

# "GO TO HELL" SHOUTED MAJOR WHITTLESEY OF "LOST BATTALION" WHEN TOLD TO SURRENDER

## AN AMAZING STORY

### Troops Hungry and Weak From Four Days of Fasting Refused To Give In

### ADVANCE WAS TOO RAPID

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and almost wholly without ammunition and when many were weak from exhaustion, but not one of the American who had been taken prisoner by the Germans suddenly appeared at the little camp surrounded in the valley.

The man had been sent blindfolded from the German headquarters with a typewritten note to Major Whittlesey, reading:

"Americans, you are surrounded on all sides. Surrender in the name of humanity. You will be well treated."

Major Whittlesey did not hesitate a fraction of a second.

"Go to hell," he almost shouted. Then he read the note to those around him and his men, notwithstanding their weariness and hunger, and in imminent danger every moment, cheered so loudly that the Germans heard them from their observation posts.

A composite story gleaned from a dozen recitals reveals that the battalion when ordered to advance pushed its way rapidly ahead through the forest, and in its eagerness to catch up with the retreating Germans gradually spread out and widened its ranks. This allowed the Germans to infiltrate unseen behind the Americans and they fell directly into a cunning trap which the Germans had set for them.

The enemy had planned to catch the Americans in a hollow surrounded on all four sides by heights, the greatest of which was a steep hill directly ahead. The Americans who were not accustomed to forest fighting and were filled with eagerness, dashed into this hollow without stopping to think that the enemy might be awaiting them. The members of the battalion were at first checked by their own artillery barrage which had worked steadily forward. Nevertheless, it had not worked as fast as the troops themselves and the battalion proceeded half way up the hill and there they waited for

the barrage to pass in front of them. Then they discovered that the Germans on both sides had jointly flanked them and had closed in upon their rear.

Sheltered only in shallow and hastily constructed trenches the men were subjected to a galling sniping machine gun fire as well as a trench mortar bombardment every time they showed themselves. Only with the greatest difficulty and with extreme caution could they move from place to place to keep guard against surprise attacks.

The battalion had started with meager rations expecting more to reach them later. These, of course, could no longer be transported to them. It was the greatest good fortune that they were fairly well supplied with water. Nightly and daily they sent back volunteer scouting parties, but if these reached the positions in the rear without being captured or killed, they could not tell for none ever returned.

Daily American aviators searching vainly for them flew overhead but no outcry the men could make brought anything but a volley of shouts and laughter from the Germans in front and behind and to the right and left of them.

The beleaguered men discovered there were German machine gun nests all around them and a man to show himself even so briefly was the signal for a sweeping rain of bullets. If a man made an unusual noise trench mortars pounded the vicinity viciously.

Just for diversion, the enemy made a practice of sweeping the whole terrain—the hillside where the improvised trenches were located and the valley in which the men crawled to get leaves and water—regularly and then irregularly with machine guns.

As the days passed the Americans grew more and more emaciated and more and more bearded but they never gave up hope. There was nothing but a grim determination to hold out until the last man was killed. There was not a man in the battalion, wounded or otherwise, hungry or starved, but scouted the idea of surrender. Their ammunition was depleted to a point where the few machine guns in the outfit had one belt of cartridges a piece and the rifle ammunition was running so short that they had received orders not to fire at anyone attacking until within such short range that his death or serious injury was almost inevitable.

Major Whittlesey, who is a well known New Yorker, had his entire battalion behind him to a man. Capt. Leo Stromee, of San Bernardino, Cal., told

the Associated Press his men jeered at the idea of surrender and the men who came out of the four days' siege are united in declaring that they never would have given up.

### BRITISH CONTINUE ADVANCE

**RESISTANCE PIERCED**  
With the Anglo-American Forces on the Cambrai-St. Quentin Sector, Oct. 10.—(By Associated Press.)—The British army continued today rapid movement against the enemy despite desperate resistance which they encountered at times from strong enemy rear guards who were trying to protect the main bodies of troops now in flight.

