

Official War Reports

IN BIG GUN DUEL

German Open Terrific Bombardment Above Verdun U. S. "16-INCHEERS" USED Monster Weapons Fire 25 Miles—Clery-le-Grand Deserted by Enemy

By the Associated Press With the American Army Southwest of Verdun, Oct. 23.

Activities along the center of the American front began long before daylight this morning with a furious bombardment. The enemy opened a heavy fire with gas shells at 2:30 a.m., which was changed to high explosives between 4 and 5. The American artillery responded.

American patrols were active in Banville wood all night. West of Clery-le-Grand observers reported that enemy machine-gun emplacements were in process of construction at various points and that infantry divisions in the area upon the Le Douy farm, east of the Bois de Haisin.

Aerial photographs taken within the last few days indicate that the Germans are not devoting much labor to organizing their front line or forward positions, leading to the belief that they possibly will fall upon us yet unprepared positions in the rear, if they are compelled to do so.

By the United Press With the American Army in France, Oct. 22.—The guns which are firing on the Montmedy-Louguon railway are shooting twenty-five miles. (This shows the guns are displaced from five to ten miles behind the American lines, and the battle front is about fifteen to twenty miles from this line.)

The big guns made a direct hit with the French, who first served them in the St. Quentin and Lion regions. The latter point was completely smashed by them, as were all the enemy railways leading from that town.

Guns of almost similar caliber next appeared at the St. Mihiel salient, where they fired on the Metz region. The guns are transported by railway. The equipment of the Americans ever getting to the front. All the accompanying heavy equipment is entirely American.

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Should the enemy be forced back to Montmedy and Louguon the entire line to the southwest of the region would necessarily be compelled to retrace bringing historic Sedan (scene of the decisive battle of the Franco-Prussian war, ten miles southeast of Metz) again into the battle area.

By EDWIN L. JAMES Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. With the American Army Southwest of Verdun, Oct. 23.

American guns of large caliber have begun firing on the Louguon-Sedan-Montmedy railway, an important German line of communication, with the object of interrupting traffic and ultimately breaking the line.

Thus the forward position of the American First Army, begun September 28, begins to achieve its objective. Our advance of some eighteen kilometers now makes possible the shelling of the German communication line, a defense which the German command has made such enormous sacrifices in past weeks.

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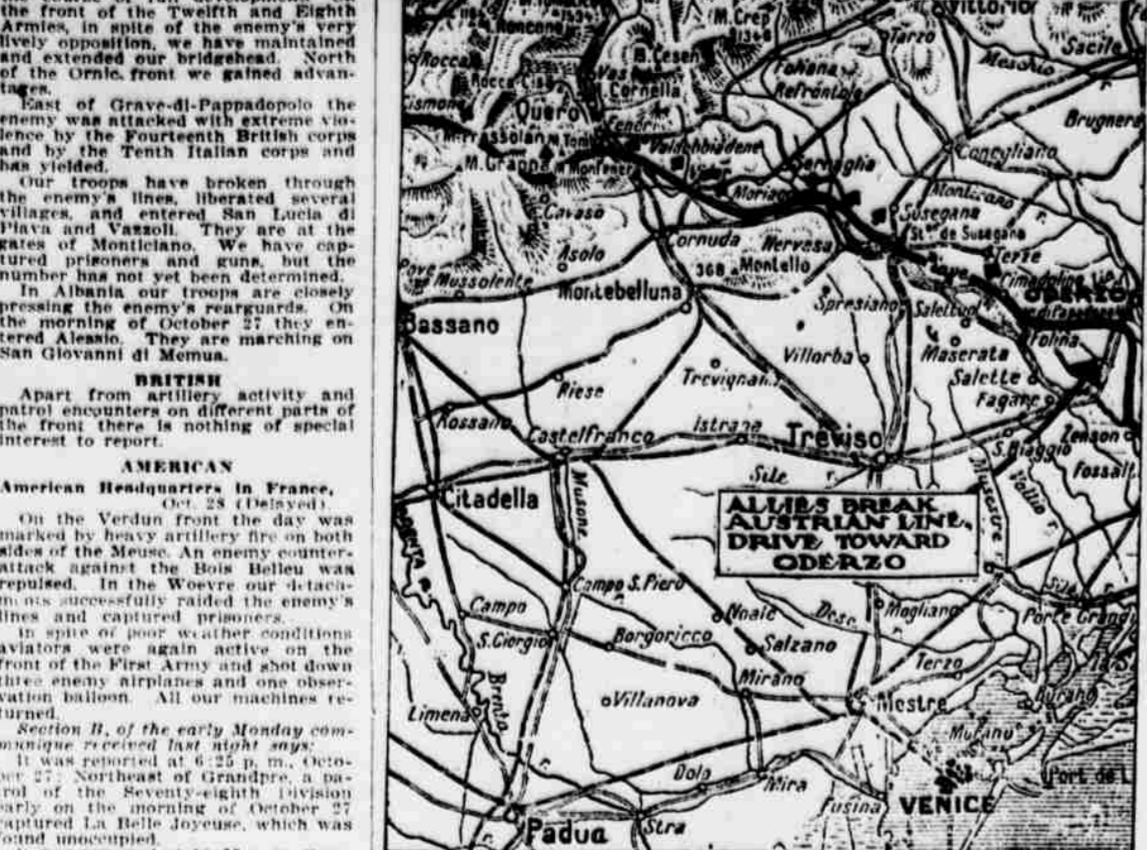
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ALLIES BREAK PIAVE DRIVE TOWARD ODERZO



