

GERMANS RETREAT FROM NORTH SEA TO LILLE

SEVENTEEN DIVISIONS OF GERMANS BEATEN BACK

Gen. Arnim's Whole Army Overthrown and Retirement Assumes Proportions of a Rout. Taking of Lille One of Most Important Captures Made by Allies Since General Offensive Launched Against the Teutons in Midsummer.

Paris, Oct. 17.—The whole of the German army of Gen. Von Arnim is in retreat from the North sea to the region of Lille, having been beaten back and overthrown by the allied attacks today. The retreat is assuming the proportions of a rout. Seventeen divisions comprise the army of Von Arnim.

Chief German Base Captured. London, Oct. 17.—(1:24 p.m.)—Lille, chief German base in northern France, has been captured by the British.

Information of the capture of Lille was received from the Flanders battlefield this afternoon.

Lille had been held by the Germans since the autumn of 1914, when Von Kluck's German hordes overran Belgium and northern France on their sweep towards Paris.

The taking of Lille is one of the most important captures made by the allies since the general offensive was launched against the Germans in mid-summer.

Whole Hun Line Shaken. The whole German line is shaken by this new allied victory. Lille lies thirty-eight miles from the coast and is a city of great strategic importance owing to the great number of roads that converge there.

The Germans have been using it as a base of operations and supplies since the early days of the war.

At one time the British were within eight miles of the city, but it was not until the new offensive was opened generally on the Flanders front that the place was doomed.

The British made a great converging movement against the city, attacking from the north, the west and the south.

The attack by the allies on the northern end of the Flanders front in conjunction with the pressure east of Cambrai put the whole Lille-Douai line in peril and forced the Germans into a new retirement throughout the whole zone.

With the fall of Lille the adjacent cities of Turoing and Roubaix are doomed.

When the Germans made their big drive on the Flanders front in April the British were pressed back nearly twenty miles from Lille, but since then Marshal Foch's masterly strategy has steadily lessened the distance between the city and the allied front.

Once City of 211,000. Before the war Lille was a prosperous manufacturing city with a population of 211,000 persons. It had formerly been fortified, but when the war broke out the defensive works had fallen into a state of decay.

During their occupation of the place the Germans imported a number of the inhabitants who had remained in the city for work in Belgium and Germany.

Position is Precarious. Paris, Oct. 17.—(1 p.m.)—British, French and Belgian armies, under command of King Albert, of the Belgians, have made a most important advance in their offensive in Flanders, which was resumed this morning. Gen. Sixte von Arnim's army was thrown back with heavy losses and its position is precarious.

Military observers here believe that Gen. Von Arnim will have extreme difficulty in extricating himself from the position. It is held that he remained too long, against all strategic and military laws, when he was outflanked and virtually surrounded.

The Prussian guards, ceding ground inch by inch, are dying but not surrendering, in an effort to save their right wing.

FIFTH AND PERHAPS SIXTH LIBERTY LOAN NECESSARY SAYS M'ADOO, REGARDLESS OUTCOME PEACE TALK.

No Extension of Time, but Secretary Confident Money Will Be Raised. Washington, Oct. 17.—There will be no extension of the liberty loan subscription period, Secretary McAdoo stated emphatically today.

Furthermore, said the secretary, it will be necessary to have a fifth and perhaps a sixth loan regardless of the outcome of the present peace negotiations. Consequently, it behooves the nation now to subscribe its utmost both to reduce the amounts of these prospective future loans and strengthen the nation's moral position at this critical time, the secretary added.

A government official is hoping most earnestly, it was disclosed, not only that the present loan will be raised, but that there will be an over-subscription when the final returns come in.

Suggestion has been made that the subscription period be extended, but Secretary McAdoo feels that this would appear in Germany as an evidence of weakness in this country. He expressed full belief that the \$6,000,000,000 total would be achieved, adding: "I don't know exactly where all that money is coming from, but I know it is coming."

