

Eye Witness Tells Of Combles' Fall

Methodical Construction Of Roadways Marks The Allied Advance On En- tire Front

By HENRY WOOD
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

With The French Armies Near Combles, Sept. 29—Horses, lashed into a furious gallop by mad riders dashing forward over a sunken road with huge quantities of ammunition aeroplanes hovering above vulture-like, awaiting the fall of Combles; men, sweating, fighting their way forward over shell-pocked roads in terrible shellfire—

These were some of the dramatic scenes that preceded the capture of the strongly fortified village that had blocked the Allied advance north of the Somme.

The eventual capture of Combles became a certainty on Tuesday morning when French cavalry patrols, advancing northward, and English cavalry patrols, thrusting southeastward, met east of Combles. They thus completely encircled the village, cutting off the last communications with the German army in the rear.

On the same morning I approached Combles from the West, starting from Maricourt, the junction point from which the French and English offensive was launched on July 1st, and traversing each successive step in the advance made in the intervening three months toward the attainment of this first great objective. When we arrived within less than a mile and a quarter of Combles, the town itself was then undergoing the final bombardment and assault.

Although Combles was a mere village of 1500 inhabitants, the Germans had so fortified every house especially the cellars, where machine guns were installed, that the Allies were forced to employ siege methods. They completely encircled the town with their heavy artillery, which gradually closed in with every advance of the infantry lines.

MOST TERRIFIC SEIGE

From the viewpoint of the enormous quantity of artillery massed against it, and also from the incalculable number of shells rained into it, Combles can easily boast of having undergone the most terrific siege in the history of the world.

It was only on reaching the most advanced artillery lines before Combles that one could grasp mathematically the methodical progress which had rendered the Allies' new tactics of advancing by heavy artillery absolutely irresistible, though the final artillery lines before Combles consisted of comparatively light batteries. These had been rushed forward during the night, over ground rendered impassable by shell holes to everything but foot soldiers.

But while troops were tugging guns over this ground, a veritable army of soldiers had sunk a tortuous roadway several feet below the surface of the ground, paving it with the bricks from nearby houses, wrecked by artillery fire. Over this, when we arrived early the next morning, ammunition caissons, screened from the enemy's observation by the depth of the roadway, drawn by four, six and eight horses, were dashing along with an incredible number of shells to feed those advanced lines of artillery which

could be reached in no other way.

MORE WORK THAN GLORY

Back of these advanced lines fed by galloping, careening caissons, were thousands more soldiers, methodically transforming what had been on preceding days caisson roads, into highways capable of sustaining high automobile convoys bringing up heavier munitions for heavier artillery that had supplanted the lighter guns now further advanced during the night. Farther behind these automobile-fed artillery lines, was still a third army of workmen, steadily constructing railways which were bringing up artillery so gigantic that not only it, but its shells, can be transported only on specially constructed railways. These huge pieces are supplanting the more transportable automobile-fed pieces already rushed forward.

If Combles fell before a methodical, heavy artillery advance and encirclement, it fell equally before the methodical construction of roadways, from the dirt and brick bedded wagon roads to the full-gauged, rock-ballasted steel railways. This method marks the Allied advance on the entire 30 mile Somme front.

Reaching Maurepas, which is but a mile and a quarter from Combles, we had a vivid impression of the actual state of affairs in Combles, which was then undergoing the same bombardment that preceded the capture of Maurepas. Maurepas, instead of being simply leveled to the ground by allied artillery like other Somme villages during the first weeks of the offensive, had been literally driven into the earth by terrific shell-pounding. The village had almost disappeared from the surface of the earth, leaving only the naked site, pock-marked by shells like the surrounding country. An officer explained that this was the result of the Allies' new artillery methods, whereby shells are driven as deep as possible into the ground before exploding for the purpose of ousting the Germans, who now dig in, from 50 to 70 feet.

GERMANS STRONGLY FORTIFIED

Combles being several miles in advance of the French lines of observation balloons the final observation resulting in the capture of the village was entrusted to aeroplanes. In great numbers they circled above the village at a great height like a flock of high vultures, awaiting only the certainty that life was extinct before swooping down and seizing their prey. Yet, so strongly were the Germans fortified in Combles, and so completely were they equipped with artillery, that it almost the last moment preceding the passage of the village into Allied hands, when an aeroplane swooped down within range, I counted within less than a minute the bursting of several shrapnel shells about one plane. The aviator, evidently convinced that the village was still un- captured, rejoined his comrades at higher altitudes, outside the range.

During our steady progress afoot, guns a hundred yards apart all were firing so fiercely and so close to us, that they drowned out the general roar of artillery, and destroyed any possible impression of the gigantic struggle as a whole. It was only

(Continued on Page Two)

THE DEMOCRATS AND EDUCATION

RECORD SHOWS THAT THE TWO
WORDS ARE NEARLY SYNO-
NIMOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(Special Correspondent)

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 2—There's more interest in politics than anything else developing around the State Capital this week. With the election only five weeks ahead it is natural that this should be so.

