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High Ground Recaptured Which Was Lost in First Gas Attack; Wedge Driven Into German Line Which May Compel Evacuation of Zeebrugge and Ostend Ere Spring.

By Frank H. Simonds
Author of "The Great War," "They Shall Not Pass."

Lendon Advertiser and the New York Tribu 1917-The Tribune Association.]

In the present article I desire to discuss in detail the latest British operaion from Ypres eastward, a logical and natural extension of the two earlier operations, which are themselves phases of the great British campaign of 1917. To do this it will be necessary to examine at considerable length the main eographical and strategic circumstances of the Ypres region, so frequently

ned and so little described in current battle reports. mentioned and so little described in current battle reports.

To start at the beginning, there is between Langemarck and the Lys River at Warneton, a 15-mile front of good ground—that is, solid ground over which armies can advance. North of Langemarck the land is low and swampy and has been flooded since the Battle of the Yser in October, 1914, when the Belgians cannot the spines and thus belgiant to Common advance on the Vaccations. has been flooded since the Battle of the Yser in October, 1914, when the Belgians opened the sluices and thus halted the German advance on the Yser front. South of Warneton, and on the right bank of the Lys, the forts of Lille and the city and its suburbs make any advance difficult, and to the difficulties of ground is added the obstacle incident to the certain destruction of this great French city should the fighting approach it. What the Germans have done in St. Quentin and Lens they would certainly do in Lille.

St. Quentin and Lens they would certainly do in Lille.

A Wedge Into Foe Front.

An offensive, therefore, which had as its main strategic purpose to move down the Lys Valley and thus turn the Germans out of their position along the Belgian coast from the Yser to the Dutch frontier would necessarily have to pass through this sallyport between Warneton and Langemarck. Its advance would be from west to east and, progressing thus, it would cross one after another of the railroads and highways, themselves running north and south, which are the main lines of German communication. More than this, such an advance would push a wedge into the whole German front in Flanders, quite analogous to the wedge driven into the German lines along the Somme in the great battle of last year.

Watershed of Ypres and the sallent, will be in a dangerous position, although their fronts remain unhasken on either side of the entering wedge.

So much for the larger strategy. Now for the immediate geographical circumstances. East of Ypres rather less than two miles ries as to Ypres father less than two miles ries as to Ypres father less than two miles ries as to Ypres and the risa is so general direction from northeast to southwest, and its southern extremity is just due south of Ypres. It is not more than a hundred feet above the surrounding country and the rise is so gradual that it does not suggest real height at any point. This ridge carries a number of villages familiar to all readers of the ware news of the past three years. These are Messines, Wytschaete. Hollebeke, Zandevorde, Ghelwelt, Zonnebeke and Broodseinde. North of Broodseinde it narrows very rapidly to a point at the also familiar village of Passchendaele.

IRON AND STEEL MEN

CONFER WITH FOSTER

London and Western Ontario Firms Represented.

OTTAWA, Sept. 28.—Representatives of leading iron and steel importers and users were in conference this morning with Sir George Foster, minister of trades and commerce. The position in relation to the embargs placed by the United States on the exportation from the difficulties outlined. The iron and steel mproducts was discussed at length and the difficulties outlined. The iron and steel men will now meet together with a view to suggesting a line of action to the department.

Among the interests represented at length and the interests represented at large picture hat to match.

Watershed of Ypres and Lys.
Actually this ridge is the watershed between the Yser and the Lys. Down its gently sloping western flanks flow a number of little streams which enter the Yser, rapidly dropping to the great marsh to the west of Ypres. Eastward from the ridge flow other little brooks, which enter the Lys. They are much shorter than the streams of the west, but on neither side are the watercourses more than mere brooks, obstacles to military operations only in the west season, which, however, is pretty constant in this unhappy region.

In 1914, when the British first came to the Ypres district, they were ad-

Most Miles

on Tires

In 1914, when the British first came to the Ypres district, they were advancing toward the north and east and along two main highways—that which goes from Ypres to Menin. the famous Menin road, and the Ypres-Roulers road, which passes just southeast of Langemarck. But their main push was along the Menin road, and when they were brought to a dead halt by the new German drive for Calais they stood along the ridge from Broodseinde right down to Messines, holding all the little villages along the crest which I have mentioned. From Broodseinde their line extended at right angles to Langemarck, behind several of the Yser.

Watershed of Ypres and Lys.



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their lines of communication in all the salient.