Mr. McAdoo denied that the government contemplated selling liberty bonds continuously and abandoning the intensive campaign method, but that if any efficient means could be found of marketing comparatively small amounts of bonds during drives, it will be adopted. He expressed some doubt of such a plan's feasibility.

"GERMANY IS BENDING. MORE PRESSURE AND SHE WILL BREAK," SAYS LANSING

Washington, Oct. 17.—"Germany is bending. More pressure and she will break," said Secretary Lansing in a statement today warning the nation that the war is not over and that the fourth liberty loan must be a success at a time when every dollar as well as every man and every gun counts more than ever before. Mr. Lansing's statement follows: "Our men in France are driving forward. Our government is redoubling its effort to send men and munitions overseas. The battles are going well, but they must go better. The war is not over. This is no time to slacken effort or to fall to our part here at home. To keep up and to increase the pressure on the retreating Germans is the only certain way to win. To do this the government must have all the money it needs. We are asked to loan it and we are asked to loan it now. The fourth liberty loan will put new arms in France; it will supply munitions with munitions; it will destroy every hope of the imperial German government, its troops and its followers; it will make victory sure. "Germany is bending. More pressure and she will break. Every man counts, every gun counts, and every dollar counts more today than ever before. The government must have the money it needs. Loan it to your country. Do your part with the war."

PEACE RUMORS NONEFFECTIVE

War Machinery at Nation's Capital Kept Going at Full Speed. REICHSTAG WILL MEET

Request for an Armistice May Be Forthcoming From Germany Army Command.

(By John Edwin Novins) Washington, Oct. 17.—(E. N. S.)—Stop speculating about peace rumors. The American people will have all of the truth as fast as anything real happens. There is nothing so far but rumors that the war's end is at hand. And the rumors do not come from authentic sources.

That was the official view of the general war situation today. The allied armies on the western front are continuing their sledgehammer blows on the badly-shattered German military machine. Officialdom here was working tooth and nail to put the liberty loan across.

Germany may capitulate soon—officials believe that the final break is reasonably near—but until she does break there will be nothing doing here in Washington except to keep the war machinery well oiled and running at top speed.

German Morale Gone. At the White House and state department was explained that there was nothing new from German sources. The general situation within Germany is very bad. The German people have seemingly lost all confidence in the military leaders. The long strain under which they have labored for four years has at last resulted in a complete breakdown of the German morale.

Everywhere throughout the empire dangerous disturbances have taken place. The present control is seriously being tested. But how far the swing against the war party will go no one here in Washington is as yet ready to guess.

That Germany must surrender unconditionally before long is the belief of officialdom. Her supplies are almost gone. Her army is in a very precarious situation. Her allies are ready to desert her. And officials here believe that the banking and merchant class in Germany will take steps to throw the nation on the mercy of the allies, and especially on the mercy of the United States, in the belief that for general political reasons the peace program will be framed to keep the German empire intact.

So far as the Amsterdam advices saying that the Kaiser has been shorn of his power and that it would be concerned, Secretary of State Lansing said today that the only word was that the Kaiser had been deposed.

Reports from neutral countries, however, tend to make the department believe the reports are true. They are officially confirmed. It must be necessary to accept them with reserve. But officials do not believe that such action goes far enough to meet the conditions laid down by President Wilson in his decision on the original German peace appeal. The original German form of government must be made absolutely responsible to the people themselves.

There was a report here today that the German reichstag would meet tomorrow (Friday) and that it would take up President Wilson's decision and debate whether the conditions laid down by him should be met. In connection with the report was another that the majority of the membership would favor acceptance of the terms laid down. There was, of course, no confirmation to this rumor, and officials contented themselves with saying that it would be very nice if it worked out that way. It is entirely within the bounds of possibility. German military commanders in the field may be forced to ask an armistice.

Army in Serious Fix. The present allied movement along the western front has placed the army in a serious position, and there are many officials here who do not believe that it now is possible for the high command to save the army and its supplies by a retreat. If they do not ask for an armistice, it is considered certain here that a large part of the German forces must surrender.

