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GENERALLY FAIR

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## GERMAN ARMY IN GENERAL RETREAT ON FRONT OF OVER FORTY MILES IN FLANDERS; OSTEND, BRUGES, LILLE IN ALLIED HANDS

### ENEMY RETREATING OVER WIDE FRONT IN NORTH REGION

Germans Fast Quitting Flanders, But Their Rout Not Disorderly.

### BRITISH AT LILLE HASTEN RETIREMENT

Allied Troops in Bruges and Fast Driving Towards Ghent.

(By the Associated Press.)

Over a front of forty miles, from the North Sea in Belgium to Lille in Northern France, the Germans are in general retreat before the British, French and Belgian armies. Likewise the enemy is being forced to concede defeat by retrograde movements before the British and Americans southeast of Cambrai; under the attacks of the French in the pocket between the Oise and Senna rivers, north of Laon, and by reason of continued strong attacks by the French and Americans in Champagne and along the Meuse River.

Nowhere, however, is the enemy in disorder. In Belgium Flanders his steps are being hastened by reason of the swift drives into his lines by the British at Lille just south of the Belgian border, and by the French and Belgians further north, which threaten to compel him to enter Dutch territory and face internment unless he is fleet enough to withdraw out of the entire pocket between the Scheldt River and the sea, and re-constitute his line with its right wing resting on Antwerp.

### Ostend Falls.

Ostend, one of the famous submarine bases on the sea, is in British hands. Bruges is practically captured, while to the south from the region east of Roulers, the Allied forces are fast driving toward Ghent in an endeavor to seal the western Flanders sack and retain in it large elements of the enemy's forces. Strong opposition is being offered on the Courtrai sector to prevent the Allies from carrying out their manoeuvres to the full. More than a score of additional villages have been liberated by the Allied troops, and numerous guns and quantities of stores have been captured.

(Continued on page 2)

### DECLARES HUNGARY AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY NOW

Vienna Hears Wilson Has Replied To The Austrian Peace Note.

London, Oct. 17.—At a meeting of the Hungarian parliament, a proclamation was read declaring Hungary to be an independent state, says a despatch from Berlin, forwarded from Copenhagen to the Central News Agency here. Henceforth, the message adds, there is to be only a personal union between Austria and Hungary.

### A Mystery.

Amsterdam, Oct. 17.—It is reported in Vienna, according to the Tagblatt, that President Wilson's reply to Austria-Hungary was known in Berlin on Tuesday evening. The Tagblatt remarks: "Why its contents were published, neither in Vienna nor Washington, does not appear."

### Burian Expects Peace.

Basel, Oct. 17.—"In the armistice negotiations," Baron Burian stated yesterday, "both sides should speak. That goes out of the very idea of the armistice." (Continued on page 2)

### The British Discover Abdul Baha.

New York, Oct. 17.—The British Bureau of Information announced today the receipt of a cablegram from London, saying that "British troops have discovered Abdul Baha at Haifa."

Abdul Baha, a Persian "prophet," is head of the Bahai religious cult, with members in all parts of the world. In 1912 he visited the United States, speaking in churches in various cities, and addressing a convention of the Persian-American education society in Washington.

The London cable says that Abdul Baha had with him, at his retreat, at Haifa, which is at the foot of Mount Carmel in Palestine, "a small following of devoted Persian adherents, and it is reported his health is good. He is being well cared for by the British soldiers, who have always been inclined to treat such personalities with good humored respect."

### The German Evacuation of Lille One of Most Dramatic Events of War

British Headquarters in Flanders, Oct. 17.—(Reuter's)—British drums were beating through the streets of Lille this morning, while British patrols advanced east of the city in contact with the retreating Germans. The evacuation of Lille and the British entry into the city was one of the most dramatic events of the war.

South of the city of Lille today, the British are before the Lille-Douai railway along almost its entire length, and probably have crossed it in the neighborhood of Oignies, about midway between the two cities. Several hours ago they were only a few hundred yards from the northern section of the line, east of Haas.