LILLE HAILS BRITISH FIFTH ARMY AS SAVIOR OF CITY

By PHILIP GIBBS Continued from Page One A warm, moist wind from gold fluted down patches of bright gold from yellow trees. There seemed to be a song in the air—a song of peace after these years of war rising from the hearts of the people who were glad after their long suffering.

British Generals in Stands Stands had been built and draped with the British colors in the Grand Place. They were crowded with British generals and staffs from the Fifth Army, and with thousands of citizens of Lille.

Some of us knew more about that than the people of Lille, though they guessed and had seen these men on the battlefields and in places which belong to them in remembrance of history.

Some Irish pipers passed playing their pipes to the tune of "Cock o' the North" and again the people of Lille were stirred by the spirit of the music which this time spoke of the war and the march of fighting men over hillsides where shells are screaming.

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"Now we must be getting on after old Heinie, as they call the German, 'the Kaiser,' and to finish this war, don't you see, Madame?"

So those hard, tough men, went on again after the enemy and drove him to the outskirts of Valenciennes, where he is now more closely pressed.

But today these very men came back for a while to take part in a thanksgiving ceremony by the people of Denain, and they were heroes. It was a touching episode in this war, and I saw that some of the soldiers had wet eyes now and then.

Denain is not a pretty town. It is in the coal mining region of France and like most coal mining villages in the world with rows of red brick cottages, four or five stories high.

Outside the church there was a group of friends in gold-worked, ornate gowns and hats, and behind them a row of girls dressed as Atlantic maidens, with colored frocks and big silk bows in their hair.

General Currie, the Canadian corps commander and the general commanding the Fourth Canadian division, came with his staff officers, and then came a young English captain who was received with a royal salute by the Canadian soldiers.

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NO ARMISTICE YET, GERMAN CHIEF WARMS HIS SOLDIERS

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 23.—'Hold fast, an armistice has not yet been concluded,' is the word sent to the German troops by Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, chief of the General Staff, according to a captured document now in the hands of the Americans.

'German soldiers, be vigilant! The word 'armistice' is current in the trenches and camps, but we have not yet reached that point. To some the word represents a certainty; to others it is even a synonym of the peace so long desired. They believe that events no longer depend upon them.

'We have not yet reached our aim. The armistice has not been concluded. The war is still on—the same war as ever. Now, more than ever, you are upon the enemy's soil and on the soil of Alsace-Lorraine, the bulwark of our country. In this grave hour the fatherland relies on you for its prosperity and for its safety.'

'The priest spoke the word 'England' with love in his voice, and gave his gratitude to those brave men of England who through four years of war had given their lives for the sake of the world's peace.

'Then, suddenly, as he ended, there was loud music in the church of Denain, and perhaps it was a music never heard before in any church of France. For a band of Canadians struck up the "Marseillaise" and the notes of that hymn of revolution and liberty, which is now the hymn of France, rang out with its strange passion and exultation and filled the sanctuary.

Outside there was another band, and Canadian Scots with their drums and fifes strated the enthusiasm of the people to a high pitch.

There was a march past the Prince of Wales, beneath the empty pedestal where once there had been a statue to General Villars, liberator of France. The Germans have taken the statue away, but there was something strangely significant in that procession past its pedestal by the men who had rescued Denain from the German scourge.

The doors of the church were wide open and the officers and old men and women followed the Prince of Wales just while the priests in their gold vestments went to the altar and prayed.