Financial circles continued today to insist that the government was in possession of much more information on the exact situation within Germany than it was willing to make known. And this belief prevailed in the face of the denial of officials and the promise that they would make all information received as fast as it became available. The financial experts declared that they expected some big news after the market closed. One basis for this report was the fact that for two days now President Wilson has denied himself to all callers and has remained closeted in his study in the White House proper. No information was forthcoming as to what the president was doing, although there was a suggestion that he was examining the situation with the Austrian and Turkish situations preparatory to replying to the peace appeals of the two governments.

C. H. RAINE RELEASED

Banker Who Wrecked Memphis Bank Leaves Federal Prison at Atlanta. Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 17.—C. Hunter Raine, ex-president of the defunct Mercantile bank of Memphis, Tenn., was released from the federal prison here today. He had just completed a term of three years eight months and six days for causing the failure of the bank through unsuccessful speculation in cotton futures.

During the greater part of his incarceration the banker served as editor of "Good Words," the prison magazine. Shortly after his release he started for Memphis, Tenn.

COAL MINERS HIT

Influenza Epidemic Spreads in Kentucky Mining Fields—Appeals for Aid. Lexington, Ky., Oct. 17.—Several mines in the coal districts of Kentucky have stopped operations today, while others have been forced to cut production in half, due to the spread of the influenza epidemic. Thousands of cases have been reported and pleas have been sent to state health authorities to send aid.

STATEMENT FROM McADOO COMING

"To the Publisher of The News, Chattanooga, Tenn.: "I am deeply grateful for the splendid support you have given to the fourth liberty loan and regret to have to ask your further assistance, but I think it important that a brief statement of about 275 words concerning the loan be given a prominent display, in first page box, if possible, in your Friday issue. I shall greatly appreciate your assistance and cooperation. Statement will be made to you direct, Thursday noon. "W. G. McADOO."

EPIDEMIC SEEMS STATIONARY NOW

In Most Cities Throughout the Country Little Change Is Noted.

ALARM IN SO. AMERICA

Churches, Poolrooms, Fraternal Meetings, Etc., Under Ban in Many States.

New York, Oct. 17.—Health officials expressed hope today that the peak of the Spanish influenza epidemic here had been reached and passed. Reports showed a decrease of 80 in new cases during the last twenty-four hours, the number being 4,733. Deaths from influenza and pneumonia, 623, were ten fewer than yesterday.

Hits South America. Santiago de Chile, Oct. 17.—The public is greatly alarmed by the rapid spread of the epidemic of Spanish influenza. Many deaths have occurred here in the last few days.

Buenos Aires, Oct. 17.—The epidemic of Spanish influenza is making rapid headway in Buenos Aires. Many other public servants appear especially susceptible.

Seventeen Die in Birmingham. Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 17.—With 455 new cases reported by the health authorities up to 1 o'clock this afternoon, influenza had apparently taken a new hold on Birmingham. Seventeen deaths for the day had been reported up to the same time. The county board of revenue ordered the county schools to remain closed for another week. Dr. J. D. Dowling, city and county health officer, announced that existing regulations for the suppression of the epidemic would remain in force and that more stringent regulations closing additional places would be recommended.

Selma Has Three Deaths. Selma, Ala., Oct. 17.—The influenza situation in Selma is said by some physicians to be encouraging, while others are not so optimistic over the present situation. The doctors have their hands full, one having 154 cases under his direct supervision. The Southern Selma Journal, a body crippled because most of its force is ill. Three deaths occurred last night in Selma, and several last week. The situation is not alarming and the spread is not fast, but there are hundreds of cases here.

Not Much Change at Montgomery. Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 17.—Montgomery health reports 500 cases of Spanish influenza, while Camp Sheridan, just outside the city, has 2,340 cases under treatment. The disease shows no rapid increase.

Improvement at Nashville. Nashville, Oct. 17.—The local influenza situation continues to show daily progressive improvement in the Nashville zone generally, including the city and the powder plant," said Capt. R. C. Derivaux, of the United States public health service, today.