The Germans in the Lille sector, are leaving strong rear-guards in selected places, in an effort to protect their fleeing comrades. These rear-guards have orders to inflict the greatest number of casualties possible. Outflanking tactics are usually sufficient to clear up these strong points.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—When it was last night that the Germans had effected a concentration in the Borteville Wood for a counter-attack on the Cote de Chatelles, which the Americans had captured, the American artillery opened up heavily. The pounding resulted in the Germans falling to leave their trenches.

Rainy weather continues to interfere with operations on this front.

### German Retreat Methodical.

British Headquarters in Flanders, Oct. 17.—The German retreat appears to be methodical, and well organized. How far, or how fast it is going remains to be seen. Around Courtrai, in the center, the enemy is fighting a delay action so as to cover his flank.

Belgian and French troops pivoting on Lombardize, early today, began to push steadily northward toward the Belgian coast.

With the French Army in France, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—Progress continued to be made by the Allied forces today, on the eastern wing of the battle front, in the face of stout opposition. The German resistance was especially determined west of Grand Perre in the Argonne, where the Germans still hold Talma farm in a small salient.

General Gourard's men have taken Hill 222 and the village of Talma, a thousand yards to the north, and Little Talma, about the same distance south of it, hill, from where the line bends around the American positions north of Grand Perre.

The fifth French army, under General Guillaumat, former military governor of Paris, met with serious opposition yesterday, but gained a footing at one point in the enemy's positions.

Along the Oise River, the Germans continue to resist stubbornly, counter-attacking fiercely at the village of Chobry.

### CANADIANS ARE HAVING LET UP

Heavy Rains Add To Discomfort of Troops, But Enemy's Problem More Difficult.

With the Canadian Forces, Oct. 16.—(By J. F. B. Livesey, Canadian Press Correspondent.)—Beyond second line patrols across the Senze River at Aubigny Au Bac the front of the Canadian Corps has been practically static during the past two days. This does not mean that the line is quiet. On the contrary it is very active. The enemy harasses us continually with machine gun fire from across this watery waste and last night shelled us heavily. His snipers are busy thence east, where we have connected and altogether our men would prefer getting forward to holding the present line, which extends from the southwest of Douai on the west side of the Canal De La Sennese to the south bank of the Sennese River and with the British troops.

Prisoners state that orders have been given to hold at all costs this salient thrust out in front of the radial line between Douai and Denain.

The heavy rains have added to the discomforts of the troops, but at the same time have rendered more difficult the enemy's problem. In the meantime he puts up the stiffest kind of a fight on these pivotal points. Whatever may be the state of morale of his main armies nothing could be stouter than the last ditch resistance we have been encountering from Prussian and Wurtemberger troops, who sell their lives dearly, serving their machine guns until our men have been on them with bomb and bayonet.

As for the Canadian corps, its valiant brotherhood in arms shone never brighter than in these last few weeks.

### TAKE 4,600 GUNS.

Paris, Oct. 17.—(Havas)—The guns captured from the Germans by the British, French and Americans in the last three months number 4,600. This represents one-fourth of all their artillery.

### SAY ARMISTICE COMING SOON

German Soldiers Say Armies Will Withdraw and Stop Fighting.

By Wilbur Forrest. (Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.) With the American Armies in the Field, Oct. 17.—The elements of the German army opposing the American armistice and the withdrawal from the occupied territory have now been arranged. The plan embraces the withdrawal of the German troops twenty kilometers, while the Allied armies withdraw ten kilometers. Then will a neutral strip of thirty kilometers between the armies the general withdrawal commences, the Allied armies halting ten kilometers from the German frontier until peace is signed.

An American sergeant captured by the Germans Wednesday was taken a considerable distance to the German rear by his captors, given biscuits and liquor ration and then turned loose. His captors said that the war would soon be over and they didn't want to bother with prisoners.

### MILNER BELIEVES VICTORY IN SIGHT

Destruction of Prussian Military Machine Expected To Be Accomplished Fast.

