

# GERMAN GRIP ON FRANCE AND BELGIUM IS EFFICIENTLY BROKEN

## Grand March to Berlin Already Has Actually Begun, Says Simonds

### GERMAN GRIP ON FRANCE-BELGIUM HAS BEEN BROKEN

Observers Agree That Hindenburg Line Is Crumbling.

PENETRATED ONCE MORE  
Ringed by Wall of Victorious Enemies, Situation of Germans Is Very Grave.

Washington, Oct. 2.—The German grip on northern France and Belgium has been definitely broken. Even the most cautious military observers in Washington agreed tonight that the Hindenburg line was disintegrating, and army officers centered their whole attention on the efforts of the German leaders to extricate their armies without a crushing disaster.

Outflanked in Belgium and in the Champagne, the great German zone of defensive works known as the Hindenburg line already was becoming untenable when Field Marshal Haig's men smashed through it today just north of St. Quentin. The immediate investment of the city by French troops and the swift widening of the breach northward, coupled with the continued rapid progress of French, Belgian and British forces, in Belgium, it is thought here, may possibly upset the whole German scheme of retirement already begun on the Rhine front.

British penetration of the line, it was said, may furnish Marshal Foch with a means to embarrass the German retreat, always with the possibility of precipitating a veritable rout.

Situation Grave.  
Ringed by a wall of victorious enemies over the whole front from the North sea to Verdun, the situation of the Germans is undoubtedly grave. The drive in Belgium is winning vital communications on one side while American and French troops in the Champagne are surging forward toward equally vital supply lines on the other. The battle line is assuming the shape of a great wedge thrusting its jaws out to engulf the German armies.

The German leaders have seen their danger. Official reports to the state department today indicated the evacuation of the submarine bases on the Belgian coast was imminent. There also is conclusive evidence that the evacuation of the lines before Rheims is well under way. The question uppermost in the minds of army officials here is as to whether the German high command has acted in time.

Announcement from Paris that 2,000 prisoners were taken by the French yesterday in operations between the Vesle and the Aisne rivers is significant of the difficulty of getting troops back safely out of an abandoned fighting line. There has been no hint of a French attack on a large scale on this front and the British statements have characterized the movement as a withdrawal. Only a narrow front was involved, yet 2,000 men, left as rear guards, were captured.

Stupendous Task.  
To withdraw the whole 250-mile front where the allied and American forces are charging forward day after day will be a stupendous task. We constantly increasing superiority of numbers and gun-power resting with Marshal Foch, observers here believe the retreat will be difficult beyond words. There is no possibility, it was said, of forecasting what may happen.

There are several places on the front where the situation appears particularly critical. Officers said that evacuation of the Belgian coast probably will be forced on the enemy in an effort to avert an even more serious reverse in the Lille sector. The British wing of the front in Belgium is hammering at the vital supply lines of the Lille salient on one side while the steady advance of other British forces northeastward from the position south of Douai is aimed at the only other route of escape from the rapidly forming pocket. Already the large enemy forces holding the depths of the pocket face the necessity of passing along the British front on the

(Continued on page 2.)

### GERMANS ARE AGAIN IN RETREAT ON WIDE AND IMPORTANT SECTOR

Wide Front North and South of LeBasse Canal Is Scene of New Retrograde Movement—Allied Forces Continue Brilliant Achievements in Restoring Belgian Flanders—Keeping Up Their Successful Advances on Six Other Battle Fronts.

London, Oct. 2.—The Germans are in retreat over a wide front north and south of LeBasse canal, with the British close following them, according to Field Marshal Haig's report from headquarters tonight.

By the Associated Press.  
Again the Germans are in retreat on an important sector of the western battle front in France. The scene of the new retrograde movement is a wide front north and south of LeBasse canal.