Thirty-three Deaths at Knoxville. Knoxville, Oct. 17.—(Special.)—Thirty-three deaths have so far resulted in Knoxville from the epidemic of influenza. Within the past twenty-four hours there have been six deaths. Cases here now exceed 4,000. Reports indicate that they are increasing rather than diminishing in number. However, Dr. William R. Cochrane, director of the city board of health, is of the opinion that the epidemic will reach its climax here within a few days.

Five Deaths at Vicksburg. Vicksburg, Miss., Oct. 17.—With all stores closing at 6 p.m. daily, poolrooms, churches, schools and fraternal meetings under the ban, until the influenza situation improves, the total number of cases here to date has been 223, with 5 deaths. Today's report showed 141 new cases and 2 deaths.

Drastic Action in Atlanta. Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 17.—A more drastic ban on public gatherings probably will be decreed tomorrow by the state board of health as a result of telegrams received today from all sections of the state requesting such action to check the spread of Spanish influenza. Although the epidemic in Atlanta is in hand, reports from other sections are not so favorable.

RAIN, SAYS BILLY 'POSSUM.

War! and banks have lady tellers! "Tellers," yes, quite a propos. Now, just think of all the scandals. That the sewing clubs will know. "Mrs. So and So deposits, ninety dollars every day! Gee! I wonder where she gets it? Manufacturing a wife must pay!" "Mr. Brown has just this balance." "Mr. Smith has horrid checks. Not a cent has he to pay them. Jones is on our 'blue' index." Really, it is quite a problem. What's a fellow now to do. To protect a measly balance. "Less he keeps it in his shoe?" The weather: Rain tonight and Friday, with slight change in temperature.

GOING DOWN?

HOLD ON BELGIAN COAST LOOSENED

Allies Only Twenty-One Miles From Dutch Frontier, Closing Trap on Boches.

SUCCESS ON ALL FRONTS

Chief Rendezvous of U-Boats Endangered—Germans Hurry From Long-Held Area.

(Associated Press.) Lille has been captured by the British. Allied pressure on all sides of the salient of which Lille was the center compelled the new German defenses south of Valenciennes. His troops today are storming forward south of Le Cateau, across the Selle river, where they were halted late last week.

In Flanders the allies have gained important successes here. The pressure is maintained strongly. In the angle north of Laon the Germans apparently are retiring from between the Oise and Serre rivers.

Since the beginning of the week there has been little heavy fighting in the area southeast of Cambrai, where the British and Americans made such rapid strides last week after the capture of Cambrai. The Germans resisted strongly on the line of the Selle, and it is these defenses that the British and probably the Americans under the same command are assaulting.

Germans' hold on the Belgian coast has been loosened. Fighting their way forward until they have reached Coolcamp, only twenty-one miles from the Dutch frontier, the allies seem to be rapidly cutting off the coast cities and compelling the enemy to hurry out of the trap which is closing about him.

Tangible evidence that the Germans are retreating from the coast, which they have held so long and which has been the chief rendezvous of submarines preying on transports and other vessels in the English channel, may be found in the advance by the Belgians north and east of Dixmude yesterday. In this region the Germans have lost ten deaths for the day had been reported up to the same time. The county board of revenue ordered the county schools to remain closed for another week. Dr. J. D. Dowling, city and county health officer, announced that existing regulations for the suppression of the epidemic would remain in force and that more stringent regulations closing additional places would be recommended.

Important successes have been gained at the apex of the wedge driven into the German line north of Lille. Coolcamp has been taken, and the Lys river, from Menin to Harlebeke, east of Courtrai, has been reached. All the thirty-mile front between Dixmude and Courtrai and very near Lille. In this area fires are burning in piles of German supplies, showing that the enemy is hastily getting out of the district, which has been outflanked by the allies' progress to the north. The retreat is reported to be extending as far south as Douai.

American forces have occupied the village of Grand Pre, situated on the north side of the Aire river as it runs westward through the Argonne forests. They have also captured Montlès-Pas, to the eastward, and, forging ahead, have control of Loges wood, an isolated bit of forest land which has afforded the Germans good cover in the fighting east of the Argonne. Hill 352, north of St. Juvin, is now being consolidated by the Americans.