British cavalry, moving astride the Cambrai-Le Cateau road captured Le Cateau and moved beyond it, after overcoming enemy machine gun posts. Just north of here the infantry many hours ago reached Neuville.

The Germans were in some strength on the east bank of the Selle river at this point and used their guns vigorously but the town was taken and passed.

Caudry, in Chy and many other towns are burning, as the Germans continue their incursions and destruction.

Other important advances have been made and notwithstanding the onset of night more than 2,000 additional prisoners have been taken since yesterday. One army of the three participating in the operations took 59 cannon yesterday and many more today. The others undoubtedly have done as well.

The Germans are still in full flight, but resistance from the rear guards appears to have slightly stiffened and it is considered not unlikely that the enemy may try to make a stand on the east bank of the Oise and the Sambre canal, running northward of it.

Already the French first army, operating south of the British, have reached the river at Mesieres, and as they are drawing closer to it northward the British and Belgians are approaching it still further north. The French line at last reports from Mesieres ran west of Regny, east of Marcy to the outskirts of Fontaine Notre Dame and north of Hauxreux.

There has been hard fighting east of Gohain, but apparently the opposition there has been overcome for continued advances are reported.

An attack was launched this morning east of Scheidl canal and the British penetrated for a considerable distance, leaving the enemy occupied ground to the north in a still deeper and sharper salient. Incidentally, the British here are only about five miles from Douai, to the north of them. They also are able to place an enfilading fire upon the Germans holding the salient, making it exceedingly uncomfortable for them.

There continues to be indications that the enemy realizes he must get out of here and his plans for the moment very probably have to do with straightening his line northward all the way to the salient the Belgians and British have made in his positions at Douai.

At Hosten, the Germans made one weak effort to push back the Belgians in this salient early this morning, but the attack failed completely soon after it began, the Belgians pouring in a hot fire.

### BRITISH TANKS HELPING TO CLEAR MACHINE GUN NESTS

With the Anglo-American Forces Southeast of Cambrai, Oct. 10.—(By Associated Press.)—Between Fresnoy and Bohain, where German machine gunners have been concentrated in force, there was the stiffest kind of fighting today. British tanks and machine gun nests.

Allied troops are in force 1,000 yards south of the Le Cateau road and have captured the towns of Estoumel and Igniel and Frixelles on the highway. The British are still reported to be progressing. Six pontoon bridges and two infantry bridges over the Schelda river have been blown up by the enemy.

British cavalry east of Cambrai seems to be working forward. Late last night they signalled from Beaumont, and they were said to be making good progress.

It was Tennessee and North and South Carolina troops who captured Busigny after overcoming only slight opposition. They then went forward to the east of Busigny, where they were well to the east of Honnechy and Troisvillers.

Northeast of Cambrai, additional important gains have been made. The Germans in this section are offering hard opposition with their rear guards. But this may break at any time as it did to the southeast of Cambrai.

There are signs that the Germans are preparing for a general retreat, as the most do, now that such wide gains have been made to the southeast of Cambrai, and cavalry and patrols are working far forward.

Airplanes report increased confusion on the roads to the east and northeast of Le Cateau. The British guns have again been moved up and are pounding the fleeing Germans heavily. Low flying British airplanes are out in great numbers, despite the bad flying weather, bombing and machine gunning bodies of troops and forcing transport. They are doing tremendous damage to the terrified Germans.

The drive, in addition to menacing the Germans north of Cambrai, is rapidly leaving their entire positions southeast of the River Sambre in a pocket. If the British go much further east and the French and Americans drive up, the Germans undoubtedly will be obliged to evacuate all this vast stretch of territory.

### AMERICANS ATTACK ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEUSE

Berlin, via London, Oct. 10.—Between the Argonne forest and the Ornes ridge American troops advanced today, says the official statement issued today by the German war office. On the border of the Argonne forest the attacks failed with heavy losses.

