonville and the adjacent lines to the south were held against several assaults. In the afternoon renewed attacks here broke down.

Enemy attacks against the Oise front north of Origny also were unsuccessful. On the Aisne the enemy continued his violent attacks east of Vrixy. He was repulsed in stiff fighting. We carried out successful operations west of Grand Pre and on the east bank of the Meuse.

these appear to have been engaged recently and some have suffered terrible losses.

From information reaching headquarters this afternoon it seems that all the available reserves of the enemy north of the River Lys have now been engaged. Few, if any, divisions can be spared from any other section of the front. Moreover, it is now absolutely certain that the Germans, in addition to their other difficulties, are seriously handicapped by a shortage of high explosive shells.

Captured orders show that the German gunners have been urged to use gas shells instead of high explosives, and all ranks have been commanded to save their brass cartridges when retreating. Even further economy is being observed in the use of shells. It is admitted that the lack of ammunition is hampering operations.

In the Lille sector the Germans appear to be rapidly withdrawing their guns far to the rear, leaving only a protecting screen of artillery.

The Germans, at least for the moment, seem to have stopped their orgy of burning and destroying, partly through fear of what the allied troops may have a chance to do before long. To-day's reports say no fires of any sequence have been observed except at places close to the line.

How many civilians have been delivered from the clutches of the enemy three days is uncertain, but the numbers run well into the thousands. Now it has become a usual thing for the British, French and Belgian troops to send back momentarily from every town taken large numbers of men, women and children. From some of these evidence corroborative of the reports of the gradual destruction of the German morale has been obtained.

For instance, it has been learned that in the neighborhood of Heule and Cuene, north of Courtrai, entire regiments flatly refused to fight, although threatened with severe punishment by their officers. These regiments finally retired in a body.

From prisoners, especially officers, similar evidence is being obtained constantly. The officers of the Twentieth Dragoon Regiment of the crack Sixth Cavalry Division, which had been dismounted and fought as infantry, say that the spirit of the men was broken principally because instead of getting a rest after their hard fighting they had again been sent into battle. "Peace talk" is also said to be having a demoralizing effect on the morale of the men, gradually breaking down their will to resist.

During the last few hours some who had hastily constructed defence lines have been encountered by the advancing Allies in the area about Louvain, Eghem, Colescamp, Pitthen and Thielt, but they have managed to get through without difficulty.

Where resistance has been offered, the advance has been stopped at that particular point while an attack was being organized. Then the allied troops simply pushed the Germans or outflanked them, punishing them severely. Many dead Germans therefore are lying here and there over the desolate, dismal country wherever the allied troops have passed.

come to an end and the morning newspapers speak of Thursday as a memorable day in the war, pointing out the prominent part played by the British army and navy in the far reaching successes gained.

The Belgian coast forts, says the Daily Telegraph in referring to the German withdrawal from the Channel coast, were symbols of the enemy's U-boat campaign and the threat to Great Britain. The evacuation of these places, it adds, is doubly humiliating and morally ruinous for the authors of the war.

The Daily Mail, after describing Thursday as the best day of the war, says that by the rescue of Lille the British nation and army have been able in some measure to repay the debt they owe to France, adding:

"It is equally glorious that the British navy has been able to rescue Ostend and to restore to King Albert and his people the coast for which they battled so long."

The peril of Germany, the Mail continues, is increased by the danger in the Balkans to Germany's ally, the continued advance of the Serbs, Italians and French.

The Daily Express refers to the German cessation of hostilities in retreat as "another move to the Wilson line."

The whole British nation, the Times says, will be glad it has been the privilege from the Germans during the past year to have been able to drive back Lille to France. The Times adds:

"Germany's belated abandonment of the practices of barbarism is the outcome of allied protests, but it cannot be forgotten that hundreds of towns and villages have been savagely wrecked. The wicked process of deportation also corroborative of the reports of the men already carried off must be returned."

BRITISH MAKE GAINS EAST OF LE CATEAU

Americans There Overcome Stiff Resistance.

By the Associated Press.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Oct. 18.—Once more have the Germans been forced to out of wide strips of land all the way from the North Sea to the regions east of St. Quentin in France.

The greatest gains of to-day seem to have been made east of Douai, where the British have sliced off a substantial corner on the east of the disappearing Lille salient. The last reports received from there indicate that the British in their forward rush have reached positions close to the junction of the Seneze River and L'Escaut Canal north of Cambrai and gained about five miles east of Douai.

Steadily and not without some rapidly the battle line is being straightened and the Lille salient shortly should be obliterated.

East of Le Cateau and the Seneze River the British and Americans continue attacking. They fought all day to gain against stubborn resistance, which in all cases was overcome. The British are driving east across the Caillon-Le Cateau road and have taken Basseul, 2,000 yards east of Le Cateau, by assault.

The Germans are fighting with the greatest desperation here and along the battle front southward to protect the retreat that is going on northward. Wassigny, south of Le Cateau, is being neared, and an additional large section of the west bank of the Oise Canal undoubtedly soon will be in allied hands.

