

CAMBRAI AND MANY VILLAGES CAPTURED

FORMIDABLE ENEMY DEFENSE SYSTEM BETWEEN ST. QUENTIN AND CAMBRAI IS DEMOLISHED

British, French and Americans Out in the Open Driving Eastward.

THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS

Germans Not Captured Are Forced to Flee For Their Lives.

ARGONNE IS THREATENED

Forest Must Soon Fall Before American Onslaughts.

(By The Associated Press). The formidable German defense system between Cambrai and St. Quentin has been utterly demolished and British, American and French troops are out in the open country eastward in pursuit of the retreating enemy.

Cambrai, the pivot point in the former line and over which there has been so much bitter fighting, is in British hands; numerous villages and hamlets to the south have been overrun by the allies and thousands of Germans have been made prisoner and hundreds of their guns captured.

The victory seemingly is a complete one and with General Foch's strategy working smoothly in bending back the German line in one great converging movement, the Germans apparently are in a serious predicament.

From the region northwest of Rheims to the Meuse river north of Verdun, the French and Americans are slowly but surely pushing the Germans backward toward the Belgian border.

In Macedonia and Asiatic Turkey the troops of the entente still have the enemy on the run. Nowhere is the enemy able to do more than fight retarding battles, giving ground when the pressure becomes too strong.

Under the avalanche of steel hurled against them on the Cambrai-St. Quentin sectors the Germans could not live and were forced to flee eastward. Heavy casualties were inflicted on those of the enemy who had the temerity to endeavor to make a stand. On the other hand the casualties of the entente are declared to have been relatively small, those of the Americans being less than half of the number of prisoners taken by them.

Where the enemy purposes to make his stand he is forced to do so, probably an effort for a turnaround will be attempted along the Valenciennes-Sedan front. After this line the only known German defensive position west of the Meuse is the Argonne forest. The Americans already are threatening to make this line untenable, having started an advance up the valley on the eastern side of the stream toward Sedan.

The maneuvers of the French northwest of Rheims are cutting more deeply into the German line, despite the serious resistance that is being offered by the enemy to postpone the fall of the Argonne forest and the highly important strategic positions of Laon and LaFere which seemingly are to be pinched out of the battle front by the successful operations around St. Quentin and Berry-An-Bac. Strong resistance also is being imposed by the Germans against further advances by the French and Americans in Champagne and east of the Argonne forest. Particularly heavy counterattacks have been launched by the enemy on various positions, but with results other than increasing his fighting front. The French have been able to make further crossings of the stream. St. Etienne has changed hands several times in bitter combat.

West of the Argonne forest the Americans have driven their line forward to the region of Comoy on the Aisne river, where they have effected a junction with the French troops and seemingly the Argonne forest soon will be in allied hands. On the eastern side of the Meuse the Americans have advanced and taken several small villages and also straightened out their line which was being enlaided by the German guns from the east. Reports persist that the Turkish front has fallen and that the new line will be Tewfik Pasha, whose symptoms are declared to be generally rather than pro-German. Russia has it that the Turks have desisted a peace note to the allies through the Spanish government.

NO LIVES ARE LOST IN MUNITIONS PLANT EXPLOSION

Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 9.—The fusion building of the Aetna Chemical Company at Heidelberg, near here, was destroyed tonight by an explosion of several benzol tanks. Officials of the plant announced several hours after the explosion that no one had been killed or injured.

Fire which followed destroyed the wreckage of the building. For a time flames threatened the TNT works. The departments from surrounding towns were called to the scene before it reached adjoining sections of the plant. The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

German Armies are In Full Flight Before the Allies

(By The Associated Press). The German armies are in full flight before the British, American and French forces on the front between Cambrai and St. Quentin. Cambrai, the strong point of the enemy in this region has been taken by the Canadians in its entirety and north of Cambrai the Canadians have deeply penetrated the German line.

Out in the open east of what once was the old Hindenburg line cavalry is hustling the retreating foe in what usually amounts to a rout. So fast is the retreat that columns of the allied troops in parade form have passed through numerous villages, completely out of contact with the Germans.