### RAILWAYS AND AIRDROMES BOMBED BY THE BRITISH

London, Oct. 10.—British aviators last night bombed railways at Mesieres, Metz-Sablons and Thionville and airdromes at Fresnoy and Morhange, according to the statement issued by the air ministry tonight. Metz-Sablons was attacked tonight.

### ARMY SEE SMOULDERING TOWNS AND QUIET AREAS

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 10.—(By Associated Press.)—Its way blazed over a wide area by aerial bombers the American army moved slightly forward today in the territory held by the Germans. The aviators who participated in the brilliant offensive that began late yesterday flew over the enemy lines this afternoon and reported dozens of towns still smoldering and a significant quiet in extended areas, which until now have been the scenes of enemy activity.

The aerial operations for the past 24 hours have been far the greatest ever attempted. They included a bombing expedition of over 350 planes. The towns bombed included those from the point farthest east in the Franco-American positions beyond the Meuse to Metz. This expedition was carried out with the loss of only one man.

Observers told the officers at headquarters tonight that they had been unable to see any movement on the roads which ordinarily German transports are moving, and in towns where

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their presence had not even been reported otherwise, American troops had been seen bivouacking. Here and there an enemy battery was observed, but all reports agreed that in the greater part of what had been the Germans' advanced area, the guns had been moved back.

**Peace Has Defects, Also.**  
(The Indianapolis News.)  
A lot of these girls who are marrying soldiers are due for a sad disappointment when they see their husbands in civilian trousers with baggy knees.

**MRS. LUCY R. PHILLIPS, OF ROWAN COUNTY, IS DEAD**  
(Special to Daily News.)  
Salisbury, Oct. 10.—Mrs. Lucy R. Phillips, aged 81, wife of Paul M. Phillips, one of the best known and most prominent farmers of the county, died Wednesday morning at her home, eight miles east of Salisbury, death being caused by pneumonia. Besides the husband Mrs. Phillips is survived by a number of children. Four of her sons are now in France with the American expeditionary forces, these being

First Lieut. David B. Phillips, Corp. Oscar Phillips, who was a member of the last North Carolina legislature; Capt. P. M. Phillips, Jr., and Carl P. Phillips, of the aviation corps.

**PURCHASES OF BEEF WILL BE ON BASIS OF QUALITY**  
Washington, Oct. 10.—Beef purchases in this country for the army, navy and marine corps and the fighting forces of the allies hereafter will be on a basis of quality irrespective of weight. This

agreement, which will supersede the present method of purchasing beef on basis of weight, was reached at a conference today and attended by Food Administrator Hoover, Secretaries Daniels and Houston, and representatives of the quartermaster general of the army and the paymaster general of the navy.

The arrangement, a statement by the food administration tonight said, "will protect the fighting forces in the matter of quality of meats and at the same time will bring about a better balanced condition in the beef industry."

# This Year It Is Your Patriotic Duty To Buy Christmas Gifts Early



## It Is a Request from Uncle Sam



Your government has requested the merchants of the country to urge the selection of Christmas gifts early this year.

This request is made in order that extra help to take care of late Christmas shopping will not be necessary.

It is also believed that with the proper co-operation no stores need remain open at night, thus saving fuel and light.

You can shop at Bernau's today, tomorrow or next week just as well as you can the last week before Christmas.

Stocks were bought earlier in anticipation of this request of the government. Displays now are practically as

complete as is usually the case in December.

It is to your interest to buy now, not alone from patriotic standpoints, but from the fact that you will get better service, that you will have more time to carefully choose.

Then, too, the new war taxes will mean a tax of 15 to 20% on jewelry. By buying now you will save this extra amount.

Again we say, we are ready to serve you, to offer you abundant stocks for the choosing of your Christmas gifts.

Remember, too, packages for our soldiers must be sent early. It is necessary to have a proper label, and all individual bundles must be grouped and mailed under one cover.

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