

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina—Fair, continued cooler tonight with freezing temperature; Sunday, fair.
South Carolina—Fair tonight with freezing temperature; Sunday, continued cold.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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GERMANS OFFERING FIERCE RESISTANCE ON WESTERN FRONT

Reinforced From Other Sectors They Are Contesting British Advance
GENERAL DIAZ IS HOLDING INVADERS
Despite Massed Attacks, Austro-Germans Unable to Break Through the Italian Lines—Bait of Separate Peace

Reinforced by divisions from other sectors of the Western front, the Germans are resisting desperately the British advance on Cambrai. Around Fontaine Notre Dame less than three miles west of Cambrai, and the surrounding wood close by the most strenuous fighting has occurred with the British making progress. General Byng is continuing his attacks with consolidation work and the British are firmly established in their new positions, which give opportunities to destroy the usefulness of Cambrai as a supply center as well as a starting place for a drive either north behind Drocourt-Queant line or west against Cambrai. Heavy fighting is taking place at Moeuvres, three miles west-southwest of Fontaine Notre Dame and at Crevecoeur, about three miles south of Cambrai at the other end of the wedge driven across the Hindenburg line Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Bourlon wood is the dominating hill to the west of Cambrai and the Germans have it up a strong resistance here, as well as at Fontaine Notre Dame, which flanks the wood to the west. The British have made advances at the southern and southwestern edges of the wood. Near Moeuvres, General Byng's men have taken Tadpole Copse, which dominates the village, near which the Germans still hold. In addition to nearly 9,000 prisoners the British have captured large quantities of war material and several scores of guns.

Fighting activity has been renewed in Flanders but on a small scale. Southeast of Ypres Field Marshal Haig made a slight advance in the direction of Montesa, German artillery is heavy on this front, especially in the direction of the Italian front. The forces of General Diaz in hand to hand fighting, are holding up strong Austro-German attempts to advance. On the Asiago plateau west of the Brenta river, the Italians have checked a nemy encircling movement with the object of surrounding Monte Meletta, the vantage point in this region. The enemy attacked, after a strong bombardment, but the Italian fire was so effective that the attackers and captured 200 prisoners. East of the Brenta toward the Piave river the Italians still hold firm on the important Monte Grappa-Monte Tomba line, protecting the entrance to the Venetian plains. The fighting here is of the most desperate character.

Austro-Germans are attacking in massed formation, aided by strong artillery fire. They have been unable, however, to make a dent in the Italian defenses in the last three days.