The continuation of the allied achievements of their brilliant successes in restoring Belgium, Flanders and the expulsion of the enemy from further territory in France from the region of Cambrai to Verdun evident by has brought the Germans to the realization that the great bend in the line from Menin to the east of Arras is likely to prove another such trap as was the St. Mihiel salient, unless they are fast enough of foot to move eastward, giving up Lille, Lens and Douai, and straighten their line from

the vicinity of Cambrai to Belgium. On all the other six battle fronts from Belgium to Verdun the entente forces are keeping up their successful advances, although the Germans everywhere, except northwest of Rheims have materially stiffened their front and are offering strong resistance to further inroads into their territory.

Wedge Driven Deeper.  
In Belgian Flanders the wedge of the Belgian, British and French troops has penetrated still farther eastward and southeastward from Dismude, and only a few miles more will be required by the allied troops to give them positions by which Ostend, one of Germany's sea bases, will be made untenable and, indeed, the entire North sea coast now in German hands put in jeopardy. British warships are now violently bombarding the coast, and the Germans are reported to be moving their heavy guns eastward, fearful of their capture.

Many additional towns have been captured.

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### FEAR GOOD NEWS MAY SLOW DOWN SPEED OF DRIVE

American People Cautioned by Washington Officials.

CAMPAIGN IS GOING GOOD  
Sale of Liberty Bonds Made More Urgent to Enable Armies to Keep Hun on the Run.

Washington, Oct. 2.—President Wilson and other officials feel that the American people must exercise caution lest the good news from the battlefronts cause a relaxation of efforts on behalf of the fourth Liberty loan, which has not started taking subscriptions on which the initial payment has not been made, or has been made but not yet reported officially by banks. The total tomorrow night is expected to be several hundred million dollars greater. In order to raise six billions, it would be necessary to get a daily average of \$315,000,000 and at this required rate approximately a billion dollars should have been subscribed by this time.

Among the reported sales by districts were:  
Richmond, \$14,158,750.  
Atlanta, \$1,674,800.  
Dallas, \$4,312,450.

Iowa still stood alone tonight as the only state to report officially that it was over its quota.

The Richmond district reported that Crozet, Hot Springs and Milford, Va., and Asheville and Buncombe county, North Carolina, had over-subscribed their quotas.

In connection with the efforts to prevent a slackening of campaign morale, it was cited today by treasury officials that practically all of the six billion dollars to be raised will have been spent by the time it is received at the treasury. The government already is paying out money at the daily rate of \$50,000,000 which is substantially the money to be raised in the fourth loan.

In September it was shown by a treasury report today the government paid out \$1,557,264,000 or \$248,000,000 less than the \$1,805,000,000 record in August.

The total cost of 18 months of war to October 1, was shown to be \$18,895,945,000 or three times as much as will be raised by the fourth loan.

35 DEATHS AT CAMP, LEE WITHIN 24 HOURS  
Petersburg, Va., Oct. 2.—At noon today the total number of Spanish influenza cases at Camp Lee reached 6,499. Deaths from pneumonia following the disease during the 24 hours ending at noon were 35. Total number of deaths since the epidemic appeared, 167.

GAME WARDENS NAMED.  
Columbia, Oct. 2.—Wade Hampton Gibbs, chief game warden, has appointed the following game wardens for South Carolina: E. L. Grimaldi, Johns Island; Archie R. Perry, Summerville; J. N. Helms, Richland county; Edward M. Bailey, Edisto Island.

10-10 SAYS



Fair today and Friday.  
Our naval ships by bonds are named; lend our boys in blue a hand.

### AMERICANS SURROUNDED BY GERMANS RESCUED

British Headquarters in France, Oct. 2. (Reuter's).—The contingent of Americans who had been held out since Sunday in a far advanced position between Cambrai and St. Quentin against greatly superior enemy numbers, have been rescued.

In our attacks around Vendhuile yesterday we were able to fight through and relieve this party, numbering some hundreds, who having taken up their position Sunday night, were surrounded by the Germans early Monday.

Notwithstanding that they were opposed by such superior numbers and only possessed the ammunition and rations which they themselves were carrying, the Americans made a magnificent resistance and the ground was strewn with German dead.