London, Oct. 17.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's, Ltd.)—Lord Milner, the British secretary of war, interviewed today by the Evening Standard, said complete victory was in sight, namely, the destruction of the Prussian military machine. All other aims faded into insignificance beside this aim.

Punishment of the men who made the war and were responsible for its crimes; the question of reparation for wrongs and damage done; even territorial readjustments were all secondary to the rendering of Prussia impotent for evil. If that one aim was achieved all the rest would follow naturally.

### FATHER YOUNG BETTER.

A special despatch received at 2.15 o'clock this morning from the Standard's Montreal correspondent announced that the condition of Rev. Father J. V. Young, of the Mission church of St. John Baptist, had taken a decided turn for the better. His friends have much confidence that he will recover.

### BRITISH IN DOUAL.

London, Oct. 17.—British troops entered the town of Douai today, after overcoming the enemy's resistance on the line of the Haute Doule Canal, according to the official statement from the war office tonight. The Fifth British Army encircled and captured Lille. A statement said.

### PORTO RICO EARTHQUAKE RUINS CITY

Tidal Waves Which Follow Shock Overwhelm City of Mayaguez.

### TOWN OF AQUIDALLA IS BADLY DAMAGED

Death List Exceeds 100 and Property Loss Nearly \$4,000,000.

Washington, Oct. 17.—Tidal waves which followed the earthquake in Porto Rico, added to the death toll, and devastation, the American Red Cross was advised today in cablegrams from San Juan. The city of Mayaguez, the third largest city on the island, practically was destroyed by the inrush of water, while the town of Aguidalla was badly damaged.

Other towns on the western part of the island were damaged by the earth shocks, and the death list is placed at more than 100 with probably 300 injured. Hundreds of families are homeless and the property loss is estimated at \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

### Many Are Dead.

New York, Oct. 17.—With more than one hundred persons dead and thousands without shelter, food or clothing as a result of the earthquake which shook the entire island last Friday, the government of Porto Rico today appealed to congress and to the American Red Cross for assistance.

Properties damaged in three cities and numerous towns, particularly along the west coast, aggregate four million dollars, said the message which was sent by Antonio Riquelme, president of the Porto Rico Chamber of Commerce, to the government of Porto Rico today.

### ENTENTE FORCES IN POSSESSION OF OSTEND CITY

Admiral Keyes and Royal Air Forces the First To Enter the Place.

### KING ALBERT AND HIS QUEEN ARRIVE LATER

Enemy Evacuate Belgian Seaport City and Withdraw Their Army.

London, Oct. 17.—Admiral Keyes, of the British navy, landed at Ostend this afternoon, says an official announcement from the admiralty. The admiral was preceded by members of the Royal Air Force, who landed at Ostend this morning. The admiralty statement reads:

"Royal air force contingents working with the naval landed at Ostend this morning, and reported it clear of the enemy. Vice-Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, commanding the Dover patrol force, landed at Ostend at 12.35 o'clock this afternoon."

With the Allied Forces in Flanders, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—The Germans on evacuating the channel seaport and submarine base of Ostend left behind them rear guards, all of which were killed or captured. British warships landed forces in the town and Belgian aviators alighted in the Place D'Armes.

King and Queen.

Paris, Oct. 17.—King Albert of Belgium and Queen Elizabeth entered Ostend this afternoon.

British Headquarters in Belgium, Oct. 17, (9.06 p. m., Reuter's)—The Allied troops are within five miles of Bruges.

With the French Army in France, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press, 3 p. m.)—In conjunction with the British first army, the French attacked this morning over a wide front. The attack is progressing favorably.

With the Allied Forces in Flanders, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—The Belgians in their rapid drive northward in Belgium, have captured Ghent, and have passed beyond that town. Belgian infantry is now less than six miles from Ostend.

The Belgians are reported to be well east of Eghem, which is northwest of Ghent, and to have reached a point east of Pittenham. Cavalry patrols have pushed far forward.

