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THE CANADIANS' GREAT BATTLE

100,000 of Germany's Picked Men Facing Them at Cambrai.

"MUST NOT FALL," German Chiefs' Orders—Fight to a Finish in Progress.

(By Percival Phillips).
With the British Armies in France, Cambrai must not fall. That order was flashed from the headquarters of the German 17th army yesterday evening as fresh divisions were massed around the beleaguered town. It passed in at night through the brigades and battalion headquarters and down to the youngest recruits, who were lying on the ground and rain before the Canadian front. It was the challenge of von Below who determined to fight to a finish. The Canadians took up the challenge at five this morning and drove against his force with its full weight behind the moving screen of metal that wards the Scheidt Canal north of the town. It is indeed a fight to a finish. Eight German divisions, including the rested and newly-trained reserves, are wedged in the depth along the narrow 5½-mile front between Cambrai and Aubencourt. They have a solid wall of machine guns forward and a heavy artillery concentration behind. Despite their heavy losses and exhaustion after the constant counter-attacks they still show a spirit of determination even to ferocity, and are battling to-day like desperate gamblers who have staked everything on the final throw. Their backs are against the wall of Cambrai. The Canadians realize fully that they have a hard task. They have had severe losses which they don't try to conceal, while knowing the enemy's have been greater.

REVERSES STIFFEN THEM.

They have had reverses which merely stiffened them. I don't think any of the British troops have undergone harder ordeal than that of the Canadians yesterday. When they failed to get on and their attacks were not a success, without trying to press it further with disastrous results. Gen. Currie withdrew his men unhesitatingly. He made swift and thorough plans for a heavier barrage and attacked again at dawn to-day along the whole front. During yesterday and in the night the German 18th corps retreated needlessly. When the Canadian barrage fell this morning against the east face of Cambrai it found its targets regrouped and a more coherent battle was in order.

The 1st Guard reserve, 18th reserve, 220th, 207th and 26th reserve and the 234th division lay round the town from the Frenoy of Cambrai to the west, thence in a quarter-circle to Morenchies, a northern suburb on the canal, and along the canal through Families and eastwards, bending back westward to Ouvillers, Santigny and Abancourt, and commanding the spur to Aubencourt. The Canadian reserves, the 12th reserve division which entered the battle later in the day. The entire machine-gun detachments of two other divisions, the 76th cavalry and 187th, were distributed along the front. More heavy guns had been brought up and neither side made any attempt toward concealing its intentions.

CANADIANS WENT THROUGH.

Von Below was perfectly certain that the Canadians would attack at daybreak in force and ordered his gunners to be ready with their reply barrage. It dropped just five minutes after ours had been delivered. The German infantry instantly loosed its machine-guns. Their fire was dense and deadly, but the Canadians got through it without delay on the right, where they were almost in the shadows of the outer houses of Cambrai. They reported at 9 to have reached the Morenchies-Pontaire linehead, and immediately adjoining it. On the north of Ramilies they were fighting as far as Cuvillers and along the spur from Bantigny and in the outskirts of Abancourt. On the left the Canadian infantry battalions of the English division pressed toward the high ground by Frenoy. It would be seen that this movement is generally in a north-easterly direction towards the Scheidt, which is practically a straight line from Iwuy to Cambrai, and has many canal crossings. The Canadians fell back slightly from Abancourt under an extremely heavy bombardment from the spur of Pallencourt. The Germans had been able to concentrate a great number of batteries north of Frenoy and thus entailed them. The infantry continued to sit tight behind their machine-guns.

PICK OF ENEMY RESERVES.

When their positions were rushed they surrounded immediately, as they saw that opposition was hopeless. I met one column of men, the first captured, marching back towards the Hindenburg trenches. They were a fine, upstanding lot of soldiers, as good as any we have taken in battle, fresh from their rest behind Valenciennes. Apparently no was discouraged by the situation, a half dozen young company officers who led the procession looked about them with insolent curiosity. Their attitude was significant. It indicates that the high command has shown its old-time liberality in supplying the pick of the depleted reserves for the final defence of Cambrai. The Canadians fought in the villages and over the sports great pillar of smoke rose from the town and drifting across the sky. Cambrai was being overtaken we had expected and overtaken

GREAT RETREAT IN NORTH GROWS AS IT PROGRESSES

German Flight From Flanders Swings On, With Allies in Hot Pursuit—Plumer Only Seven Miles From Ostend.