More than 10,000 prisoners and between 100 and 200 guns were captured in Tuesday's fighting and the continuation of the battle Wednesday resulted in further large captures.

In the fighting 23 German divisions—more than a quarter of a million men—have been severely manhandled. The maximum depth of the advance is between eight and ten miles. The Germans are declared to be fleeing to the east of Le Cateau, one of the most important railroad centers in this region.

Behind them the Germans are leaving a trail of destruction.

(Continued on Page Two).

SLOW BOND SALES CAUSING CONCERN

Washington, Oct. 9.—The treasury department today openly admitted that the slow progress of the fourth liberty loan toward the six-billion dollar goal is a matter of serious concern.

With the three weeks subscription period half gone the loan is only 30 per cent subscribed. The total reported to the treasury up to tonight is \$1,791,463,260.

There is no use in denying or attempting to camouflage the fact that the slow progress of the loan throughout the country are confronted with a serious situation, said the treasury statement. "If the loan is to be subscribed, a daily average of \$467,000,000 must be raised between now and October 19.

"Cognizant of the fact that the loan never can succeed at its present rate of progress, canvassers throughout the country are stating plainly to all citizens that they must buy bonds in larger amounts than heretofore. Wealthy persons particularly must go deeper into their capital or extend their credit and not depend upon their current income alone to pay for bonds. People of moderate and small means must pledge their future earnings in greater degree."

"Double the third" has been adopted as a slogan by distributors to stimulate subscribers to do as much as they did in the last loan.

American and others in Mexico city according to advices to the state department have bought \$623,000 worth of bonds, the Richmond district reported \$74,723,900 in subscriptions, 26 per cent of its quota.

A war exhibit train in North Carolina sold \$240,000 of bonds from the platform in two stops. In Virginia 131 banks, of which 450 report subscriptions of \$16,300,000.

NEW GRAND VIZIER OF TURKEY PRO-ALLY

British Foreign Office Received Indirect News of the Fall of the Old Cabinet.

London, Oct. 9.—The British foreign office has received indirect news of the fall of the Turkish cabinet.

Tewfik Pasha, who, it is reported, will be the new grand vizier and is understood to have pro-ally rather than pro-German sympathies.

According to advices which are not official, however, the cabinet had decided to take military measures against Bulgaria, but found that the opinion of the country was against them. It is rumored that a Turkish peace note has been despatched through the Spanish government.

MOTION PICTURE RELEASES DISCONTINUED INDEFINITELY

New York, Oct. 9.—The National Association of Motion Picture Industries decided at a meeting here tonight to discontinue all motion picture releases after October 15 because of the epidemic of influenza. The epidemic will remain in force until further notice, it was announced by William A. Brady, president of the association.

Wm. K. Vanderbilt Honored.

Paris, Friday, Oct. 9.—William K. Vanderbilt this evening was presented with the rosette of an officer of the Legion of Honor at a banquet conducted in his honor at the Grand Hotel.

GERMANY'S GREAT MILITARY MACHINE BEING SHATTERED

Berlin's Realization of It Believed to Have Prompted Armistice Plea.

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Washington, Oct. 9.—Germany's plea for an armistice is founded, both American and allied military officials here believe, upon recognition in Berlin of the fact that the German army organization in France is slowly disintegrating under the terrific campaign of Marshal Foch.

These officers regard the move of the German chancellor as a desperate eleventh-hour attempt to escape serious military disaster and the situation ever reach that stage, as the supreme commander can be trusted to see that no military advantage to the enemy resulted. In the meantime Marshal Foch has been steadily surrounding the German forces with mortal peril as his strategic conceptions are developed.

Evidence of the waning resisting power of the German forces in France was plainly seen by observers here in the sweep forward of the Anglo-American forces north of St. Quentin. Apparently there has been no material lowering of the fighting quality of the German soldiers, but the enemy's organization upon which defense of the long battle front depends is breaking under the strain. Signs of confusion have been noted repeatedly. Worn out divisions have been called upon to check the assault of fresh allied troops and have been cut to pieces.