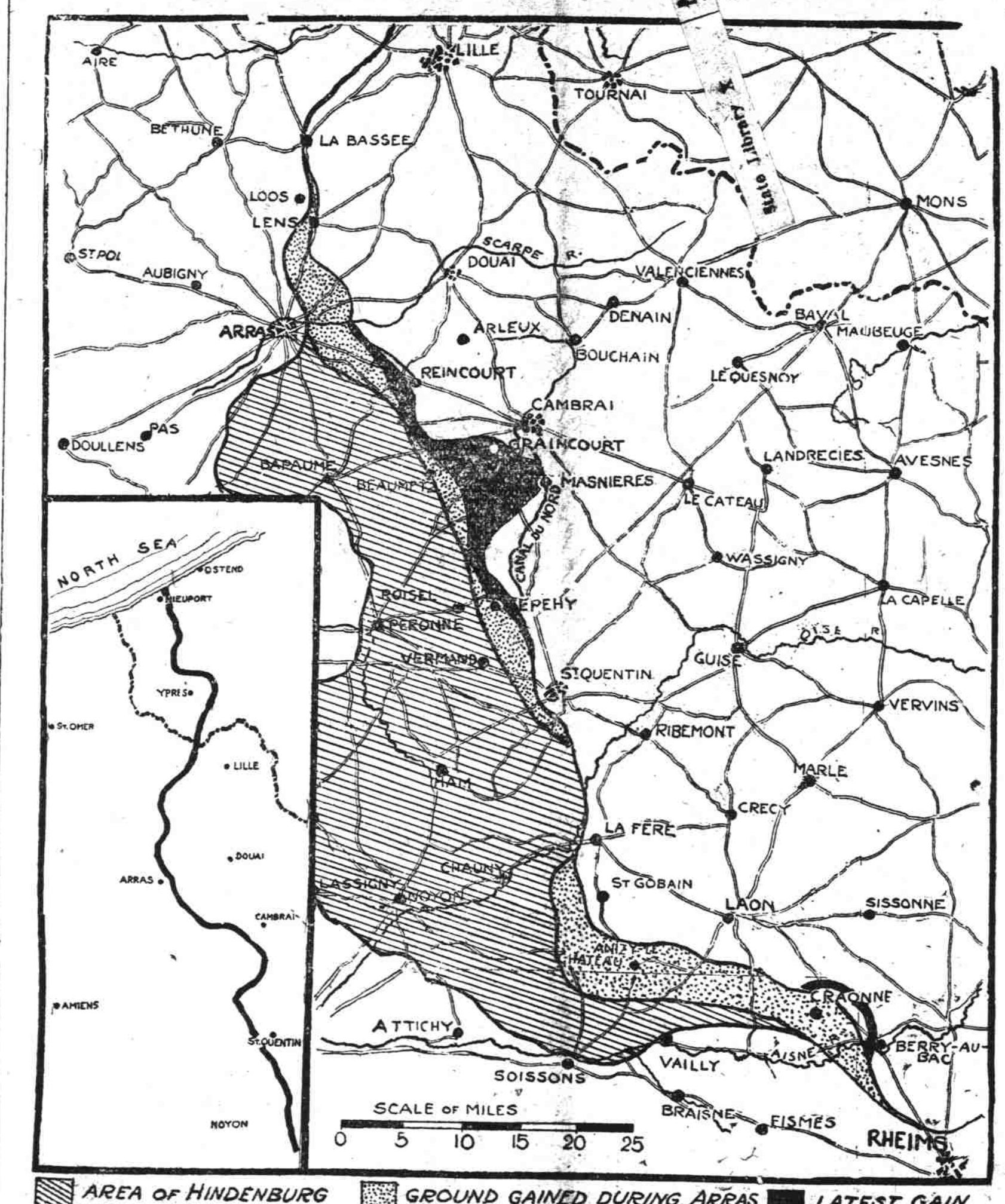
The bait of a separate peace offered by the Bolshevik government in Petrograd apparently has attracted the Central powers. According to a report from Stockholm, an emissary has gone from Stockholm and its allies to the front to urge the British government to accept the terms of a separate peace. The emissary is reported to have been accompanied by General Ludendorff, Field Marshal von Hindenburg's principal aide and the reputed strong man of the German staff has gone to the German frontier in connection with the Bolshevik offer of an armistice.

American government officials received the Bolshevik offer as an act that would place Russia in the list of unfriendly nations. The British government through its minister of blockade declared that the making of a separate peace by the people of Russia would put them virtually outside the pale of civilized Europe.

BRITISH OFFER TO DECORATE AMERICANS
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—An offer by the British admiralty to decorate certain officers and men of two American destroyers for their services in combating German submarines has been refused, Secretary Daniels announced today. The laws of this country prevent soldiers and sailors from receiving decorations from foreign governments.

British Commanders Charles A. Wilson and George F. Neal were to be nominated for the distinguished service cross, and Lieutenant Frank Lofgren and Philip Henry N. Fenton for the distinguished service cross, and Chief Petty Officer W. H. Justice and Chief Petty Officer M. R. G. McNaughton for the distinguished service medal. The names of the ships to which the officers and men are attached were withheld for military reasons.

WHERE THE FRENCH AND BRITISH ARE STRIKING



On the above map the solid black areas indicate the new territory taken by the British in their great offensive between the vicinity of Arras and St. Quentin and by the French in their advance between Craonne and Berry-au-Bac. The British gained over three miles in sectors of the front, the principal one being a seven-mile front west of Cambrai, where they went forward five miles and reached a point three miles from the city. South of Cambrai they secured the crossings of the Canal du Nord.

MOUNTAIN BATTLE IS RAGING WITH GREAT VIOLENCE

Italians Regain Possession of Monte Tomba and Monte Persica

A SUPREME EFFORT TO BREAK THROUGH

Teutons Hurl Masses of Men Against Italians to be Met With Unexampled Valor—Heavy Casualties

(By Associated Press.)
Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 23.—The battle of the mountains is raging with unexampled violence. Italians again hold Monte Tomba, Monte Persica positions which they lost last night. The losses have been very great, but the enemy's far exceed that of the Italians.

On the outcome of the mountain battle depends the result of the enemy's greatest effort to break through the Italian lines to the Venetian plain. The re-capture of the Italian positions on Monte Tomba was accompanied by a succession of brilliant charges. Monte Persica was lost and won four times, the enemy finally being thrown back. Although the losses have been terrible, those of the enemy are by far the greater.