London Cable—Field Marshal Haig reports: "In the area of the enemy's withdrawal north of the Scarpe our troops have pushed forward steadily throughout the day. They are maintaining constant pressure on the German rearwards. Lens has been cleared of the enemy and our advanced detachments have reached the general line of Avion, Vendin, Hastay, Wieres and Hailles, and are east of the Bois Gregnier. This morning our troops occupied Armentieres."

London, Oct. 3.—The Germans have fallen back three miles in their retreat along the Lens-Armentieres line. Both Lens and Armentieres were evacuated last night. The Germans, who were gradually being left in a salient, began a retreat on practically all the Armentieres sector and appear to be in full flight. The British troops have entered and are now passing through Lens. Armentieres, south of Armentieres, has been taken, and the British are east of there. Indications are not wanting that the Germans have been forced to begin one of the war's greatest retreats. Gen. Plumer's army is reported to be only two miles from Turcoing, 7-12 miles northeast of Lille.

The troops co-operating with the Belgians have taken villages near Roulers after hard street fighting. They have forced the Germans well back and are still going. The Germans must get out of the Belgian coast as far as Ostend. If the advance here continues as it does every sign of doing. ENTERED ROULERS.

A Belgian armored car has succeeded in entering Roulers and has returned safely to its own lines, according to the Belgian official communication to-night. As the Germans retreat in the Armentieres sector they are applying the torch wherever they have the time, and their retreat is marked by great explosions as ammunition stores are destroyed. It is known that the Germans are becoming so short of ammunition that many of the higher officers are alarmed, but in the retreat the destruction of dumps has been absolutely necessitated.

REUTERS CORRESPONDENT WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, TELEGRAPHS:

"The British troops have almost lost the capacity of being surprised in these stirring times else the report of King George's men going through the trenches whenever they are stirred great emotions. The Canadians probably will be disappointed that they were not the first to enter Lens, in the reduction of which they did such wonderful work. But doubtless they will find satisfaction in the fact that the Germans are being hounded out of the heart of the great French coal and canal region."

STILL GOING STRONG.

With the British Army in France, Cable in Flanders further substantial advances have been made and there has been extraordinarily heavy fighting, in which the British forced their way forward by sheer might. Local attacks in the neighborhood of Roulers by the Belgians resulted in the gain of some ground. The British crossed the Lys and at last reports were still going strong. The British captured Cheluve late yesterday after the Germans had held out there for several days. Soon afterward the enemy launched a vicious counter-attack against the

EDITORS HEAR AT FAREWELL TO PREMIER HUGHES.

London Cable—(Reuter despatch).—Premier Hughes, of Australia, speaking at a farewell dinner to-night, given at the Australia House to Australian editors, on their return home, after a tour of the British Isles and a visit to the western front, said that the tide of battle had turned in favor of the Allies and was now at the flood. The editors had been permitted to catch a glimpse of the tremendous organization which had saved civilization from disaster, including that sure bulwark and sharp sword of the Empire, the navy. Premier Hughes eloquently pictured Britain stripped to the waist and organized for war, and decried the picture with the devastation they had seen in France, illustrating how Germany made war. He said the editors would return more resolute than ever in the demand that the peace terms should compensate the wronged and penalize the criminals. Dealing with the league of nations, Premier Hughes declared it would be impossible to admit Germany until full reparation had been made by her for the wrongs committed. Admiral Wemyss said that at the conclusion of the war the world would be lifted from the story of the navy, revealing such mixture of tragedy, drama, comedy and heroism as would thrill the world. He hoped another Cant. Marvatt would arise who would be capable of doing justice to the wonderful story.

NOT ONE LEFT TO BRAG OFH IS DEED

British Front in France, Oct. 2.—The brilliant success of the Belgians and the troops of General Plumer's second army, fighting together under the command of King Albert, is even more extraordinary by reason of the dreadful weather and the condition of the ground. In many places the men had to wade not only waist high, but even up to the arm pits. At one place a large body of Germans, said to have numbered about 500, surrendered and were left under a small guard. Seeing their opportunity later they did what the Germans have done so often in this war—picked up the weapons and began shooting the Belgian troops in the back. Not one of them was left alive to brag about it in the prisoners' cages afterward. You never can tell. Nine times out of ten the peacemaker is really only a busybody sporting a bit of camouflage.

GERMAN PEOPLE FEAR OUTCOME

Press Talks Plainly of Menace of Allies.

Paris Cable—(Havas Agency).—The German censor at Berlin permits the German press to print articles dwelling on the probable situation of Germany in the case that Austria should be forced to lay down her arms under pressure, according to advices reaching Paris. It is declared that Austria-Hungary should give in, Bavaria might follow her example.