### CAMP GREENE TO BE RE-INSPECTED

Crowell Promises to Send "Good Committee" Here.

Charlotte Delegation Presents Strong Petition to Acting Secretary of War.

BY WADE H. HARRIS.  
Washington, Oct. 2.—Senators Simmons and Overman, Congressman Webb and a Charlotte committee had in the morning with Acting Secretary of War-Crowell, when a petition asking the war department to utilize Camp Greene was presented. Senator Overman read the petition, and Secretary Crowell was instructed to thoroughly inspect the camp.

"I shall permit no injustice," said Secretary Crowell, "to either Camp Greene or to Charlotte. It will be a good committee," the secretary repeated, "and if it proves otherwise you can jump me."

Secretary Crowell said he would name the committee tomorrow, but added he could not say when it would visit Camp Greene.

In view of the fact that great improvements have been made at Camp Greene since the camp last was officially inspected by a committee of army officers, the war department was requested by the committee, representing the interests of Charlotte, to order another inspection of the camp to determine the degree of utilization by the advantages now offered.

Since Generals Gorgas, Chamberlain and Black inspected Camp Greene last winter, it was pointed out in the petition that the government has constructed permanent roads within the reservation, installed a sewer system serving a great part of the camp, and made other sanitary improvements.

The committee held a lengthy conference Monday with Senators Simmons and Overman, Congressman Webb and others. Later, the delegation to the North Carolina delegation asked Acting Secretary of War-Crowell for an opportunity to present the petition. The hearing was granted, for yesterday morning.

The petition, as read to Secretary Crowell, reviewed the history of Camp Greene's difficulties and set forth accomplishments of recent months as arguments of the advisability of the war department, in its own interest, more thoroughly acquainting itself with the advantages and facilities now offered for army training purposes. Points given emphasis included the following:

That the camp had been greatly improved by the building by the government of permanent roads within the reservation and by the installation of a sewer system, serving a large part of the camp, and other sanitary improvements.

That difficulties of transportation between Charlotte and Camp Greene were completely removed by the construction of two permanently paved highways by the city of Charlotte, Charlotte township and Mecklenburg county.

That the making of these improvements removed the conditions objected to by the war department, and which resulted in inspecting officers recommending a limited use of the camp.

The relations between the people of

### GRAND MARCH TO BERLIN HAS ALREADY BEGUN, STARTING FROM ST. QUENTIN, CAMBRAI AND LILLE

Final Advance Is Now Going Forward, Says Simonds.

ROAD IS LONG BUT RATE OF ADVANCE INCREASING  
It is Certain Now Germans Must Go Back to Frontier.

DARK NIGHT NEARLY OVER  
Enemy May Be Able to Rally at Frontier; Bad Weather May Stop Operations of 1918.

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS.  
Special by Telegraph.  
(Copyright, 1918, by The New York Tribune.)  
New York, Oct. 2.—The advance of the Belgians and the second British army continues to be the most interesting single circumstance in the battle of France. It is interesting both in its present importance and the light it casts upon the strategy of exactly four years ago. Plumer and King Albert are now doing what French and Foch strove to do in October, 1914.

It was recalled four years ago when Kluck had made good his ground at the Aisne and the front had stabilized itself from the Oise to the Swiss frontier, Sir John French asked and obtained permission to take the British army to the north. The army was moved up to a front from St. Quentin to Bethune and began a turning movement around Lille designed to drive the Germans out of this great city. In the course of this operation, Sir Douglas Haig reached Ypres and joined up with Sir Henry Rawlinson's seventh corps. At the close of the third week of October, French attempted to push east out of Ypres, down the Aisne, the Germans held the crossings of the Lys river. While he was engaged in this operation he encountered the first wave of the German coming south from Antwerp, which had fallen. Here was the beginning of the first battle of Ypres.

