

TEN BIG ARMIES ATTACK GERMANS Belgian, French, British and Americans Unite in Colossal Battle

FOE FEARS DISASTER Exerts Every Effort to Protect Retreat to Lille-Mezieres Positions

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Paris, Oct. 3. While Paris as a whole is more than satisfied with the situation, there are no illusions here as to the immediate outlook.

But more careful observers, who form the larger proportion of the public here, direct attention to one outstanding fact. That fact is that, however much the Kaiser and military staff may endeavor to camouflage the situation by pretending to favor the demoralization of German political institutions, the real enemy is Prussian militarism, which will fight to the last gasp.

Political abdication the Junkers may consent to as long as the military machine is left untouched, but military abdication never.

No amount of demoralization of the German Government, or even a wide extension of the franchise, can have the least effect in the interest of the peace of the world, as French opinion sees it, until the German military armor has been rendered useless for evil.

In spite of the capitulation of Bulgaria and the possible defection of Turkey and Austria, Germany herself is still undefeated. A decisive crushing defeat of Germany in the field and occupation of German territory on the Rhine remains as ever, as Paris sees it, the only possible means of ending the war.

Ten Armies Attack The strategic situation offers the highest hopes. With the advent of Berthelot's army west of Rheims in support of Mangin on its left, and Gouraud on the right, ten Allied armies are now attacking, from the Belgians on the north, followed by four British armies under Plumer, Horne, Byng, and Rawlinson, respectively, and three French armies under Debeney, Berthelot, and Gouraud, to the Americans under Liggett, west of Verdun. All these armies are fighting one continuous battlefront, extending almost exactly 100 miles, the longest line of simultaneous unbroken attack the world has ever known.

It is now clear that the objective of the Allies this time is not the conquest of any one position or a local series of positions, but a veritable effort to destroy the enemy as a whole. It is still formidable, but which every day feels its strength diminishing, while that of its adversary is continually increasing.

Ludendorff has now thrown in virtually the whole of the reserves which he had accumulated and carefully saved up for exactly such a situation as now faces him. Before this he has been fighting on a narrow front, and his strength is now taxed to its extreme limit to resist the ceaseless pressure of the Allies. The enemy is now enduring the greatest effort that has ever been made against him, and has to call on every ounce of the strength remaining in him to withstand the awful blows rained upon him.

For the moment, to sum up the situation in a phrase, the enemy has succeeded in holding back the Allied attack. In the Champagne he has been able to counter-attack with large masses of troops, both Gouraud's army and the Americans. In Picardy he has not hesitated to throw other important masses in between Cambrai and St. Quentin to delay the British-French advance into the center of the Siegfried line. In Belgium he has succeeded more or less in blocking the breach made by the Belgians and British, but only by bringing on the strenuous attempts to envelop the quasi-impregnable Lille position by the north and south.

Expert opinion here regards Germany's present tremendous effort as being mainly directed toward avoiding complete disaster along the whole present line, and especially with a view of permitting the German staff to accomplish a vast strategic retreat back to the Lille-Mezieres line. This wholesale retreat is obviously becoming daily more certain and is already being foreseen and planned by German military critics at home.

The problem now facing the enemy is how to accomplish this great movement without losing too many prisoners and too much material. It is regarded here as obvious that the Germans realize they are powerless to continue their hold on the present line in view of the enormous density of the troops we can now utilize to keep up the pressure and of the mastery with which Foch is handling the battle.

BRITISH CLOSE ON HEELS OF FOE GERMAN ARMY "HOMEWARD BOUND"

Continued from Page One that the Germans have ordered that Lille be abandoned. Unconfirmed reports come from Holland that the Germans are preparing to evacuate the Flanders coast and the towns behind it.

A dispatch from Paris says the Maréchal announces that the Germans are evacuating Lille and that the commander there has requisitioned all means of transportation, even wheelbarrows and baskets, to take away the booty. The newspaper adds that the evacuation of the townspeople to Belgian towns near the German border is being pursued hastily.

A dispatch from the Dutch border asserts that the German Governor General had given secret instructions to the governors of the provinces to hasten all German archives to Brussels. Allied aviators have flown over Brussels dropping thousands of pamphlets telling the public to have a little more patience, that their hour of liberation is near.