Paris Cable—The German situation on the western front is grave, the Frankfort Zeitung admits, adding that the German front is gradually crumbling. "The Allied plan of attack," it adds, "is being carried out in an extraordinary manner. It is an awful strain on the front. The situation on the Meuse, where the American attacks are just beginning, is extremely critical; part of the Chemin des Dames has had to be given up, and the whole German front is gradually crumbling away under the Allied attacks. The evacuation of Belgium is being discussed openly in Berlin, according to advices reaching here. Concerning Alsace-Lorraine, the German high command makes the suggestion that it be neutralized, and joined to Luxembourg, thus making a buffer state between France and Germany."

REMOVING ALSATIANS.

Geneva Cable—German military authorities have begun to remove the inhabitants of Alsace, according to the Democrite, in expectation of a Franco-American attack on the frontier. The German authorities in Alsace-Lorraine, the Democrite adds, are afraid of a general uprising in those provinces, when the Allies cross the frontier.

AUSTRIA SEES GRAVE DANGER

Premier Promises Suitable Military Measures.

Prague Cable—The Bulgarian armistice undoubtedly has created a grave situation for Austria-Hungary, the Austrian Premier yesterday told the Lower House, but suitable military measures will be taken immediately in accord with Germany. Baron von Hussarek said he was sure the hour was coming when the proposition of Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, would be acted on. One of the most important problems was Poland.

INDIAN STRANGLED HIMSELF.

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CANADIANS HAD FERCE WORK TO DO

As Proved by a Great Roll of Picked Hun Opponents.

FOR HONELAND

Captured Order Shows Why Foe Fought So Desperately

With the Canadian Forces in France, Cable—(By J. F. B. Livesay, Canadian Press correspondent).—(Delayed)—Later reports did not verify all the rumors of gains our troops were reported to have made at the jump-off early this morning under the screen of a heavy barrage. We anticipated the enemy in his counter-attack and had laid down his own barrage almost on the instant that we went forward. Our momentum carried us through his organizations, which were thrown into temporary confusion, from which we reaped at the outset over 1,000 prisoners. These were from the 18th division and were in front of the 12th division. The population of the Canadian corps every element of his command for the purpose of stemming our advance.

His paramount object was to keep his hold on Cambrai, the pivot of his entire defence on this front. The Canadian boundaries coincide with those of the 18th division German army corps group commanded by von Albrecht. Since the commencement of operations on Friday last, this corps has employed 15 divisions. This includes the 68th division and the 18th reserve division, one regiment of each on our northern and southern flanks respectively, and this morning's battle shows that this corps had nine divisions directly massed to check our attack, namely, remnants of the 12th division, reinforced by the 35th division, the 26th division from Saneourt to the southern outskirts of Tilloy, and thence south to Cambrai, elements of the 1st Guards reserve division and the 20th division reinforced by the 220th division and with one brigade of the 18th reserve division. In addition to these, extra marksmen and machine gun detachments, together with the machine guns and divisional artillery were probably being employed, although remnants of the infantry of these divisions have been withdrawn. Local attacks by battalions and regiments of the above-mentioned divisions have taken place, and our artillery and machine guns and bombing squadrons have been most active on innumerable targets, supplied by enemy personnel.

TRYING TO HOLD BEYOND VERDUN

Kriemhilde Line is Strongly Defended.

Foe Using Sneez Gas On Americans.

Paris Cable—The developments in the situation on American front northwest of Verdun tends to confirm the opinion that it is the enemy's apparent intention to hold on to the Kriemhilde-Steeling system of trenches running from Brielleux to the Bois-de-Couch, thence south to Genes, then south along the ridge in the vicinity of Ezermont, crossing the Aire River one kilometre north of Apremont. The American line broadly conforms to this, developing a situation similar to that after St. Mihiel with a broad outpost zone.

There is continuous artillery activity along this sector and the American air forces are working without cessation. A despatch from the Associated Press correspondent with the American forces on the Verdun front, says: German artillery in the early hours of to-day freely sprinkled the areas behind the American lines with shells containing sneezing gas and phosgene. Between the Meuse and the Moselle the German directed quite a concentrated artillery fire on the American positions. The nervousness of the enemy along the line indicates that he expects an attack. American detachments entering Genes, north-west of Monfaucon, found it free of the enemy.

TRIED TO KILL WIFE.

Windsor despatch—Charged with having attempted to kill his wife by poisoning her over the head with a mallet, Alfred McComb, of Ford, appeared before Police Magistrate Mors to-day and was remanded for trial. McComb, after his wife fell unconscious, tried to commit suicide by slashing his wrist with a razor but he did not do deep enough.



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