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AVIATORS FLY THROUGH REEF, SCALE WALL, SWIM CANAL, REACH HOLLAND

The Hague, Oct. 23.—Three American aviators, who were prisoners of war, have succeeded in escaping from Germany into Holland. They are flight Lieutenants T. S. Willingham, of Westbury, R. I.; John O. Donaldson, of Washington, D. C.; and Robert Anderson, of Honolulu.

In escaping from the prison at Valenciennes they forced their way through the prison roof, scaled a wall and swam across a canal. German sentries challenged them several times, but the Americans kept on traveling by night under the guidance of the stars. They passed through Brussels and for nine days lay in hiding close to Budel, on the Brabant frontier, seeking an opportunity to cross the German electric wire barrier.

They are eager to enter the fight again. Continue Retreat in Serbia By the Associated Press Vienna, Oct. 23.—The withdrawal of our troops in Serbia is taking place without disturbance from the Allies, and there has been fighting only by night under the guidance of the stars.

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Dainty Bar Pins of Green Gold The new lace-work designs are very fashionable and are wonderfully effective when made of green gold. One in particular is very attractive—made of 14-kt. gold, open-work design, with sapphire center—\$7.50 S. Kind & Sons, 1110 Chestnut St. "BUSINESS HOURS NINE UNTIL FIVE-THIRTY" Buy War Savings Stamps

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7 Extraordinary Fur Set Specials! (5) Raccoon Sets Animal scarf and round muff of selected quality skins \$34.50 (11) Silky Wolf Sets In brown or gray. Trimmed barrel muff and animal scarf \$44.50 (4) Nutria Sets Smart - shaped scarf and barrel muff. Selected quality skins \$39.50

7 Extraordinary Fur Coat Specials! (6) Marmot Coats 16-inch sports model. Its perfect fitting shawl collar and deep cuffs \$64.50 (9) Natural Muskrat Coats Three-quarter length flare model. Cape or rolling shawl collar \$89.50 (8) Hudson Seal Coats Smart-shaped novelty scarf and barrel muff. Selected quality skins \$48.00 (7) Fox or Lynx Sets In black. Barrel muff with head, large cape collar and wide animal scarf \$49.50 (8) Taupe Fox Sets A good - size animal scarf and trimmed barrel muff to match \$68.00 (7) Point Fox Sets Wide animal scarf and barrel muff with head, tail and paw \$87.50

(6) Hudson Seal Coats Three - quarter - length model. Large cape collar and cuffs \$145.00 (4) Hudson Seal Coats 45-inch full ripple model. Large cape collar and cuffs of skunk \$195.00 (3) Squirrel Coats A jaunty sports model. Deep-rolling shawl collar and cuffs \$265.00 (3) Moleskin Coats 45-inch full flare model. Taupe wolf collar and cuffs \$295.00

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Allies Break Piave Line; Capture 15,000

Continued from Page One Italian front issued last night says: "The attack of the Tenth Army continued today, and is progressing most satisfactorily. On the right the Eleventh Army corps has reached the line of Roncadelle, Ormelie, Tempic, Borgo, Biancha and Rai.

Austrian Troops Fight Desperately

By the Associated Press Italian Headquarters on the Piave, Oct. 23.—The advance across the Piave, for the third time, was marked by a desperate battle. This time, however, the Italian corps is in touch with the Austrians who are steadily being pressed back from the eastern bank of the river.

The battle now has been going on for six days and has been marked by the desperate resistance of the Austrians. They have directed their artillery fire against the Italian positions across the Piave, and their bombing airplanes also have caused trouble for the Allies.

Peace Moves Concealed Austrian prisoners declare that they know nothing of the political situation at home, and have efforts of the Government to arrange an armistice. The Austrian army postoffice is said to have stopped the delivery of mail some time ago.

Battle Began October 19 The present battle of the Piave began officially October 19, but heavy fighting did not develop until October 24, the anniversary of Caporetto and the beginning of the retreat to the Piave.

Thanks to the fair weather of the last few days the river has been left with miles behind in the region southeast of Montebelluna.

To Have and To Hold Healthy Teeth and Gums It takes more than a tooth brush to keep teeth healthy and the mouth comfortable and really clean. Sixty years of service have proven SOZODONT will keep the teeth clean and wholesome, the gums firm and healthy, the breath sweet and the mouth comfortable. Have you ever been hungry and unable to eat? Use SOZODONT FOR THE TEETH Sold by Dealers Everywhere