The battle which had been gradually gathering its force in the last few days, broke in full fury early yesterday and raged throughout the day, the night and today. The first blow was struck at Monte Persica. Persica was lost, then re-taken, then lost again and then re-taken again in such a whirlwind of enthusiasm as seldom has been seen before.

But the enemy's greatest blow was aimed at the strategic key of Monte Tomba and Monte Montenera. Here the full force of two divisions, one German, the other Austrian, was hurled in a furious attack on the Italian right wing in an effort to turn the wing and cut off the army from its line of communication along the Piave. Now came one of the bloodiest struggles of the war, which went on all last night, and today with a steady succession of attacks and counter attacks.

What the outcome will be cannot be forecast, but the Italian arms have snatched back victory when it was hanging in the balance. Even the enemy yields tribute to Italian valor, for prisoners say their forces are surprised at the resistance met and disconcerted by the bravery of the Italian troops.

A succession of attacks and counter attacks followed rapidly through out yesterday, on the hills between the Piave and Brenta valleys, where the Austro-Germans are engaged in furious combat.

Mountain batteries had been secured in mountain emplacements and as the fight ebbed and flowed over these positions, the Italians not only brought back the guns, but even the wheels and the limbers.

The final charge of the day came at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The enemy had struck his greatest blow earlier in the day and the fierce attack lasted three quarters of an hour. The whole field was swept by artillery fire and the ground was strewn with dead. It was amid this welter of bodies and debris that the Italians were re-formed and from it they moved forward steadily and irresistibly, until the disputed ground was re-taken, except at one point where the struggle still goes on. The enemy losses must be very heavy, but he is bringing forward a steady stream of reserves.

The first army also is sustaining a heavy light west of Brenta river, where the enemy rush has been repulsed by the splendid resistance of the Italians.

The reference in dispatches to the fearful havoc among regiments, brigades and divisions should be interpreted with the knowledge that the Italian unit of organization is of such size that the reduction of an Italian regiment to three or four hundred men means that upwards of 2,000 have fallen. From an authoritative source, this information is given in regard to the Italian units:
A battalion is 1,000 men, in four (Continued on Page Eight)

MEANS TRIAL SET FOR NEXT MONDAY

Prominent Concord Man Charged With Murder of Wealthy Woman

(By Associated Press.)
Concord, N. C., Nov. 24.—Gaston B. Means will be placed on trial here next Monday charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, of New York, widow of a Chicago millionaire.

Mrs. King was killed near here August 29, last, while visiting relatives of Means, who was her business agent. A local coroner's jury decided she accidentally shot herself. After the body was taken to Chicago for burial, suspicions were aroused which caused an autopsy to be performed, and the Chicago coroner's physician announced that the bullet wound in the back of the woman's head which caused death, could not have been self-inflicted.

Means, Mrs. King and several friends of Means had gone out for target practice and Means and the woman were alone for a short time at Blackwelder Spring, near the field where Mrs. King expected to shoot with a pistol. Means told the coroner's jury that before bending over to drink at the spring he placed a small pistol in the fork of a tree. A moment later, he said, he heard a shot, and Mrs. King fell, dying almost instantly. The pistol lay nearby. He called the other members of the party, but Mrs. King was dead before they arrived.

The investigation started in Chicago, was carried to New York and search of Means' apartments disclosed evidence, which representatives of the district attorney's office said indicated Means had planned to get \$2,000,000 for Mrs. King through an alleged second will of her husband. The latter in his first will had left her more than \$1,000,000, and had bequeathed the remainder of his fortune to a charitable institution near Chicago.

Statements that Means had been connected with German agents also were made by New York officials, and a Federal agent attended the preliminary hearing here in September. At this hearing, which was the formal opening of the case by North Carolina officials, counsel for Means consented to his being bound over, after failure of litigation by the documents seized in Means' home in New York.

Means was indicted November 1 in the Superior court of Cabarrus county and the trial was set for November 26. Counsel for Means successfully resisted attempts of the State prosecutor to have the court grant a change of venue.