In the next few days the allied offensive became an almost despairing defensive and the British expeditionary army stood and died holding the road to Cambrai, while the Belgians and Douglas Haig's army held the Yser canal line. From October 31 to November 15 the great struggle raged, and was won by our allies by only the narrowest of margins.

So far we have had three acts in Foch's stupendous drama. On July 18, he broke the German offensive and seized the initiative. In August he employed this initiative to open the great operation which drove the Germans back to the Hindenburg line. For the past two weeks we have had a colossal struggle to drive the Germans out of the Hindenburg line and this act has been for Foch quite as successful as the two which preceded it. We are now in the pursuit of the Germans retreating from the Hindenburg positions. In the opinion of the German retirement department, the ultimate outcome of the campaign of 1918. If the Germans retreat as they did from the Marne in July and from the Somme front in August, the campaign will end by the Allies reaching the next defense system behind the Scheldt and the Meuse and the liberation of most of Belgium.

But if German morale breaks down, if there is a crumbling of the Hindenburg line, if there is a supreme decision in the German army, and the other front there seems to be no more remote chances. It is certain that the Germans must go back to the front, but it is probable they will be able to rally there in the winter. But even if the campaign of northern France is won

Influencia cases at all camps now number more than 10,000 with 7,641 cases of pneumonia reported since the epidemic began and 2,148 deaths.

Sixteen camps today reported new cases of influenza with the largest number at Camp Greendale, Maryland, where 1,590 were reported. Camp Custer, Michigan, reported 1,404 new cases and Camp Pike, Arkansas, and Taylor, Kentucky, more than 1,000 each. Camps Lee, Virginia, and Grant, Illinois, had more than 500 cases. There were 50 deaths at Camp Dix and 29 at Camp Devens, Massachusetts.

Influencia has spread to shipyards in New England and North Atlantic states to such an extent that Director General Schwab of the emergency fleet corporation, today described the situation as "serious." In the yards at Fore River, Mass., he said there were about 3,000 cases for a day and Liberty loan parades as well as most public gatherings were prohibited by the district commissioners.

As precautionary measures to prevent an epidemic of influenza in war-crowded Washington, the public schools were ordered closed today and Liberty loan parades as well as most public gatherings were prohibited by the district commissioners.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA NAMED  
Washington, Oct. 2.—Agricultural advisers for the South Carolina draft board were announced today by the department of agriculture: J. R. Conner, of Eutawville, was appointed adviser for the eastern district board with headquarters at Columbia, and Lowndes Browning, of Union, adviser for the western district board with headquarters at Greenwood.

The advisers are not to be members of the boards but are to furnish the boards information on farm labor requirements for their own districts and the entire country and may also concern themselves with individual cases before the district boards.

TURKEY MAKES INDIRECT APPROACHES TO ALLIES  
London, Oct. 2.—Turkey has made further indirect approaches to the allies through financial channels which are being considered by the British war cabinet. The Standard says it learns on good authority. Important developments, the newspaper adds, are expected.

The allied powers, as has been decided formally to recognize the belligerent status of the Arab forces fighting as auxiliaries with the allies against the common enemy in Palestine and Syria.

### DAMASCUS TAKEN BY THE BRITISH

More Than 7,000 Prisoners Captured With City.

Following Its Surrender, All Allied Troops Are Withdrawn for Time Being.

London, Oct. 2. (8 p. m.)—More than 7,000 Turks were taken prisoner when General Allenby's forces occupied Damascus, the war office announced tonight.

The statement says:  
"Palestine—Troops of an Australian mounted division entered Damascus Monday. At 8 a. m., October 1, the city was occupied by the British forces and by a portion of the Arab army of King Hussein. Over 7,000 prisoners were taken.

"After its surrender, with the exception of necessary guards, all the allied troops were withdrawn from the city for the time being. The local authorities remain responsible for its administration."