If what Governor Bickett and Superintendent of Public Instruction Joyner have done within the last few days to Candidate Linney's absurd noise, about the alleged "extravagant" conduct of the public school system by the Democrats of North Carolina is not dead to light, and has not sought to fairly and honestly enlighten the people.

If Republican spellbinders of smaller calibre who have echoed Candidate Linney's utterances on this matter do not now shut up shop and close the shutters of their political gossip manufactory, then it will be because they have decided to continue to ignore the truth in the continued hope of fooling some of the voters and keeping them fooled till after election day in November.

Here is just one overshadowing fact that is enough to settle any doubt these spellbinders may have raised in the mind of any voter, rational enough to formulate an idea and receive a thoughtful suggestion: Today, after sixteen years of continuous hard work on the proposition the State of North Carolina, under Democratic administration of affairs is educating properly 288,000 school children for 124 days in the year at a cost per child of only 2 1/2 cents more than the Republicans spent to "educate" in an inferior manner less than half that number for only 73 days of each year.

Under the Republican regime the children attended school in the poorest school house known wherever people wear clothes (with apologies to Mr. Bickett), and were "taught" by the poorest paid "teachers" under the sun (eclipses not excepted), and the chance to get much of an "edd'cashion" under those conditions was dim enough to supply everything else needed to complete the deadly parallel of the contrast between then and now. Is there a well informed father or mother in North Carolina who would vote for, or desire the election of the Republican ticket in this State this year, because of any possible advantage that might accrue to their children? I don't believe it. And I don't believe anybody else believes it.

If there is any one thing, of the many splendid accomplishments of the Democrats in North Carolina, during the last sixteen years, that towers over all the others (important and valuable as they are), it is the growth of the public school system, viewed from all angles, and as was emphasized in these Letters last week, it is being done in a more economical manner, so far as spending money goes, than in any other State in the American Union—save and except one.

It is a record of which the Democrats of North Carolina are proud, a record of which all the people should be proud, when they come to know the truth and disabuse their minds of the impressions made by the shyster tricks of the Republican speakers—made at the expense of the truth in the desperate game they are playing to "fool the voters." For they are not going to "stay fooled."

Mr. Russell E. Snowden of Snowden, N. C., was in the city Saturday.

COTTON SOABS TO HIGHER LEVELS

TURMOIL ON THE EXCHANGE
FOLLOWED GOVERNMENT SEP-
TEMBER REPORT'S FIGURES

(By United Press)

Washington, Oct. 2—The Bureau of Crop estimates reports the condition of the cotton crop 56 per cent normal against 61.2 per cent in August and 60.8 per cent in September 1915. This year's loss from the ravages of the boll weevil is unprecedented. This report forecasts a yield of 156.3 pounds to the acre and a total production of 11,637,000 bales as compared with 11,191,000 last year and 16,138,000 two years ago.

Cotton ginned prior to September 25th, 4,063,000 bales as against 2,900,000 in 1915.

Cotton on the New York market jumped 60 to 80 points on the New York exchange Monday following the publication of the government report. December cotton sold as high as 16 1/4 cents. The exchange was in a turmoil as the prices soared to new levels.

NEW ZEPPELIN BROUGHT DOWN

MONSTER LOST BY GERMANS
SUNDAY NIGHT ONE OF LAT-
EST AND BIGGEST TYPE

(By United Press)

London, Oct. 2—The Zeppelin that was brought down north of London during the last night's raid upon the coast of England is one of the new type of super-dirigibles—the largest air monster in the world—according to the official statement issued this morning by Lord French commander of the Home Forces.

Ten Zeppelins crossed the channel and bombarded the east coast of England last night without, however, doing any damage either to life or to property.

This was the fourth raid on the English coast by German airmen within as many weeks.

BURGESS—GILBERT

The marriage of Miss Lina Gilbert and Mr. Edward Burgess, both of Elizabeth City, was solemnized Saturday afternoon in Norfolk, Dr. Melton of Free-mason Baptist church officiating.

Miss Gilbert and Mr. Burgess left the city on the afternoon train for Norfolk and there were met by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Tillet, relatives of the bride, and Dr. Melton. The ceremony was performed at the hotel and witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Tillet.

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess returned to the city today and will make their home here. Mrs. Burgess was formerly with McCabe and Grice and Mr. Burgess with the J. H. Aydtlett Hardware Company. Both bride and groom have a large number of friends here to whom the marriage came as a pleasing surprise, and they are receiving, upon their return to the city today, best wishes and congratulations on every hand.

Miss Lina P. Gilbert of the L. P. Gilbert Millinery Company, is incidentally receiving a shower of best wishes at her place of business today, on account of the similarity of the names of the two members of the Gilbert family. Miss Gilbert expresses her appreciation of the best wishes and accepts them in behalf of the continuation of her attractive millinery store.