SECRET PAPERS ARE PUBLISHED

The Bolsheviks Publish Confidential Documents Found in Petrograd

(By Associated Press.)
Petrograd, Friday, Nov. 23.—The text of certain confidential communications between the Russian foreign office and foreign governments were published today by Bolshevik and Social Revolutionary newspapers. Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, says the documents are those of the "Czaristic, Burgeois and coalition governments," and from them "the Russian nation and all nations in the world must learn the truth of the plans secretly made by financiers and traders through their parliamentary and diplomatic agents."

German and Austrian politicians, Trotsky declares, may try to make capital out of these documents, but he warns them that when the German proletariat by means of a revolution, secures access to their chancelleries they will find there documents which will show up in no better light than those now published.

Seventeen of These Documents.
London, Nov. 24.—The documents published by the Bolsheviks include secret treaties and telegrams sent by the Russian foreign office, ambassadors abroad and ambassadors in Petrograd, the correspondent in Petrograd of the Exchange Telegraph Company reports. In all 17 documents were published.

War Bulletins.
(By Associated Press.)
London, Nov. 24.—The site of ancient Mizpah, 5,000 yards west of Jerusalem-Jabulubus road, has been stormed by the British, the war office announces. British mounted troops, which had advanced northward, were forced back by the Turks.

London, Nov. 24.—At various points west of Cambrai, the British made progress yesterday, the war office reports. More than 100 guns have been captured recently in this area.

Rome, Nov. 24.—Powerful thrusts which were carried out yesterday by the Austro-Germans after heavy artillery preparation on the Italian mountain front from the Asiago plateau to the Brenta river all failed, the Italian war office announced today.

RESIGNATIONS BY RUSSIAN OFFICERS

Three High Officials Connected With Washington Embassy Quit Service

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—Ambassador Bakhmeteff, of Russia, formally notified the State Department that the embassy does not recognize the authority of the extremists now in control of the foreign office at Petrograd.

In a letter to Secretary Lansing, following the resignation of three of the chief officers of the embassy to avoid having relations with the Bolshevik government, the Ambassador said the Bolshevik government was not representative of the true will of the Russian people and that he would not recognize that or any other similar government which would lead the country into non-participation in the war.

Three of the chief officers of the Russian embassy here resigned today to avoid having further relations with the Bolshevik leaders now controlling the Petrograd foreign office. They are C. Onou, counselor; John Sookine, first secretary, and F. De Mohrenschildt, second secretary.

There has been no indication so far as to what will be the attitude of the Ambassador himself. He is not in sympathy with the extremists in authority in Petrograd and has had no communication with the foreign office, but the understanding has been that he would remain in office for a time, at least, waiting for the situation to clear.

Clyde Line Wants Rate Increase
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—The Clyde Steamship Company today petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission for authority to increase rates on iron and steel and grain and grain products between New York and Boston and South Atlantic ports. The company also asked a number of minor increases.

First Vessel of Fleet Launched
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—With the sliding of an 8,800-ton steel ship down the ways of a Pacific coast ship yard today, the shipping board recorded the launching of the first of the merchant fleet it is building. Other accessions to the fleet will be launched in a steady program from now on, including three 26,400 tons steel ships and three 10,500 wooden ships during December.

ANOTHER U-BOAT ACCOUNTED FOR BY DESTROYERS

SUMMARY OF FOUR DAY'S OPERATIONS AGAINST CAMBRAI

A Vivid Story of the Desperate Charges and Counter Charges

BRITISH OVERCAME MANY OBESACLES

Barbed Wire Entanglements Cut, Canals Bridged, Heights Stormed and Dugouts Penetrated

(By Associated Press.)
British Army Headquarters in France, Friday, Nov. 23.—The main attack on the opening of the offensive Tuesday was along the western bank of the Canal du Nord, which runs almost due north and south, from a point a little west of Havrincourt. The main Hindenburg line trenches were built along this waterway and the British had to fight their way up the big ditch.

There was intense hard work almost from the start, as the Ulsterites, who undertook this task, got in among the German defenses. It was necessary for the Irishmen to charge the barbed wire entanglements and bomb them to pieces in order to force their way through.

It was a big undertaking, but they drove an entering wedge into the trench system near Havrincourt. Northwest of the town is a high bank on the west of the canal, which was strongly fortified with dugouts and there was a great concentration of machine guns. The British had no alternative but to charge and this they did. The crest was gained in the face of a heavy fire and desperate bayonet fighting followed.

The Ulsterites hurled themselves on the Germans with such fury that the latter were compelled to desert their machine guns and abandon the hill and many of them were shot down as they fled. This fight occurred at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile German machine guns on the eastern side of the canal were doing much trouble and as soon as the high bank was captured British engineers began building bridges over the waterway, in order to give a crossing to the infantry.

