

BRITISH BREAK THE HINDENBURG LINE

A SURPRISE ATTACK MADE ON FRONT OF THIRTY-TWO MILES

The Famous Hindenburg Line Broken to a Depth of Five Miles

SECOND SYSTEM OF DEFENSES CAPTURED

Five Thousand Prisoners Already Reported—There Was No Artillery Preparation—Most Ambitious Effort of British

Field Marshal Haig has sprung a surprise on the Germans in Northern France, attacking suddenly on a front of more than 30 miles and breaking the famous Hindenburg line to a maximum depth of nearly five miles.

The blow was struck without warning, no artillery preparation preceding it. The British tanks in great numbers smashed their way through the formidable German wire entanglements, plowing a road for the infantry which swarmed irresistibly forward.

Village after village fell into the British hands as Haig's troops pressed on, until at Marcing and Anneux, on the Papaume-Cambrai road, they were only three and three-quarter miles from Cambrai, the important German base and important railway junction, which apparently is the British objective.

Several thousand prisoners have been taken by the British as well as large quantities of war material. The attack was carried out in unfavorable atmospheric conditions and the weather since has grown stormy.

Berlin admits important advances by the British, conceding the capture of Mesines and Graincourt, in the field of Haig's thrust, but says the attackers were checked after ground had been gained.

General Byng in Command. London, Nov. 21.—The Hindenburg line has been broken to a depth of four to five miles, the war office announced.

British troops stormed the first system of the Hindenburg line defenses on the whole front between St. Quentin and the Scarpe river.

From St. Quentin to the Scarpe is 32 miles.

The British infantry and tanks pressed on and captured the second system of defenses, over a mile beyond.

The attack was begun yesterday by the Third army. There was no artillery preparation and the Germans were taken completely by surprise.

The second system of German defenses captured by the British is known as the Hindenburg support line. The British captured Benais, Lameau wood, La Vaqueirie, the defenses known as Welsh Ridge and Ribecourt village. Their operations are continuing.

Five thousand prisoners have been taken.

The British also fought their way through Couilles wood.

Lord Gen. Sir Julian Byng is in command of the attacking army.

The German line west of the Canal Du Nord to the Bapaume-Cambrai road has been captured.

The towns of Havrincourt, Marconin, Graincourt and Anneux, and Neuf wood have been captured by the British.

A large number of tanks moved forward by advance of the infantry when the attack was opened and broke through successive belts of German wire defenses which were of great depth and strength.

The announcement follows: "Yesterday morning the Third army, under command of General The Hon. Sir Julian Byng, delivered a number of attacks between St. Quentin and the river Scarpe. These attacks were carried out without previous artillery preparation, and in each case the enemy was completely surprised.

"Our troops have broken into the enemy's position to a depth of between four and five miles on a wide front, and have captured several thousand prisoners with a number of guns. Our operations are continuing.

"At the hour of assault on the principal front of attack a large number of tanks were used.

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RECENT BATTLE OF CATTEGAT AT GERMANY'S DOOR

Significant Force of British Destroyers Were the Performers

WAS EXAMPLE OF CAREFUL PLANNING

German Fleet Dared Not Go to Rescue of Distressed Ships—Comparison of War Methods

(Associated Press Correspondence). Base of British Grand Fleet, Nov. 9.

The recent naval action in the Cattegat, where the British sank a German cruiser and 10 armed patrol ships, is an example of the careful planning which lies behind every move on the naval chart.

A comparatively insignificant force of British destroyers and light cruisers were the actual stage performers in the little Shagerrak drama.

The actual fight began about 7 o'clock in the morning and was over three hours later. The German fleet behind its fortification received the calls for help, but dared not take a chance.

The British commander concentrated his fire first of all on the Marie and then detached his fastest vessels to round up the escorting patrol vessels.

This was thoroughly done after a hunt lasting nearly three hours. This action, it should be remembered, occurred in waters which the Germans regard as practically one of their "inland seas." The Cattegat is the gateway to the Baltic. The scene of the fight is 500 miles from the nearest British coast but less than 200 miles from Kiel.