French and Italian forces have forced their way further eastward near Sissonne and have moved up to within a mile of Rethel, an important German supply point on the Aisne further east. In this sector, however, the allies are quite near the Hindenburg line of defense, which was constructed by the Germans as a refuge in case the Hindenburg line collapsed. These appear to be a more energetic resistance on the part of the Germans along this front, and it is probable that they intend to make a stand along the line where they are now standing.

Italian units in Albania have made a new advance northeast of Durazzo. The Serb army commanded by Gen. Allenby has moved far to the east of Beirut, and patrols are moving northeast from Damascus. It is probable that with the return of cooler weather the British forces in Mesopotamia may make a new drive to join Gen. Allenby's intensive food production from the Mediterranean to the Persian gulf.

Reports of a most sensational character, relative to Germany's unconditional surrender and the abdication of Emperor William are reported from Amsterdam, but they are not confirmed. There appears, however, to be a disposition in authoritative circles in London and Paris to believe that events of a historic nature may occur in Germany at another time.

TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION

Intensive Efforts to Raise Food Production Must Keep Up. LaFayette, Ind., Oct. 17.—That the responsibility of the United States toward its allies does not stop when the war is over, but that this country must continue intensive food production for at least two years after the war's close, was the assertion here today of George I. Christie, assistant secretary of agriculture.

Because this work is kept up—production to the utmost—European nations, recovering from the devastation of war, will suffer intensely, especially in the matter of disease resulting from malnutrition.

Prof. Christie, who is directing agricultural extension at Purdue university, also urged the state to take measures to induce soldiers to return to Indiana after the war instead of taking up over time positions in other states. Every effort must be made, he said, to overcome the man shortage which faces the farmers, and this shortage must be made up by utilizing improved methods of farming.

GERMANY CONVINCED

Assured that Turkey Will Surrender Without Any Conditions. Copenhagen, Oct. 17.—Germany is now convinced that Turkey will surrender unconditionally, according to information from Berlin today.

Advice from Berlin state that Turkey has made peace overtures to both America and Knebel.

AMERICANS ENGAGED IN ARGONNE AND CHAMPAGNE

Troops Under Gens. Bullard, Liggett and Cameron in Desperate Fighting—Belgians Under King Albert, After Crossing Yser River, Are Marching On Ostend—Torch Not Applied at Lille.

London, Oct. 17 (4:20 p.m.)—British aviators, in conjunction with naval forces landed in Ostend, German submarine base this morning, it was officially announced this afternoon.

British Admiral Arrives. London, Oct. 17.—Admiral Keyes, of the British navy, landed at Ostend this afternoon, says an official announcement from the admiralty.

The admiral was preceded by members of the royal air force, who landed at Ostend this morning. French cavalry patrols, says the Evening News, reached Ostend today and returned with the report that no Germans were seen there.

French Cavalry at Ostend. London, Oct. 17.—French cavalry has entered Ostend, the Evening News said this afternoon.

London, Oct. 17.—Belgian forces, under command of King Albert, which crossed the Yser river, are marching on Ostend, a seaport on the English channel.

Resistance by the Germans is crumbling along the battlefield except in the region of the Argonne and northern Champagne. There American troops, under Gens. Liggett, Cameron and Bullard, and French troops, under Gen. Gouraud, are engaged in desperate fighting.

For Once City Not Fired. British Headquarters in Flanders, Oct. 17.—(Reuter's.)—The Germans, on leaving Lille, which was captured today by British forces, did not set fire to the buildings in the city or cause any explosions.

The Germans are carrying out a double retirement in Flanders with Courtrai as the pivot. The northern retreat extends from Ostend southward, while the other affects the industrial area of northern France.

The only point on the northern front where there is any fighting today is at Courtrai.

Two Miles in New Drive. London, Oct. 17.—(3:24 p.m.)—British troops advanced two miles in their new drive on the Le Cateau-Bohain front, southeast Cambrai, today.