NAVAL FORCES PARTICIPATE

ARE TAKING ACTIVE PART IN
BOMBARDMENT OF ST. QUEN-
TIN ON THE SOMME FRONT

By HENRY WOOD

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
With the French Army before Peronne, Oct. 2—Naval forces have joined the allies here in the great land battle along the Somme.

Ironclad monsters are using France's magnificent network of canals along the river and are participating daily in the bombardment of St. Quentin, seventy miles from the sea.

St. Quentin dominates from the east and this strategic position is being steadily encircled by the French in the same manner as Combles.

Little Boy Shot Dies Sunday

Hardy Bartlett, the ten year old son of Mr. Richard Bartlett of Camden county, was shot and fatally wounded Saturday afternoon when a shotgun in the hands of the 14 year old son of Mr. Willoughby Arnold went off, the load passing through the left shoulder of the victim and tearing away the upper half of the left lung. He died Sunday morning.

According to the reports of the accident received here young Arnold had returned from a hunt and was standing in the yard of Mr. Joseph Hastings trying to eject a shell that had rammed in the gun when the accidental discharge occurred. Hardy Bartlett was one of a number of small boys standing around when the gun went off.

All of the families concerned in the accident live in the neighborhood of the shipyard ferry in Camden county.

ATTEND KRAMER FUNERAL

Among those attending the funeral of Mr. John A. Kramer from out of the city were: Mrs. C. W. Edwards of Durham a half-sister; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Russell of Bedford Pa.; F. S. Kipp of Lawton, Mich., and Mr. and Mrs. Simon Kramer of Edenton.

The funeral was conducted by Rev. C. B. Culbreth at the home and the body was laid to rest in Hollywood cemetery.

Mr. Kramer is survived by his wife and three sons; Harry G. Kramer of the Savings Bank and Trust Company; J. Howard and Frank K. Kramer; by three brothers, A. K. Kramer, Joseph P. Kramer, and C. E. Kramer; and by three sisters, Mrs. A. T. Davis, Mrs. J. H. Banks, and Mrs. P. H. Williams, all of this city.

HAVE BOUGHT BUSINESS

J. P. Overman, Sr. and P. C. Cohoon, representing The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, in Elizabeth City, have moved their offices from The Hinton Building.

They will hereafter conduct their business in room No. 218 in The Kramer Building, formerly occupied by G. M. Scott as a Fire Insurance office. adv.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Baptist church will be held Tuesday night at 7:30 in the church parlors. This is the regular meeting for the election of officers and the transaction of other important business. Every member is urged to be present.

PARAGUAN R R S ARE TIED UP

RIOTING AND DISORDER IN-
CIDENT TO STRIKE FORCE SUS-
PENSION OPERATIONS

(By United Press)

Asuncion, Paraguay, Oct. 2—Paraguan railways have completely suspended operations because of the serious disorders arising from the strike here. The strikers attacked trains and burned bridges.

TURKS MASSACRE ASIATIC GREEKS

REPORTS THAT GREECE IS A-
BOUT TO ENTER WAR ON SIDE
OF ALLIES RESPONSIBLE

(By United Press)

Rome, Oct. 2—Reports that Greece was about to declare war has led to the wholesale massacre of Greeks in Asia Minor by the Turks the Greek Legation was advised today.

School Fight Draws Crowd

A case of unusual interest, especially in Newland township in this county, is being heard at the courthouse here today by Referee P. W. McMullan of Hertford. The crowd attending the hearing is larger than that which ordinarily is present at the sessions of superior court.

On October 12th, 1915, a special tax election was held in Newland township and according to the official returns with 132 registered voters in the proposed tax district 69 voted for the tax and 44 against it.

The seeming minority hold that the votes were not properly counted and asked for a restraining order to prevent the levy and the collection of the special tax. The order was granted by Judge Bond, and the case was to be heard by Judge Whedbee, who, when it came before him suggested that a referee be appointed to pass upon questions of fact. Mr. McMullan was named referee by mutual consent of counsel on both sides of the controversy and the hearing is still in progress as this paper goes to press.

CARD OF THANKS

We desire to express to our friends our appreciation for the many acts of kindness and words of sympathy shown us during our recent bereavement.

MRS. JOHN A. KRAMER,
HARRY G. KRAMER,
J. HOWARD KRAMER,
FRANK K. KRAMER

CITY BOXER WINS

The final bout between Joe Dally, of the Pacific Coast, and W. H. Bateman, Elizabeth City's Fighting Machine, was pulled off at the Carnival here Saturday night.

Bateman had knocked out his rival in two bouts out of three during the week and in the final encounter sent him through the ropes once and over the ropes once. When put back into the ring and the gong sounded, Dally was unable to go.

Bateman announces that he will not do any more ring fighting, and that he still holds the welter and middle-weight title.