

BRITISH CONSOLIDATE THEIR GAINS AND ARE PREPARED FOR ANOTHER DRIVE ON CAMBRAI

General Byng's Army Has Nearly Completed Occupation of Burlonwood Which Dominates Entire Region Around Fontaine Notre Dame—British Forced to Outskirts of Town

RAILWAYS TO CAMBRAI IN HANDS OF BRITISH

Believed That Cambrai Has Lost Its Usefulness as German Supply Base—General Byng Showed That He Is a Master of Organization in Directing the Drive—The Casualties Much Less Than Number of Prisoners

Withstanding German counter attacks British forces have consolidated their gains and are prepared for another plunge toward Cambrai. General Byng's men are just west of Fontaine Notre Dame, less than three miles of Cambrai, and have nearly completed the occupation of Burlonwood, just north of Fontaine and which dominates the entire region.

Fontaine Notre Dame was the scene of the heaviest fighting yesterday. Wednesday night the village was captured by the British but a strong German counter attack Thursday drove the British to the western outskirts. The village is the apex of the wedge which the British have driven toward Cambrai and which includes approximately 50 square miles of territory formerly within the German lines.

LITTLE CHANGE IN ITALIAN SITUATION

Heavy Firing Continues On Northern Line, Especially Between Piave and Brenta Rivers

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 22 (Delayed).—(By the Associated Press).—Heavy fighting continues on the northern line, centering along the low mountains above Monte Grappa. These successive mountains are proving to be the same kind of natural barrier to the enemy's swift advance that the successive rivers interposed before the Piave was reached.

GERMAN PROPAGANDISTS ACTIVE IN PETROGRAD

Washington, Nov. 23.—Ambassador Francis, at Petrograd, has reported that German propagandists are now carrying on almost openly their activities to keep affairs unsettled in the Russian capital.

STATE OFFERS EVIDENCE IN THE DE SAULLES CASE

Mineola, N. Y., Nov. 23.—Through Marshall Ward, dinner guest at the De Saulles home the evening of August 3, last, when John L. De Saulles was killed, the prosecution today in the trial of Mrs. Bianca De Saulles for the murder of her former husband offered the first eye-witness evidence of the shooting.

GERMANS SENT TWO COMPANIES OF INVALIDS INTO BATTLE LINE

British Army Headquarters in France, Nov. 22 (Delayed).—(By the Associated Press).—The successes of the British arms in the Cambrai sector have continued to grow steadily, and Field Marshal Haig's troops in a little more than two days' fighting have overrun an area equal in size to that won by the Germans during the first fifteen days of their spectacular drive on Verdun.

At last the British and Germans are at grips on comparatively open ground and some of the fiercest hand fighting of the war has been going on. The enemy troops were prepared for the attack, but they have been putting every ounce of their strength into an attempt to stem the rising tide.

Wounded Men Sent to Front. Troops have been hurried from other points and rushed to the Cambrai sector by the desperate Germans, and so hard pressed were they for men that two companies of cripples and convalescents were recruited hastily at one camp and thrown into the line in the region of Masnières. Some of these pitiful objects are in British hands and are receiving medical treatment. One prisoner was in the last stages of tuberculosis and he had to be moved to prevent the disease from spreading to the others who were in a state of cruel exhaustion and, virtually helpless from their valiant attempts to fight under the lash of their unrelenting officers.

The great battle field has taken on the aspect of scenes in wars gone by. It is no longer a conflict of trenches and shell holes, but of men struggling bitterly with rifles and bayonets over a virgin battle ground while the long neglected cavalry sweeps in picturesque charges against the enemy positions. The roads everywhere are crowded with prisoners and civilians coming back from the front. Many rejoicing non-combatant men, women and children have been pouring out of the camps under the guidance of their deliverers from German bondage.

Marching Toward Comfort. This has been a battle of strange sights, but no more striking spectacle has been witnessed than that of these people marching toward homes and comfort back of the British front. Through the very gaps which the tanks had torn in the famous Hindenburg line mothers yesterday and today were pushing baby carriages containing infants or tramping happily along with their babies clutched to their breasts. Beside them toddled other youngsters, many of them carrying their treasured dolls and not a few clinging determinedly to squirming puppies which they dared not trust to run on the ground. Old men and women were bringing away all the household effects they could pack on pushcarts or carry on their backs.