The breach made in the Hindenburg system between Le Cateau and St. Quentin by the British, Australian and American troops, is also commended upon as an incident of great importance. Although it has not yet compelled the enemy to withdraw and while he has temporarily regained his position, it is believed that there have been retreats in the neighborhoods of St. Quentin, Rheims and in Champagne.

Whole Line Shakes Taken in connection with the retreat further west, it is believed that the whole German line is shaking. Nevertheless, the enemy is putting up a tremendous resistance and exacting a heavy toll in lives and material. The battle is fluctuating without great changes in the position of the contending armies from Cambrai southward to the neighborhood of the Marne, where the desperate efforts of the Germans indicate their determination to hold in this sector or to merely attempt to gain time while evacuating their present line.

The view is taken by the Mail that the breach in the line north of St. Quentin is the key to the whole German position. It says that the break in the line was a tremendous feat which has collapsed everything the British have done in the north. The British patches from the British front give vivid descriptions of the terrific attacks in the neighborhood of Cambrai on Tuesday and of the stubborn German resistance in this sector. No more furious fighting has occurred during the whole war.

Innumerable Machine Guns Referring particularly to the struggle in support of the whole German position, the Mail's correspondent tells how in one sunken road captured by the Canadians and British, the enemy's machine gun every four yards, but most of them had been knocked out by artillery fire. Along the road an attempt to gain time with the wreckage of machine guns. The fighting never ceased and as the day advanced German re-enforcements streamed forward in successive groups.

The light was very good and the British snipers fired round after round with deadly accuracy. The gaps in the ranks were filled and the enemy still came on in great numbers. They were being fiercely attacked and even denied the British advanced lines and stopped for the time being further progress.

By evening a deadlock was reached and one of the bloodiest combats in recent history developed. It ended in a considerable but not ambitious advance by the British. The enemy suffered terribly. British forces did not escape unscathed, nor has any day of the war which has been filled with hard, continuous fighting, been without its price.

By the United Press Paris, Oct. 3.—General Debeney, attacking on the 125-mile front between St. Quentin and La Fère, is nearing Berthelot's front on the Oise five miles southeast of St. Quentin and is rapidly outflanking La Fère. The latter town is the northern outpost of the great St. Gobain massif.

Between the Vesle, the Aisne and the Aisne-Marne Canal, General Berthelot has cleaned out all Germans except in a small area south of Berry-au-Bac on the north bank of the Aisne, where the northern elements of Rheims, where French advanced elements are progressing.

GERMANS IN DANGER ON BELGIAN COAST

By the Associated Press Paris, Oct. 3.—While the enemy is showing reserves in the center of the vast battle-line in a desperate effort to stave off the evil hour of defeat, the Allies continue to progress on the wings. Slowly but surely the splendid advance of the Allied forces under King the Maréchal, has forced General Ludendorff to withdraw his troops. On this portion of the front the position of the whole German system in France, and that the German first line in Belgium has been broken, the line of communication between Cambrai and Thourout is in peril and the Roulers-Menin railroad is cut; it can be seen



Retreating German forces are reported on the sectors of the western battlefront indicated by arrows. The star shows the Alsatian territory from which the civilian population is reported to have been ordered to move in the face of anticipated American attack. The dotted line shows the latest front. The British today resumed attack north of St. Quentin. Further north the Germans are continuing their forced retreat between Lens and Arrantieres, a front of about twenty miles. The pursuing British have reached the general line of Douvrin, east of La Bassée, east of Aubers and west of Bois Grenier, beyond which they are pushing rapidly. The figures 1, 2 and 3 indicate centres of American activity

at the position of the enemy there is grave. The second line of railroad from Bruyères to Courtrai is under shell fire. While this German army, the Fourth, is thrust back on its communications, the forces on its right are in a risky position near the sea at Neuport. Those elements on the left of the Fourth Army are thrown back at some points south of the Lys River and will have difficulty in defending Lille.

Latest news from the center of the line shows that the enemy resistance there is giving evidence of falling. Le Cateau has been taken in this sector. On the right General Berthelot is still driving the Germans away from Rheims region and General Gouraud is making good headway in the Champagne. Everywhere the signs of battle indicate the approach of the critical phase. In addition to the general satisfaction over the situation in France, Paris is rejoicing over the news of the fall of Damascus.