They undertook to have these bridges completed by 3 o'clock and the task was accomplished. Previously they had repaired a causeway in the same vicinity and the troops were able to get over the canal to the eastern bank. The Irish infantry was then advanced northward.

During the afternoon the Irish were held up temporarily because of the shortage of ammunition near a sunken road, southwest of Graincourt, where the Germans were established in considerable force. The ammunition came up and the British charged forward again. They overcame the resistance south of the Cambrai-Baupaume highway.

The Germans then were firing with machine guns down across the Cambrai road. Hand-to-hand fighting occurred at positions below the road, but the Germans finally were forced to withdraw. By 6:10 o'clock in the evening, the Irish troops had crossed the Cambrai-Baupaume highway on both sides of the canal and taken a stand south of Moeuvres. This was the situation here at the end of the first day's fighting.

Wednesday morning the British pushed forward, this time having the support of a certain amount of artillery. Moeuvres was strongly held but the Irish stormed the defenses with bombs and forced their way half through the village. Here they came up against a heavy barricade which they took with the bayonet and for a time drove the Germans out of the place.

In the afternoon the Germans approached on the east side of the canal for a counter attack, but this was smashed by machine gun and rifle fire.

Later in the afternoon the German artillery opened up and heavily shelled the trenches held by the British south of Moeuvres.

German Submarine Sent to the Bottom With All On Board

TWO AMERICANS WERE ENGAGED

Depth Bomb Did the Work—Submarine Sank as Destroyer Prepared to Take it in Tow

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—Definite news of the destruction of another German submarine by American destroyers reached the Navy Department today in a cable report from Vice Admiral Sims. The submarine, damaged by a depth bomb, went down with all on board after a destroyer had attached a line and was attempting to take her in tow.

Two destroyers took part in the action. One, sighting a periscope at 400 yards, headed for it, and dropped a deadly depth bomb. Soon afterward the submarine came to the surface with no sign of life aboard. The second destroyer steamed up and attached a line, but the U-boat, apparently shattered by the bomb, went to the bottom.

Secretary Daniels announced the report in this statement: "Dispatch received from Admiral Sims states that a German U-boat has been accounted for by American destroyers operating in European waters. While on patrol duty, a destroyer sighted a periscope 400 yards off, immediately ringing full speed ahead, the commanding officer headed his craft to pass a few yards ahead of the submarine. As the destroyer passed over the U-boat's course, a depth charge was dropped. This evidently caused damage to the U-boat, which shortly afterward broached about 500 yard away.

"The U-boat was immediately opened on the submarine and two of our destroyers circled about their target. "The submarine did not return the fire and was evidently disabled. One of the destroyers got a line to her, intending to tow her, but the boat soon sank."

CHINA'S PREMIER ALLOWED TO QUIT

(By Associated Press.)
Peking, Nov. 24.—The resignation of Premier Tuan Ch'i Jui, offered several days ago, has been accepted and Foreign Minister Wang T'ai Shih has been appointed acting Premier. Liang Ch'iao, minister of finance, has been granted a leave of absence.

The rebels in the province of Hunan are advancing north along the Yang Tse Kiang. Some Generals who previously had refused to support the government, now see the danger of the southern revolt and are requesting the government to take strong military action.

GOVERNMENT WARNS MICHIGAN OPERATORS

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—Michigan coal operators were warned by Fuel Administrator Garfield today that the government will take over and operate their mines if they carry out their threat of refusing to sell coal at the government fixed prices.

COLLEGE SERVICE FLAG IS CROWDED

(By United Press.)
State College, Pa., Nov. 24.—Pennsylvania State College's latest decoration is a huge service flag, carrying more than 500 stars, the handiwork of co-eds and of wives of college instructors.

Each star represents either a faculty member or an under-graduate who has answered the call. Each man's name is embroidered on his star.

Clearing House Condition.
(By Associated Press.)
New York, Nov. 24.—The actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they hold \$113,383,690 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$4,123,380 from last week.

Fair and Freezing.
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Nov. 24.—Fair and cold weather Sunday and Monday with freezing temperatures and frost as far south as Central Florida is indicated in the Weather Bureau's weekly forecast for the South Atlantic and East Gulf States during the week beginning Sunday. There will be slowly rising temperatures after Tuesday with generally fair weather.