For three years they had been in captivity and some of them in slavery. They had been subsisting on the bounty of the American relief committee which furnished them virtually the only food they obtained. Hard Fighting at Crevecoeur. Hard fighting has taken place today at Crevecoeur, southeast of Masnières. The British struck a high ridge in front of this place and some troops had forced an entrance into the western part of the town. The Germans were still holding the eastern section. A German battery which had been giving trouble here was charged and captured by dismounted cavalrymen. The battery was surrounded by heavy barbed wire entanglements precluding the use of horses, so its soldiers stormed the position on foot and annihilated the gun crews.

In the region of Rumilly heavy machine gun and rifle fighting was proceeding last night and this morning. Attack About Fontaine Notre Dame. West of Cambrai, tanks, cavalry and infantry were pressing the attack vigorously about Fontaine Notre Dame and the strong position in Burlonwood. Fontaine Notre Dame has not been officially reported captured, but the story goes that tank crews were served with hot coffee by the civilians in this place this morning.

Field Marshal Haig's official report Thursday night said the Germans had taken Fontaine Notre Dame. Further north, near Bullecourt, the British were in possession of the entire underground fortification known as the tunnel trench, which had been famous for its supposed impenetrability. At least five determined counter attacks have been smashed in this region. Southeast of Bullecourt hard fighting occurred at Moeuvres last night and a strong counter attack was repulsed. The last line of trench defenses in the region of Cantaing have been broken and the British today were firmly established at many points in the Masnières-Beaurois line south of Cambrai.

Fought for Masnières. It is now possible to give more details of Tuesday's battle. In the advance south of Cambrai the first hard fighting occurred at Lateau wood which lies on the Cambrai highway south of Masnières. This wood finally was cleared of Germans and the advance continued toward Masnières. Some opposition was encountered in a suburb but by 1 o'clock this had been overcome and the British had crossed the L'Escaut canal. The small German garrison fought bitterly to retain Masnières. The whole place was undermined with dugouts in which the enemy was hidden with machine guns, but the Germans were forced to give up this place after a sanguinary struggle, although some of them were still holding out in the cellars today.

ARTILLERY FIRE IN AMERICAN SECTOR

With the American Army in France, Nov. 22 (Delayed).—(By the Associated Press).—The enemy artillery firing is more active along the American sector. No new casualties have resulted. In reprisal for the shelling of the town in which the American headquarters is located, during which a shell fell on an American regimental headquarters, Americans sent an equal number of shells into the town behind the German lines the next day.

Patrolling operations continue nightly but the Americans have failed to encounter any Germans and no further casualties have been reported. The officers who have served their turn in the trenches with the battalions already relieved have held a meeting with the commander of the first contingent and discussed their experiences. All agreed that actual training in the trenches under fire is the ideal method of acquiring officers and soldiers with fighting methods.

Col. House Says Mission Has a Message of Encouragement for French Republic—Determined To Win. Paris, Nov. 23.—Colonel E. M. House and the other members of the American mission have made the quickest trip from London to Paris since the war began. They crossed the channel at the rate of 21 knots an hour and traveled from a French seaport where they landed in Paris in a special train at a speed unmatched in three years.

Commander Sayles, of the American embassy, and Baron Theodor Berekheim and Maurice Casenave, representing the French foreign office, met the mission at the French seaport and welcomed them to France. Col. House, for himself and in behalf of his associates, said concerning the purpose of his mission: "We bring to the French republic a message of encouragement from the American millions who are mobilizing in factories, farms and upon military fields."

There is a grim determination amongst us to wage war until the world is free from the shadow and spectre of the sword. We have in mind no material gain. What we want is assurance of permanent peace and the tramp of our soldiers upon the soil of France will be heard ever increasingly until it is achieved. "It is here that our brave men are come to mingle our blood with yours. It is here that all come to gather inspiration from your heroic deeds. Our president and our country see the issue clearly and France may confidently count on every resource which may be at our command."

Civilians Wept With Joy. Civilians who were released from Masnières rejoiced at their new-found freedom and many of them today wept with joy when the subject of their deliverance was brought up. Among them was the mayor, M. Leslahn, a middle-aged man who acted as speaker. They first learned of the approach of the British from machine gun fire in the distance. They were immediately thrown into a state of excitement and watched for the coming of their friends from every vantage point available.

They had their first sight of the advancing forces at the bridgehead and saw coming with the attacking forces strange monsters which they never dreamed existed. They were the great tanks and the people stared in amazement as they ploughed their way forward. Only 250 Germans were holding the town and all except a few left in the cellars withdrew five minutes before the British entered. With the civilians who greeted the British were two German soldiers, one from Alsace and the other from Lorraine who had deserted and were waiting to give themselves up to the British with whom they sympathized.