Official War Reports BRITISH London, Oct. 3. The progress made by the Allied offensives in Flanders and before Cambrai, in the Quantin, combined with the heavy losses incurred by his troops in their endeavors to resist the successful attacks, has compelled the enemy to undertake an extensive withdrawal of his line.

From Lens to Arrantieres the enemy is evacuating the highly organized positions held by him since the commencement of trench warfare and which he had hitherto defended with the utmost resolution. This movement, which was not expected, is being followed up closely by our troops, who are maintaining constant touch with the German rear guards, inflicting many casualties and taking prisoners.

On the front of the retirement the enemy has already reached the general line of Cite St. Augustine, Douvrin, East of La Bassée, east of Aubers and west of Bois Grenier. The advance is continuing. Yesterday evening the enemy attacked our positions north of Cambrai. He was repulsed, leaving prisoners in our hands. This morning we renewed our attacks north of St. Quentin.

BELGIAN Paris, Oct. 2 (Delayed). In spite of fierce resistance by the enemy, the Belgian army during the last day has improved its position by local thrusts on different points of the front.

General Plumer's army, after sharp combats, realized an important advance in the direction of Menin by capturing Ghelwe. North and in the immediate proximity of Armetiefes, this army has taken Le Blact and

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AMERICAN PRIVATE CAPTURES 52 BOCHES

Texan Marches Prisoners Back to Own Line and Gets Receipt

By the Associated Press With the American Army on the St. Quentin Front, Oct. 3.

Private John Rawlinson, of Kingsville, Tex., but attached to a New York division, became entangled in the barbed wire during the forward rush of his own regiment. He then went on with another unit. Seeing a German disappear into a dugout, he stood at the door and called on all the occupants to come out. Fifty-two Germans, including three officers, fled out. Rawlinson proudly marched them back and now has a receipt for them.

Private Joseph Grovani, of Brooklyn, and Corporal Harry Close, son of an athletic coach at Princeton University, were in the first platoon over the top. They lost their way in the fog, but finally saw some Germans disappear into a dugout. The two approached the dugout and demanded that the occupants surrender.

Eight Germans came out, and the two Americans were taking them back to a German barrage began. One of the Germans suggested to his comrades that they try to get away. They did not know that Grovani understood German and were surprised when he suddenly told them to behave themselves or take the consequences.

One of the prisoners then offered to show the way back to the American line, the location of which Grovani and Close were not certain they knew. The Americans, however, refused to take the chances and wandered around with their eight prisoners for several hours until they had reached the American lines.

JONESCU OPTIMISTIC Sees His Exile Shortened From Two Years to Three Months

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Paris, Oct. 3.—Take Jonescu, in an interview, says that when he arrived in France three months ago he was prepared for a period of two years' exile, but now he doesn't believe it will last more than six months.

"Bulgaria's capitulation," he said, "will enormously shorten the length of the war and 'Esperanto's' victory will bring about the evacuation of Russia by the Austro-Germans. I see the collapse of the home government in the Balkans approaching, which will bring the Russian problem up for solution. We are today on the eve of decisive events which will result in the liberty of the world."

BRITISH DEMAND BERLIN REPLY Germany's Failure to Ratify Prisoners' Agreement Prompts Action

By the Associated Press London, Oct. 3.—Following in Germany's continued failure to ratify the exchange of prisoners agreement with Great Britain, the British Government has dispatched to Berlin a peremptory demand for an immediate answer.

Berlin's action in raising questions concerning prisoners in China and the release of U-boat crews, which Great Britain declines to do, helped prompt the decisive measure.

KING ALFONSO NO BETTER Influenza Continues to Imperil Spanish Monarch

By the Associated Press Madrid, Oct. 3.—The health of King Alfonso, who is ill with influenza, continues poor today. Members of the royal family will leave San Sebastian today for Madrid, but the King will remain behind for a few days.

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PREDICTS GERMAN COLLAPSE Danish Paper Says America Has Turned the Tide

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Copenhagen, Oct. 3.—The significance of the Danish press war comments upon the present critical situation is shown in the headline of the Politiken: "Collapse of Germany and Bulgaria."