In the Eghem district the Belgians are driving northward for the Ghent canal, which is rapidly being approached. Bruges is not far away, and hourly the Germans there are being increasingly menaced.

### The German Army Is Carrying Out Double Retirement in Flanders

British Headquarters in Flanders, Oct. 17.—(Reuter's)—The Germans are carrying out a double retirement in Flanders, with Courtrai as the pivot. The northern retirement extends from Ostend southward, while the other affects the industrial area of Northern France.

The only point on the northern front, where there is any fighting today, is at Courtrai.

A four o'clock this morning the German commandant at Lille ordered all the inhabitants of Lille to assemble as promptly as possible. As they hurried through the gloom of the streets they observed the garrison marching out. They were told to go out to the British lines and meet their friends.

At dawn a British airman flying over the city beheld a most amazing sight. The streets were thronged with civilians who were frantically waving handkerchiefs and shawls. Not a soldier could be seen. Patrols advanced immediately and entered the city.

With the Allied Forces in Flanders, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—The Allied infantry in the center of the advance against the retreating Germans on this front, was reported today as having re-established contact with the fleeing enemy. It is considered that if the present rate of advance is sustained, the Belgian coast should be free of the Germans, within a very few days.

Many Additional Prisoners.

Many additional prisoners have been captured. The British operating in Flanders, whose principal job has been supporting the Belgian and French flank, has alone captured 4,000 prisoners and 150 guns, since the operations began. The roads in the rear of the Belgian army are jammed with prisoners and captured war material.

London, Oct. 17.—(3.21 p. m.)—The attack by the British south of Leateau, today, has resulted in an advance of two miles. The manoeuvre is still progressing.

With the Anglo-American Forces south of Leateau, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—American forces south of Leateau, together with British troops on both sides of them, launched an attack soon after daylight this morning against the badly disorganized but desperately fighting Germans.

After the shells from the British artillery had done their part, the British stormed forward to the bank of the river Selle, and managed to cross the stream against a hail of machine gun bullets from the other bank. Some of the men plunged into the muddy stream, while others crossed on pontoons. The German machine gunners fought to the last, and died firing their guns.

### MAY ACCEPT THE TERMS OF WILSON

Berlin Note in Reply Said To Have Been Drafted—Much Anti-Wilson Feeling.

Berne, Oct. 17.—Advises received from Berlin are to the effect that there is great activity in political circles in view of the German reply to President Wilson's note. It is understood the note already has been drafted, and that it is not a complete refusal of President Wilson's demands. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg was expected in Berlin today.

### GERMANY LETS UP ON DEVASTATION

Orders Issued To Stop Burning Cities, Towns and Villages—U-Boats Called in.

Amsterdam, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—The German army command, according to a bulletin issued by the Rotterdam Courant today, has ordered its army to cease devastating places unless absolutely compelled by military necessity.

According to the Courant, the German newspapers this evening were to publish the following communication: "The German army command has brought military measures into accordance with the steps taken for the conclusion of peace. The German armies have received orders to cease all devastation of places, unless they are absolutely forced to follow this course by the military situation for defensive reasons."

"Nevertheless it is to be expected that in the gradual retreat property will be lost, which is 'replaceable, by money—that is to say, insofar as such devastation is inherent in the conduct of the war itself, and especially in the bombardment of German positions by enemy artillery."

The Cologne Gazette publishes a manifesto of the Conservative party, signed by Count Friedrich Von Westary and other prominent members of the party, declaring that after President Wilson's message the contest of arms must be fought out to a finish. It paints a terrible picture of the fate that would befall an invaded fatherland.

A despatch to the Cologne Volks-Zeitung from Berlin states that there will be exhaustive deliberations between the Reichstag, the federal council and the supreme command, as well as the leaders of all parties, before a decision is reached concerning a reply to Mr. Wilson's note. It is said to be probable the Reichstag will not resemble until next week.

It is announced that Chancellor Maximilian has appointed State Secretary Groeber as his representative in connection with the civil administration of martial law.