During the three years of their captivity the civilians were fed by the American relief committee. All other food was requisitioned by the Germans, who placed heavy penalties on those who concealed any. Many persons served terms in jail for alleged violation of the orders. They were well fed, however, owing to American relief and all appeared healthy. The Germans stripped all the houses of the town of their furniture as soon as they entered. All men of military age were arrested and sent to Germany. Women were compelled to do a day's work, such as sweeping streets, in washing clothes for German officers and waiting on officers.

The mayor declared his belief that Germany was actually starving. He said there seemed to be no doubt civilians in Germany were undergoing great hardships. Story of One Refugee. Among the refugees was a man of military age who had hidden in a cellar three years to escape the Germans and had been fed by his wife with an

RUSSIA, THROUGH TROTZKY, MAKES PEACE PROPOSAL

Foreign Minister of Bolsheviki Government Sends Note to Embassies Formally Offering Immediate Armistice and Opening of Peace Negotiations

Petrograd, Nov. 22.—(Delayed).—The note of Leon Trotsky, the Bolsheviki foreign minister to the allied embassies, conveying the announcement of the proposal for an armistice reached the embassies last night.

Text of Note. "I herewith have the honor to inform you, Mr. Ambassador, that the all-Russian congress of soldiers and workmen's delegates organized on October 26, a new government in the form of a council of national commissioners. The head of this government is Vladimir Ilich Lenin. The direction of the foreign policy has been entrusted to me, in the capacity of national commissioner for foreign affairs."

"Drawing attention to the text of the offer of an armistice and a democratic peace on the basis of no annexations or indemnities and the self-determination of nations, approved by the all-Russian congress of soldiers and workmen's delegates, I have the honor to beg you to regard the above document as formal offer of an immediate armistice on all fronts and the immediate opening of peace negotiations—an offer with which the authoritative government of the Russian republic has addressed itself simultaneously to all the belligerent peoples and their governments."

"Accept my assurance, Mr. Ambassador of the profound respect of the soldiers and workmen's government for the people of France which cannot help aiming at peace as well as all the rest of the nations exhausted and made bloodless by this unexampled slaughter. "L. TROTZKY, "National commissioner for foreign affairs."

Sent to Washington. The American ambassador, David R. Francis, is transmitting the communication to Washington for the information of his government. He made no acknowledgment of its receipt, acting, it is understood, in concert with the representatives of the allies governments.

MANY CIVILIANS FROM LIBERATED TOWNS SEEN

British Army Headquarters in France, Nov. 22 (Delayed).—(By the Associated Press).—One of the most strange and striking sights in the latest territory captured by the British was the procession of civilians from liberated towns and villages who walked toward the rear of the British lines. Mothers were pushing baby carriages while other youngsters toddled alongside. There were old men and women with pushcarts laden with household goods. Many of these refugees had long subsisted on the bounty of the American relief committee which had supplied virtually the only food they had obtained.

WHAT VON TIRPITZ THINKS OF AMERICA

Amsterdam, Nov. 23.—America's entry into the war is disadvantageous to us in morale and many other ways," said Admiral von Tirpitz, former German minister of marine in addressing a meeting of the fatherland party at Dresden. "We ought to have reckoned with the fact that the American trust magnates were bound to desire our defeat. "I regret that we did not remain firm in the face of President Wilson's threats. If we had done so things probably would have been very different, but now we must take them as they are. "I would point out, however, that from a military viewpoint America's entry into the war is of little significance to us, because it is the tonnage question that is decisive. "The admiral expressed regret that Germany had been late in using that "powerful economic weapon," the U-boat, but said that notwithstanding all the counter measures which the delay gave Britain time to develop the Germans will be successful if they stuck to their guns.

HOMER L. FERGUSON MAY SUCCEED ADMIRAL CAPPS

Washington, Nov. 23.—Read Admiral Washington L. Capps, chief constructor of the navy, has asked to be relieved as general manager of the shipping board's Emergency Fleet corporation, because of ill health and probably will be succeeded by Homer L. Ferguson, now president and general manager of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company. Mr. Ferguson has been asked to take the place. Gets Promotion. London, Nov. 23.—King George has promoted Lieutenant-General Byng to the rank of general, in recognition of his distinguished service in the field in the recent operations, it was officially announced today. From Central Powers. Stockholm, Nov. 23.—According to the Hidingen, a Russian diplomat left Stockholm yesterday for Petrograd with orders to hand to the Russian revolutionary government proposals for peace by the central powers.