Not less significant is the following article in the leading Danish financial weekly, Pinnatidende: "What America has achieved since the beginning of the German offensive on the western front is a world record which no European country can match."

"Problems which, we in Europe in a faring way try to conjure away, the destruction threatening the war-devastated countries, America seems to solve with playful ease. The community is organized for war according to one will, capital is rationed, factories placed under State control, prices regulated, and tax systems worked out as if they were matters of course."

"What America makes her debut into the European world States gives a presentation of the world's financial power by the warring western Powers is added the debt of a gratitude toward America, and if America really succeeds in ending the war, she will be the nation that unties the Gordian knot."

GERMANY DEPRIVED OF ALL INITIATIVE

Italian Expert Says Allied Political Success Caps Military Gains

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Rome, Oct. 3. "The military situation couldn't develop better for the Entente," says General Tribuna, the military critic of the Italian press. "To the full and absolute strategic success is being added the political success, which is, and must always be, a corollary to true military success."

General Tribuna points out the completeness of the successes on all fronts, which are teaching even the blindest and most incredulous what it really means to have contact with, and put oneself at the mercy of a coarse, overbearing, brutal Power like Germany, whether it be the Austro-Germans, the Bulgarians, the Rumanians, or the political collapse to an ally such as Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian defeat, united with that of the Turks in Palestine, has vital political importance for the east. At least the Allies have learned Germany's three years' trick of hitting hard at the weak spots, gaining even more impressive results. The ability, tenacity and agility of conception and execution of Foch has robbed the enemy of any initiative, obliging him to use the reserves which he badly needs for other efforts in distant sectors, and once for all preventing Germany from making herself the reservoir of re-enforcements for her allies.

The fact is proved by what is occurring in Macedonia, Palestine and Russia, and by the presence of Austrian troops on the French front, which convinces us that at present moment has arrived to act against Germany's nearest ally, Austria-Hungary.

L'ARRIVO DEGLI ALPINI E DEI BERSAGLIERI

Una Rappresentanza dei Gloriosi Corpi e Giunta in New York

Published and Distributed Under PERMIT No. 341 October 3, 1917 at the Postoffice of Philadelphia, Pa. By order of the President, R. H. HILTON, Postmaster General.

New York, 3 ottobre. Una rappresentanza dei prodi soldati d'Italia e' ieri giunta in New York. Essa e' composta di un distaccamento di novanta Alpinisti e di un altro di novanta bersaglieri, accompagnati dalla musica di uno dei reggimenti di Reali Granatieri di Sardegna, composta di cinquanta musicanti, e prenderanno parte alle cerimonie che avranno luogo in parecchie citta' degli Stati Uniti allo scopo di intensificare la campagna per il quarto Liberty Loan.

Questa rappresentanza, composta di tutti uomini che hanno gia' preso tanta parte gloriosa nei combattimenti alla fronte di battaglia, indossando il pittoresco elmetto da trincea, adorno di piume, e' per le vie di New York tra le entusiastiche acclamazioni della folla. Gli Alpinisti sono al comando del Capitano Giuseppe Lampanini, ed i Bersaglieri a quello del Capitano Gastone Sani. Il Generale Emilio Guglielminotti, addetto militare presso la Regia Ambasciata Italiana di Washington, ed il Capitano Henry A. Uteriari, in rappresentanza degli Stati Uniti, si trovarono presenti al momento dell'arrivo dei soldati italiani per dar loro il benvenuto.

La Colonia Italiana di New York si prepara ad onorare degnamente i valorosi facenti parte della rappresentanza del glorioso Esercito della Madre Patria. Roma, 3 ottobre. Dalle notizie giunte dalla fronte di battaglia, confermate da un comunicato del Ministero della Guerra, ieri pubblicato, si rileva che i combattimenti di artiglieria hanno continuata nella regione delle montagne e che riparti

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No American in Swedish Disaster By the Associated Press Stockholm, Oct. 3.—The number of victims in the great railway disaster north of Malmo has not been ascertained, but the fatalities are believed to be ninety. As far as can be learned, no Americans are among the casualties.

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