The Germans had every chance to cut off the retreat of the British by bringing superior units up the coast to the entrance of the Skagerrak. That they did not dare to attempt this, is evidence of their appreciation of the initiative and resource of the British navy.

An interesting comparison might be made between this clean victory by the British destroyers and the tip-and-run raid by the German light cruisers on a British convoy on October 17.

The Germans sent out two of their fastest cruisers in the darkness, struck their blow in nervous haste in the early morning hours, not even pausing to rescue a single life of hundreds of combatants and non-combatants, then ran away northward to spend the remaining hours of daylight in hiding, and when night fell dashed down the Norwegian coast and thus returned home without being intercepted.

On the occasion of the British victory the fight occurred not in the North Sea but on Germany's doorstep; not at night but in daylight; not hurriedly or nervously for 64 prisoners were taken, drowning men rescued from the water, thus providing another vivid contrast between German and British methods of warfare.

Moreover no non-combatant lives were lost or endangered in the British action, whereas the Germans ruthlessly and unnecessarily sacrificed scores of innocent neutrals.

The return of the British squadron to its base was quiet and unostentatious. By nightfall they were off again on their business of sweeping the sea.

Want Mexicans Returned. (By Associated Press). El Paso, Texas, Nov. 21.—A request of the Mexican government that the 500 Mexican federal soldiers who crossed to the United States when Villa's followers captured Ojinaga and were interned, be returned to Mexico has been transmitted to Washington, according to Andres Garcia, inspector general of consulates.

RUSSIAN PEOPLE TURNING AGAINST THE BOLSHEVIKI

Reports From Petrograd Indicate Revolution of Feeling in That City

FOOD SITUATION IS BECOMING SERIOUS

Three-Quarters Pound Bread Each Two Days—Street Paraders Say They Want No Separate Peace

(By Associated Press). Stockholm, Nov. 21.—Reports brought by the latest travelers to reach Tornea from Petrograd indicate that a revolution of feeling is setting in against the Bolsheviki.

Regiments of soldiers have paraded the streets of the Russian capital, bearing banners with inscriptions such as "We want no separate peace." "Down with Petrograd's domination by a minority party tyranny" and "Nicholas' regime was never so tyrannic as the Bolsheviki regime."

The central committee of the anti-Bolsheviki socialist coalition has passed a resolution demanding liberty of the press, the dismissal of the Red Guard and the immediate cessation of fratricidal war.

American Minister Morris learns from a competent source that the food supply in Petrograd is ominously short and that the bread ration is now three-quarters of a Russian pound for two days.

Nearly one-third of the members of the executive committee formed by the Maximalists at the outbreak of the revolt have resigned and it is reported the remainder have conferred dictatorial law-making powers on Nikolai Lenin, who is now issuing decrees altering the fundamental laws.

Baltimore Chosen. (By Associated Press). Washington, Nov. 21.—Baltimore was selected as the 1918 convention city of the Southern Commercial Congress by the executive officers in session here. S. Davies Warfield was made chairman of the general Baltimore committee to arrange for the meeting, which will be held from December 8 to 12.

Census Report Shows 8,559,390 Bales Against 9,615,003 Last Year

(By Associated Press). Washington, Nov. 21.—Cotton ginnings prior to November 14 amounted to 8,559,390 running bales, including 152,527 round bales, counted as half bales, and 68,361 bales of Sea Island, the census bureau today announced.

Last year to November 14 ginnings amounted to 9,615,003, including 168,375 round bales and 92,909 bales of Sea Island and two years ago 8,771,275 bales, including 82,312 bales and 68,941 bales of Sea Island.

Ginnings by States this year were: Alabama 378,078; Arizona 5,868; Arkansas 683,244; California 17,294; Florida 39,837; Georgia 1,480,182; Louisiana 497,962; Mississippi 619,338; Missouri 30,185; North Carolina 378,541; Oklahoma 693,926; South Carolina 923,277; Tennessee 126,277; Texas 2,693,690; Virginia 8,923; West Virginia 2,844.

Ginnings of Sea Island by States: Florida 30,553; Georgia 34,647; South Carolina 2,961.