### FRENCH TAKE TOWNS.

Paris, Oct. 17.—French troops cooperating with the Anglo-Belgian forces in Flanders captured Pittenham, Molyke and Wissem in spite of strong resistance according to the British official statement tonight.

Notable gains also were made in the Oise region with the capture of Petit Verly and Marchevenne. On the left bank of the Oise the French took Mont Orisy. Twelve hundred prisoners already have been captured.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—In complete control of the Cote de Chatillon, the Americans now hold the key to the great stretches to the north and northeast.

### CITY OF BRUGES IN THE HANDS OF BELGIANS

The Cavalry Patrols Enter Place and Operating on Both Sides.

### BELGIANS' GUNS FIRE FROM SOUTH OF CITY

Germans Have Given Away Under Belgian Pressure on Entire Front.

With the Allied Armies in Belgium, Oct. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—Belgian patrols have entered Bruges and cavalry is operating on both sides. Belgian guns are now firing from south of the city.

London, Oct. 17.—The Germans have given way under Belgian pressure on the entire front in Flanders, according to a Belgian official statement given out here tonight. Belgian forces have entered Ostend and reached the line Oudenburg-Zedelghem-Ruddervoorde.

The text of the communication says: "The attack begun on October 14 has been completely successful. On the whole Flanders front the beaten enemy has given way to our pressure. To the left, overcoming the difficulty of ground flooded for four years, we have crossed the Yser in pursuit of the enemy."

"We have entered Ostend and reached the line of Oudenburg-Zedelghem-Ruddervoorde."

Cavalry at Bruges.

"Our cavalry has reached the outskirts of Bruges. We have shelled the enemy retreating towards Ekeo. The French have captured Wyngene and reached the outskirts of Theloo."

"The Belgians have reached the confluence of the Canal La Mandel and the Ley and have lined the river as far as Harlobeck, where they joined the British. Liberated Belgians received the Allies with indescribable enthusiasm."

British Headquarters in France, Oct. 17.—(Reuter's)—It is reported that British outposts tonight are east of Lille.

### TRAIN SERVICE MAY HAVE TO BE CURTAILED

Operating Department Finds It Exceedingly Difficult To Move Wheels.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Oct. 17.—The influenza epidemic is seriously affecting running of trains on the C. G. R. Between sixty and seventy brakemen and conductors running out of Moncton are off duty on account of the epidemic. Engineers in the same proportion are laid by with the disease. If its ravages continue among railway men at the same rate in the next few days as it has in the past a curtailment in train service may be the result. A C. G. R. official of the operating department said tonight if many more men stopped work through illness the only recourse of the management was to reduce the train service as it would be absolutely impossible to man trains without experience. Greatest difficulty is being experienced now to operate regular trains and meet traffic requirements.

### POPE PRAYS FOR PEACE.

Rome, Monday, Oct. 14.—(By The Associated Press.)—"You may say that the Holy Father is pinning his faith entirely on President Wilson to make a quick and durable peace."

Monsignor Corrotti, Papal under secretary of state, said to the correspondent today. "He is making special prayers to this end—that President Wilson may not deviate from his present course and that nothing may interfere with his purpose and compel a renewal of the war."

### Grand Duke Nicholas Ordered Shot.

Paris, Oct. 17.—A Russian wireless message in English, dated Tsarkoe Selo, October 15, received here, reports the following information as having been received from Ekaterinburg:

"According to the official declarations of the Soviet, Chief Nicholas Romanoff has been tried and condemned to death. He will be shot during the night of the sixteenth."

The Nicholas Romanoff referred to is supposed to be Grand Duke Nicholas, the former commander-in-chief of the Russian army. Latest reports on Grand Duke Nicholas said he was living in the Crimea.

Amsterdam, Oct. 17.—Several thousand troops are declared to have hoisted the red flag near Ekaterinvolva, and to have killed their officers. They are now marching on Kharkov, to join the revolutionary soldiers who hold the town.