It would appear from the manner in which the Germans are being driven from France southeast of Douai and east of Lille that their troops hope to find refuge in this section of the front behind the line of L'Escaut (Scheldt) River as it curves between Tournai and Andanaard. The river line obviously is the only place the enemy can possibly hope to gain time to catch his breath in this whole area.

In Belgium the day has been occupied principally in line straightening. The line now pivots on Bruges, one running generally to the coast near Ostend, and the second sloping off to the southeast. Heavy fighting was reported at only one place to-day. This was at Oostroobeke, southeast of Thielt. The Belgians wanted the town and the ground near by, as the Germans were holding it as a sort of salient. So the Belgians went out and fought for it, and after a furious battle the bullet riddled enemy took to his heels.

A new German line of defence from Antwerp through Namur to Sedan, which probably will be given the name of the Wotan III line, is understood to be in the course of construction. On this side of the line the Germans do not appear to have any defences of real importance.

It is considered likely that the main bulk of the German armies, or rather what is left of the main bulk, in this section of the front is on its way to the Wotan III line, though it is quite possible it may try to make a stand somewhere on this side of those positions.

If a stand is made, however, the Germans will have to depend upon what troops they now have in Belgium. All

LILLE STRIPPED BY DEPARTING ENEMY

Buildings Intact, but All the Valuables Have Been Taken Away.

MALES ARE CARRIED OFF

Only the Young and the Very Old Remain to Greet the Allies.

By FERRY ROBINSON. Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times Service. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Oct. 18.—I have just returned from a three hours trip to Lille. There are 125,000 civilians in the city, mostly women and children. Before noon a British officer and a small party of soldiers went to Lille to confer with the municipal authorities, afterwards withdrawing. Aside from this party no allied troops have yet been in the city.

The whole population was crowded in the streets when a Belgian colleague and I entered the city throughout the day. The city remains intact, but all valuables were taken from the interiors of buildings, some houses being completely stripped.

At the Mayor's office, while the Belgian correspondent made a brief address to the crowd, I talked to a British clergyman, the Rev. D. K. Moore, who made our way to the office of the Mayor, Charles de la Salle, in the Boulevard Liberte.

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My name is Gutsell. I am City Councilor. The Germans offered me a million to betray my country. The cowards, the cowards! and then he burst into sobbing.

"Carried by the crowd, we arrived at the City Hall. Deputy Mayor Baudouin stood at the door. When we entered every one rushed to embrace us. An old man with white hair stood with a violin at the top of the grand staircase and played the 'Marseillaise.' Outside the crowd seethed like a sea. We were the first messengers from the motherland.

"Speak, speak to us!" they cried. We opened the windows and told of our victory. A shout went up that filled the city. We told of the Bulgarian capitulation. Again the cheers rang out. We told of the Turkish promise to quit the war, and again the crowd cheered. Then

we told them that President Wilson had refused to grant an armistice and demanded Emperor William's head. The crowd in a frenzy tossed everything it could lay hands on into the air.

Mayor's Son Comes by Air.

"At the Prefecture the Acting Prefect, M. Regnier, embraced us, and there was a fresh outburst of cheering from the crowd. It was for Mayor Delealle and for his son, a French officer of the Legion of Honor and wearing the War Cross. This officer, an aviator, heard at 11 o'clock that the city had been freed. He leaped into his machine, flew quickly to Lille and landed in the Place de Theatre. Alighting, he rushed home to his father. 'His was the first French uniform the

liberated citizens had seen and the sight of it increased their delirium of joy. 'There remain 120,000 inhabitants in Lille. The Germans had carried off all the male population more than 14 years old. The city is not greatly damaged and the public buildings are intact.'

German Banker in Cuba Held. HAVANA, Oct. 18.—Henry Uppman, prominent German banker of Havana, president of the German Club and one of the richest men in Cuba, is being held incommunicado in his residence here in connection with the general rounding up by the Cuban Secret Service Department of enemy subjects whose names figured in the trading with the enemy blacklist.

A Letter From the President

THE WHITE HOUSE, Oct. 14

The reply of the German Government to my note of inquiry dated October 8 gives occasion for me to say to my fellow countrymen that neither that reply nor any other recent events have in any way diminished the vital importance of the Liberty Loan. Relaxation now, hesitation now, would mean defeat when victory seems to be in sight; would mean years of war instead of peace upon our terms.

I earnestly request every patriotic American to leave to the governments of the United States and of the Allies the momentous discussions initiated by Germany and to remember that for each man his duty is to strengthen the hands of these governments, and to do it in the most important way now immediately presented—by subscribing to the utmost of his ability for bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan. That loan must be successful. I am sure that the American people will not fail to see their duty and make it successful.

Woodrow Wilson

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BELLANS FOR INDIGESTION
6 BELLANS Hot water Sure Relief

RETREAT REMOVES THREAT TO BRITAIN
LONDON, Oct. 18.—The German dream of dominating the Flanders coast has

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