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FOXY AMERICANS FIXED TRAP TO CATCH GERMANS

But for Some Reason Teutons Failed to Walk That Night

COUGH BROKE UP SURPRISE PARTY

The Cougher Got a Wound in the Hand—First American Flag to Reach the Fighting Line

(By Associated Press). With the American Army in France. Tuesday, Nov. 20.—Only the fact that the Germans failed to venture into No Man's Land on a recent night saved them from an American surprise. One hundred and sixty men of the first battalions to enter the trenches crawled across No Man's Land and took positions in front of and in the German wire entanglements at a point where it had been discovered the enemy came out every night.

Each man had been trained in a special task and the entire unit had rehearsed the part it had intended to play under conditions similar to those in front of the German lines. The Americans reached the position soon after dark and remained in waiting all night, but not one German appeared either there, or as far as known, at any place in No Man's Land.

The plan was to allow several groups of 10 to 15 Germans to emerge and meet at a rendezvous. Then the Americans would fall upon the enemy and repay them fully for recent trench raids.

A cold which a soldier caught in the trenches brought him a wound in the hand and gave warning to a German patrol of an ambush on another night. Finally, when the shadow forms of an enemy patrol were approaching, one of the Americans coughed. The enemy patrol promptly disappeared toward its own lines from which there soon afterward came a hail of machine gun bullets, one hitting the man who had coughed.

Two staff officers recently had a narrow escape while walking along a road in the rear of the lines. They heard the whizz of an enemy shell and jumped, thinking it was close by when the projectile came down in the center of the road on either side of which they were walking.

The first American regimental colors to be carried on the battle front in France have been returned to regimental headquarters. Written on it in ink, over the square of the French commander is a certification that this was the first flag to reach the front lines. No flags are exhibited there. It actually was carried, however, to a dugout in the rear of the second line, remaining there several days.

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A. L. DIRECTORS DO BETTER THAN WAS ANTICIPATED

A Dividend of 3 1-2 Per Cent. Declared On Common Stock

PRESIDENT KENLY'S SATISFACTORY REPORT

Net Earnings of Road Showed Increase Over Last Year—Change Made in Time of Annual Meeting

(Special to The Dispatch). Richmond, Va., Nov. 21.—The directors of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company yesterday afternoon declared a dividend of 3 1-2 per cent. on the common stock of the company, payable January 10, 1918, to stockholders of record December 20.

This action was not entirely unexpected in financial circles, but the rate of payment to stockholders was greater than had been anticipated because of the unsettled condition of railroads generally. The annual meeting of stockholders was also held, all directors and officers being re-elected.

President Kenly's annual report to stockholders showed a successful year. In connection with the new joint passenger station at Richmond he said the development and construction is making excellent progress, and it is hoped that the building will be ready for operation in the first quarter of 1918.

The enlargement of freight facilities at the Byrd street station is also well under way, and when completed will practically double the receiving and delivery warehouse space of the Coast Line in this city.

Mr. L. Borden, of New York, secretary and assistant treasurer of the company, was elected third vice-president, but will continue his former duties. Joseph B. Kirby, of Baltimore, was made second assistant treasurer.

The stockholders were presented with an income statement for the 12 months ending with June 30, as compared with the previous year. Railway operating revenues totaled \$40,406,203 as compared with \$34,445,111 last year, operating expenses \$26,790,758, leaving an operating come of \$11,620,482 as compared with \$9,838,000 last year. Net income for the year was \$10,203,196 as against \$7,765,536 in 1916.

Because of the change from the fiscal to the calendar year for the annual report to stockholders, the board of directors recommended and it was adopted that the annual meeting be changed from November to May and the by-laws were so amended.

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TROOPS AND SHIPS FROM AMERICA ARE NEEDED BY ALLIES

Comments on the Anglo-American War Conference

MUCH IS EXPECTED OF THE UNITED STATES

Americans in War to Protect Themselves, Viewed By One—Another Urges a Policy of Firmness

(By Associated Press). London, Nov. 21.—The Anglo-American war conference yesterday in Downing street is featured by the morning newspapers and is commented upon as an event of the highest importance.