These are signs only, for the enemy front still offers a grim obstacle to the advancing armies and the battle is growing daily in fury instead of lessening. But the signs are there. They mean a vital weakening of the German military machine, the absolute lack of the men and war equipment to meet the combined assault definitely.

In the line between Verdun and the sea, two salients are developing. The first has its apex along the Lempdes where the enemy still clings to the St. Gobain forest and part of the Chemin des Dames ridge. The second has its greatest depth before Lens. Between these two points the enemy must make a drive, supplemented by the French advance east of St. Quentin has thrust a blunt wedge which not only has engulfed Cambrai, but has cut its way through the Meuse valley and into the defense zone into open country beyond. It can strike either north or south at need to squeeze the pocket on either side and force the enemy to smash through vital communication lines.

On the British force pressing in on Lille from the west and north forms a northern jaw of a possible pincer movement against the whole Douai salient. The Germans began a retirement from the Lens-Armentieres front some time ago which they have checked, but probably the pincer movement of their Douai front unless that also could be relieved simultaneously. The capture of Cambrai now threatens this front from the south as well and it is now a matter of time before the Meuse valley will be immediately cut off from the whole Lille-Douai region.

The situation looks to be even more critical on the Laon front. From the north the British break-through almost certainly will give the allies command of the Oise valley in a matter of hours with open ground before them in a movement southeastward on Laon itself. To the southeast the French troops under General Gouraud already are across the Aisne and are turning the enemy's position on the Sappele still further east with the American second division siding.

The Sappele line offers little hope of prolonged resistance as it is supported by few strong hill positions and the occupation of the Aisne valley in the near future seems a certainty. That would leave the enemy along the front in St. Gobain forest and the heights to the southeast in a difficult position between the Oise and Aisne rivers.

Encircling both these pincer movements stands that great trap tipped on the Meuse jaw by the American first army and in Belgium by the Franco-Belgian push that has reached (Continued on Page Two.)

COLONEL FEARS PRESIDENT HAS DONE THE WRONG THING

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Oct. 9.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt made the following statement tonight on President Wilson's response to the German peace proposal: "Four days ago and again and again prior to that time, I said this war ought to be fought through until we secured the unconditional surrender of Germany and her vassal allies—Austria and Turkey. To this statement I unqualifiedly adhere. I fear that the president's latest announcement will be treated as an invitation to further note writing.

"The effort to fight and to negotiate at the same time is apt to hamper the fighting end of the combination. Personally I believe that our sole aim should be to win the war and not to discuss peace terms with the enemy until the war has been won."

British Air Operations.

London, Oct. 9.—"Smoke curtains dropped Tuesday on enemy strong points were of great value in the operation," says an official statement tonight on the work of the airmen in the battle zone. "During the night 23 and a half tons of bombs were dropped on railways, two trains being derailed."

YOU HAVEN'T GOT TO HAVE \$50.00

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In the first great defeat inflicted on the Germans yesterday, 10,000 prisoners and from 100 to 200 guns were captured. The statement says: "We inflicted a heavy defeat on the enemy yesterday between St. Quentin and Cambrai, taking over 10,000 prisoners and between 100 and 200 guns. No less than 23 German divisions were engaged on this front; they were severely handled.

"The result of this action is that the troops have been enabled to advance today on the whole front between the Somme and the Semois and are making rapid progress eastward, capturing rear guard detachments of the enemy, isolated batteries and machine gun posts. Numbers of the inhabitants who were left in the captured villages have met the advancing troops with enthusiasm.

"The whole of Cambrai is in our possession. The Canadians entered the town from the north at an early hour this morning while at a later hour English troops of the third army passed through the southern portion of the town.

"Since August 21 the British first, third and fourth armies have broken through the whole elaborate series of deep defensive zones built up with successive belts of heavily fortified trench lines, including the entire Hindenburg system on a front of over 35 miles from St. Quentin to Arras. Having penetrated this battle area to a depth of between 30 and 40 miles, our troops are now operating far beyond and east of the Hindenburg defenses.

"In the process of these operations and since the date mentioned we have inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy in killed and wounded and have (Continued on Page Two).

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