BRITISH FORCED FROM VILLAGE OF SEQUEHART  
London, Oct. 2.—The Germans have lost further ground to the British in the outskirts of Cambrai and northwest of that city, but northeast of St. Quentin the British under a violent counter-attack have been forced from the village of Sequehart, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

The text of the communication follows:  
"This morning the enemy attacked strongly northeast of St. Quentin with fresh troops from his reserves and succeeded in pressing back our troops from the village of Sequehart, when his progress stopped.

"Local fighting has taken place today north of Grevcourt (south of Cambrai) and west of Cambrai, but without material change in the situation. As a result of their operations yesterday and last night in the neighborhood of Cambrai, Canadian troops now hold the suburb of Neuville St. Remy and the high ground west of Bamillies.

"Early this morning the enemy commenced to withdraw on a wide front south and north of LaBasse canal, but troops are following up the withdrawal closely and have taken prisoners."

### BETTER SHOES TO COST LESS MONEY

Maximum and Minimum Retail Prices to Be Fixed.

War Industries Board and the Shoe Industry Enter Into Agreement.

Washington, Oct. 2.—The American people will soon be able to purchase shoes at fixed minimum and maximum retail prices, lower than those now prevailing and obtain at the same time shoes of better quality. This announcement was made today by the war industries board based on an agreement entered into with the shoe industry.

Under the agreement shoes will be standardized as to quality and styles at prices ranging from \$3 to \$22 for men and women groups as follows: Class A, from \$9 to \$12; Class B, \$8 to \$8.50, and Class C, \$3 to \$5.50; proportionate prices for youths' and children's shoes have been fixed in each of the three classes.

The board will check up on the quality of the shoes sold at each price by means of a class number stamped on it. Policing, officials explained, will be done by the various state councils of defense, and where the public is in doubt as to what quality it is getting according to the price schedule, complaint may be made and the cost of manufacture traced.

While it is possible to purchase a shoe for \$3 now, under the new schedule, the shoe at the price will be of higher grade.

Officials also said that it will be possible to buy better quality shoes throughout the three classes at less money than at present. Shoes now being sold at \$12, for example, will retail for the maximum price of \$12 and be of at least equal quality.

Manufacturers, jobbers and retailers subscribed to the agreement and will be required to sign a pledge containing the new price scale and display it in their shops. Failure to do so will mean the cutting off of supplies. The manufacturers' pledge provides for standards of quality at the quoted prices.

LIBERTY MOTORS REACH QUANTITY PRODUCTION  
Washington, Oct. 2.—Liberty motors now have reached quantity production and American-built airplanes are being shipped in trained lots daily from the factories for service overseas. W. C. Foster, acting director of the bureau of aircraft production, made this announcement today upon his return to Washington from an inspection of factories building planes and motors.

GERMANS REPORTED TO BE EVACUATING LILLE  
Paris, Oct. 2. (Havas).—The Matin announces that the Germans are evacuating Lille and that the commander there has requisitioned all means of transportation even wheelbarrows and baskets to take away the booty. The newspaper adds that the evacuation of the townspeople to Belgian towns near the German border is being pursued hastily.

ADVISES ALL VICTIMS TO RESORT TO QUININE  
Richmond, Va., Oct. 2.—With 849 cases of Spanish influenza in the city, Health Officer Roy Plannigan tonight gave advice to the people on what to do when they feel the symptoms coming on. He advised all victims to resort to quinine and take a purgative.

### Letters and Postal Cards Six Inches High

Reached The Observer office Sunday as a result of names of subscribers in arrears having been dropped from mailing list. The War Industries Board ruling which has been published on page two for more than six weeks and appears today, deprives newspapers of the privilege of using their judgment as to responsibility of subscribers. If a subscriber is not paid in advance the paper must be stopped.

The letters referred to above will be handled by a large force and every effort will be made to start the papers without delay. Some will miss two or three issues, others perhaps a week.

We publish this as an explanation to those who fail to receive their paper and as a WARNING to subscribers whose dates are in arrears or are about to expire. If you have not done so—Send in your RENEWAL—  
Do It Now—Please—Do It Today