In the second battle of Ypres—in April and May, 1915—the battle in which poison gas appeared, the German attack was about Langemarck, and having broken the French colonial troops who held the line about Langemarck and to the west, the Germans came south until they reached the Yser Canal at Lizerne. They even passed the canal at the crest of their rush. This advance necessitated a new adjustment of the lines, and the British were compelled to draw back along their whole front between Langemarck and the Menin road, giving up Zonnebeke and all but the barest foothold on the ridge. To all practical purposes they were now off the ridge and the Germans held all the good gun positions and observation points from one end of the ridge to the other. And this situation endured down to June of the present year. Soft, Clear, Smooth Skin

they were now off the ridge and the Germans and observation points from endered and observation points from endered of the constitution of the present year.

At this time the British, having determined to make their main offensive faced with the immediate problem of the ridge. Before they could move at all it was necessary to drive the Germans off that portions and crowned by the villages of Messines and Wytschaete, because from these positions the Germans commanded their real the way round to the foot of the ridge at Wytschaete. This was done in the bettle which is at the of "White Sheet" Ridge, and this battle and the word of the ridge at Wytschaete. This was done in the bettle which is a state of "White Sheet" Ridge, and this battle the Gritish operations on the technical side in the whole war. takes in the Verdun sector, which alone rival it in brilliant correlation of artillery and infantry tactics. In this battle the British and the Wytschaete of the most successful British operations on the technical side in the whole war. As the battle without relief of "White Sheet" Ridge, and this battle the British from the was no necessary preparation for the British of The Second Phase.

But this necessary preparation for the main attack, but this main attack, but this main attack, but this main attack necessarily had to be made north of the contines Canal and along the August operation went forward. In this time all the great mass of munitions had to be accumulated, roads and reliable work was completed by July 31, which saw the opening of the second phase in this British official was the opening of the second phase in this British official was the opening of the second phase in this british official was the opening of the second phase in this great of the properation was the properation went forward. In this time all the great mass of munitions had to be accumulated, roads and reliable work was completed by July 31, which saw the opening of the second phase in this British official was a second phase in this grea

their hands.

The Main Operation.

But from the Ypres-Comines Canal
at Hollebeke to the foot of the ridge
hear Gravenstafel, north of Zonnebeke

from Gheluvelt, on the Menin road, to Zonnebeke, on the Ypres-Roulers railway.

The Present Operation.

The British had before them now a second system of defences stretched across some of the most difficult country on the whole western front, a country of small woods and little ponds, hiding solid farmhouses, which lent themselves to fortification. To these woods ponds and farmhouses the British "Tommy" and his Canadian and Australian comrades had given familiar names, although some of the more considerable patches of forest kept their old names. Polygon wood, the largest belt of woodland, famous in the first battle of Ypres, retained its name, as did Nun's wood, but Glencorse wood, Inverness copse, Stirling Castle and Shrewsbury forest, with Dumbarton Lakes near by signalled the presence of Britons and Scots, while Toronto farm, Quebec farm, Abraham heights and even Kansas cross, testified to America, as did Anzac, Helles and Gallipoli farms to Australia.

This second system was an inextricable tangle of underbrush, marsh, ruins—it had endured three years of shelling, and only those who have seen the battlefields of the Somme or of Verdun can even conjecture what such a country really is like. Roughly speaking, this line covered Zonnebeke and Gheluvelt, which were behind it and between it and the third line, which lay along the crest of the main ridge. This operative front was approximately seven miles

not yet been revovered. On the British staff map this German system is indicated by many trenches and redoubts, which follow the western slope of the ridge, just below the crest, from Broodseinde, just east of Zonnebeke, through Reutel, west of Becelaere to New Kruiseecke, east of Gheluvelt on the Menin road.

With luck the British will have something like four weeks more of fighting weather; the first battle of Ypres lasted rather longer, up to the middle of November, in fact, but its main effort was ended by the first day of November, and only the sensational charge of the Prussian Guard along the Menin road from Gheluvelt supplied a really important detail in the fighting after November began. The problem that remains then is whether in the month of fighting weather they have reasonably surely to count on the British will be able to get over the crest of the ridge from Broodseinde to the Menin road, a front of perhaps five miles. If they do, then the spring will see the British holding all the important high ground in the sallyport between Langemarck and the Lys, save perhaps the tip of the adde about Passchendaele. In the same fashion, by the coming of spring, this year, the British held all of the summit of the Bapaume Ridge, and were in a position to push on into that town and break the southern end, or re-entrant, of the Bapaume Ridge, and were in a position to push on into that town and break the southern end, or re-entrant of the Bapaume Ridge, and were in a position to push on into that town and break the southern end, for the remain retreat from the Flanders front upon Courtral and Roulers might easily follow a British success this fall, as it did in the Bapaume sector this spring.

