

THE SITUATION ON THE WEST FRONT 5

It is necessary to keep this in mind, as it is the key to the extraordinary fierce resistance the enemy maintained throughout the critical days of the Battle of Cambrai.

Summing up the general scheme of British operations, Field-Marshal Haig says: "The brilliant success of the Amiens attack was the prelude to a great series of battles, in which, throughout three months of continuous fighting, the British armies advanced without a check from one victory to another."

This period was divided into two well-defined phases, the first being the breaking through of the Hindenburg Line, and the second the pushing of the enemy before us from his hastily prepared defenses. "The second phase had already reached its legitimate conclusion when the signing of the armistice put an end to the operations. Finally defeated in the great battles of Nov. 1 and 4, and utterly without reserves, the enemy at that date was falling back without coherent plan and in widespread disorder and confusion."