Ostend Reported Free of Enemy. London, Oct. 17.—Ostend is reported clear of the enemy, says a statement from the British admiralty today.

U. S. Artillery Active. With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 17.—(2 p.m.)—When it was seen last night that the Germans had effected a concentration in the Bantville wood for a counter-attack on the Cote de Castillon, which the Americans had captured, the American artillery opened up heavily. The pounding resulted in the Germans failing to leave their trenches.

Belgian and French troops, pivoting on Lombaertzyde, early today began to push steadily northward toward the Belgian coast.

Berlin Reports Withdrawal. Berlin, via London, Oct. 17.—Withdrawal of the German front line so that it now runs to the east of Thourout, Coolcamp, Ingelmunster and then behind the Lys is announced in today's army headquarters report.

American attacks in the region east of the Aire, mainly against Champagneulle and Londres, are declared to have been repulsed.

London, Oct. 17.—(12:05 p. m.)—The British began a new offensive this morning on a six and one-half mile front east of Cambrai. The assault was announced. Field Marshal Haig reported satisfactory progress was being made. The assault was launched at 5:20 o'clock between La Cateau and Bohain.

Further progress has been made southwest of Lille. The Germans counter attacked in the sector of Haussy, on the Selle river north of Le Cateau and the British were forced back to the west of the town.

Haussy was captured by the British yesterday. The northern portion of Courtrai, an important German base on the Lys river, has been entered by British troops, the war office announced last night.

Belgians Crossed Yser. The advance of the British, Belgians and French was continued over the thirty-mile front between Dixmude and the Lys river on Wednesday, the allies making a new gain of between three and four miles.

On the northern end of the line, the Belgians crossed the Yser and took Schorlaake. On the southern end, the British crossed the Lys and pushed up the river about two miles beyond Menin. Thourout is in the hands of the Belgians, Lichtervelde and Ardoye are captured by the French.

A total of over a score of villages have been liberated and in addition to more prisoners great stores of booty were taken.

One Mile North St. Jevin. With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 16.—(10 p. m.)—In its successful advance north of the Argonne forest today the American first army reached Champagne lie, one mile north of St. Jevin. A little further east toward the Meuse they gained possession of the Cote de Chailillon.

East of the Meuse the Americans moved forward in the Bois de la Grande Montagne, the summit of which they now hold.

Maintained Contact. Paris, Oct. 17.—On the entire front of the Oise and the Serre where the Germans are being driven from the pocket north of Laon, the French last night maintained contact with the enemy, according to today's war office report.

WILSON & CO. EXONERATED

Washington, Oct. 17.—The federal trade commission has entirely exonerated Wilson & Co. of the charge of furnishing unwholesome meats to the army.

NOT BATTLESHIP "OHIO"

London, Oct. 17.—The steamship Ohio, which was sunk in collision in the English channel on Monday, was a 1,331-ton Swedish ship sailing from Sundsvall.

GERMAN ARMY COMMAND ORDERS DEVASTATION OF TOWNS CEASED

Amsterdam, Oct. 17.—The German army command, according to the Rotterdam Courant today, has ordered its armies to cease devastating places unless absolutely compelled by military necessity.

OVER TWENTY VILLAGES TAKEN

During Day's Fighting in Belgium—Hun Concentration Point, Thourout, Taken.

London, Oct. 17.—British forces entered Courtrai during yesterday's fighting, according to a statement issued at the war office today.

More than twenty villages were captured by the allied forces in Belgium during the day.

Courtrai, an important rail and highway junction point, is seventeen miles southeast of Ypres. The Germans have been counter attacking to the north of here and in a strong local thrust at Haussy, in the region south of Valenciennes, pressed the British back to the western edge of the village.

Hand-to-Hand Struggle. London, Oct. 17.—The German concentration center at Thourout has been captured after a fierce hand-to-hand struggle in the streets, according to a report from the Flanders battle front today. Thourout is six and one-half miles north of Courtrai.

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