Meantime attention should be fixed

of the comparison of the Briton to the buildog.

It was against this system that the British launched their last offensive of September 19 and 20, and in this offensive of September 19 and 20, and in this offensive of sive they took all the works of importance in this system on the whole front attacked. Their advance was nowhere over a mile deep, but it carried them through the German second line, as the August operations had carried them over the first, and it was a much more clean-cut and immediately successful operation than that of the previous month, comparing favorably with the recent French offensive operation at Verdun, which made an advance of about the same distance over a front but little broader.

Toughest of Problems.

about the same distance over a front but little broader.

Toughest of Problems.

There remained between the British and the possession of the whole ridge from Broodseinde down to Messines, a mile ahead of them, only the third system of German trenches on the sector.

BRITISH BARK WRECKED.

PORT ELIZABETH, Cape Colony, Sept. 28.—The British bark Colonial Empire, 7,281 tons, has been wrecked. The crew was saved and the cargo is being salvaged. The bark was proceeding from an Atlantic port of the United States.

LIBERALS OF RED DEER "PASS UP" DR. CLARK

Dr. Clark. of whom withdrew in favor of Mr. Puffer. Dr. Clark's resignation was accepted without a vote of thanks or appreciation. Dr. Clark has represented the constituency for the last nine years.

SHE WANT DAYS WITHOUT FOOD

When Hospital Treatment Failed an Operation Was Advised— But Cure Was Effected Without the Use of the Knife.

Glace Bay, N. S., Sept. 29.-Here is a case which sorely puzzled the hospital doctors. It was evident that the great suffering from pain shoulder-blade was due to torpidity of the liver, but no medical treatment seemed to do any good.

In fact medicines falled, and the doc-

plon Courtral and Roulers might easily follow a British success this fall, as it did in the Bapaume sector this spring.

May Close 1917 Campaign.

Meantime attention should be fixed upon the front between the Roulers railroad and the Menin road. Here the last fight of the campaign of 1917 will probably be fought on the ground that three years ago at the very same times saw the bitterest phases of the first battle of Ypres. Then the Germans, outnumbered the British flought without heavy artillery or high explosives. Today the Germans are outnumbered and outgunned. Then a thin line of British infantry fighting with rifles against machine guns and field pieces against heavy artillery blocked the German line with equal desperation is seeking to block a British army aiming to push eastward through the Ypres sallyport and cut off the Germans from the Belgian coast.

Here is a measure of the fashion in which the conditions of the world warnave changed in three years. Instead of 100,000 British, there are today nearly 3,000,000 in France, and at least ifficent times as many on the firing line as Field Marshal Sir John French had had been were being torn from the bone. At times I used to go without food from one morning until the next. I had no energy left for work at all. At last our doctor se for a drink of water. After four weeks' treatment there • returned home, and was back only four days when the pain came back worse than ever. Then I was told I would have to undergo an operation, but I would not consent to that. At last I read about Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills and started to take them. At first I did not notice much thes of New Ontario, more espethat portion still in the hands a crown.

West Nissouri School Fair will don Friday, October 5. that I was cured. I shall always be grateful to Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, as they did more for me than four

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at Hollebeke to the foot of the ridge near Gravenstafel, north of Zonnebeke—that is, along the whole centre of the Ypres sector—all the high ground, all the ridge, still remained in German hands; and this was the portion which was essential: all the other operation had merely been preliminary work on the two flanks to clear the way for an attack in the centre. While the Germans held the Pilkem and "White Sheet" ridges it was not possible to push forward in the centre, because the advance would be enfilleded by German gunfire from the flanks; and all British concentrations could be observed and reported before they had passed Ypres and while they were still further than German reserves were from the actual firing line. By the middle of August, then, the Allies had restored the situation on their flanks which had existed at the The Silver Tongued Orator of Minnesota, Charles A. Towne, Former United States Senator

Late Member of Congress from New York-Nominated for Vice-President

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SUMMER COMPLAIN

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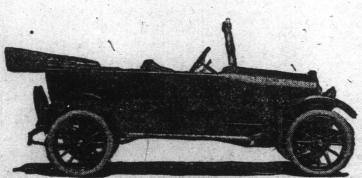
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