Much is said of the picturesque historical side of the meeting which occurred in the same room where the errors were made that drove the American colonies to separate from the motherland, but the practical aspects are given equal emphasis.

While Premier Lloyd-George's statement on the needs of the Allies receives attention, the point also is made that it is necessary for the United States to be not in the war solely for their benefit. Thus, The Post says: "Americans know as well as we that they are in the war to protect themselves from a danger which seriously menaced them. They are business men over here strictly on business."

"The United States did not join the belligerents to save France or help Great Britain," says the Daily Express. "She is fighting the Germany of Kaiser William for exactly the same reason that she fought the England of Lord North, for individual and national freedom is at stake."

The Daily News on the other hand, dwells on the advent of the United States as "a bulwark of confidence" for the Allies and says it has changed the character of the war, and placed the issue beyond doubt. Following out this view, it says that "if in the closing phases of the war, she is the commanding figure, we shall have no envy and no regrets," and contends that this is so chiefly because America's entry is a spiritual fact looking to the eventual establishment of a "new sort of peace—a peace founded upon the commonwealth of the world."

Hope is expressed that Americans will not become sentimental or allow themselves to be influenced by humanitarian considerations in waging war, as "war is most cruel when most prolonged and the only policy is that of firmness. Hitherto on our side there has been too much parrying and too little striking."

Americans Included. (By Associated Press). Copenhagen, Nov. 21.—The provisions of the German regulation requiring a report on all properties in Germany belonging to enemy citizens has now been extended to American citizens. The reports are of such nature that they can be used as a basis for financial reprisals.

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Lloyd-George Asks When First Million Sammies Will Be Ready

ITALIANS APPEAR TO BE HOLDING LINES

Teutons Not Progressing Rapidly in Italy—Haig Moves Forward—Clemenceau Gets Vote of Confidence

American troops and American ships are needed by the Allies, Premier Lloyd-George informed the American mission now in England, at the first meeting of the Anglo-American war council.

An early increased supply of tonnage is necessary for the continued welfare of the allied cause, and the British Prime Minister is anxious to know how soon the first million American soldiers can be expected in France.

The new Premier's vigorous prosecution of the conflict and declared his war aim is to be a victor. He would not agree to permit Germany to enter the sovereignty of nations, because Germany's signature cannot be trusted.

With the Italians holding the Austro-Germans from Lake Garda to the Adriatic, Field Marshal Haig has carried out successful operations against the Germans from St. Quentin to the Scarpe, east of Arras, a front of more than 35 miles. He reports no details, but says the effort had satisfactory results. Prisoners were captured and much war material taken.

The British attacks were made on the roads from Bapaume and Peronne to Cambrai, Berlin reports, and the Germans were forced to give ground. Cambrai, the railroad center for all the German lines between Lille and the Champagne is less than 10 miles from Havrincourt, reached by the British last spring. There has been no great fighting activity on this portion of the front for several months, but a blow here might be corollary to the recent French stroke southwest of Laon.

Today's German official statement reports no change on the Italian front, indicating that the Italians are still holding firmly their line on the Piave and westward to the Trentino.

Violent Austro-German attacks are being thrown against Monte Tomba, but the Italians have repulsed all efforts successfully. The position is one of the last natural strongholds protecting the plains of Western Venetia behind the Piave river and the invaders are making strenuous efforts to gain it.

Italian offensive operations east of Asiago continue and the invaders have been driven from several positions with the loss of more than 800 prisoners.

No further attempts have been made by the Austro-Germans to cross the Piave after the disastrous results attending the efforts of last week.

The Russian Maximalist government has declared Russia out of the war, according to information from German and Scandinavian sources. A dispatch to Copenhagen from Berlin says that the belief is held in the German capital that the prospects for a "peace of conciliation" are far better than previously. Neutral capitals have no official reports nor is there word from Petrograd that the Bolsheviki have decided to suspend military activities.

The Workmen's and Soldiers' Congress is facing a split into Bolsheviki and anti-Bolsheviki organizations. The district of the Ukraine in Southwestern Russia has declared its independence and 360,000 Ukrainian troops have been drawn from the fighting front, which may cause a serious crippling of the effectiveness of the Russian army.

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