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War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A. M.

WAR REVIEW.

After hard fighting, in which the troops came to hand-to-hand fighting with various results, Field Marshal Haig's troops are now in possession of the town of Bourlon Wood, west of Cambrai, giving them the dominating positions over the much sought for railroad centre and surrounding country. English, Welsh and Scotch troops, aided by cavalry now dismounted, encompassed the defeat of the Germans, who had concentrated fresh reserves of men of extreme valor to face the British in their do or die efforts to win the positions which mean so much toward the ultimate capture of Cambrai with its tentacles of railways and highways leading in all directions, and upon which Field Marshal Hindenburg is also dependant for support. Little else except the gaining of this town and of the wood had had a place in the strategy of the British Commander in Chief since his dash of last week placed his forces west and southwest of Cambrai, verily on the threshold of the town. Ever since the initial attack the Germans had tenaciously disputed every inch of ground, realizing that with the fall of Bourlon and the wooded heights their tenure of Cambrai would be seriously menaced. Several times previously the British had gained footing in both the town and wood, but each time under vicious counter attacks were compelled to relinquish them. The northeastern portion of the wood apparently now is the sole remaining part of it that is still in German hands, and being only about three and a half miles from Cambrai, the Germans are doing their utmost to hold it and even to drive back the British who have gained a footing there. Since the beginning of the Battle of Cambrai the British War Office has been extremely meagre with details of the fighting, and the latest report gives no hint of the proposed intentions of General Byng after the conquest of Bourlon Wood has been made secure. Apparently, however, with these strategic points safely in his hands, it is not unreasonable to surmise that having had several days in which to draw up his guns and realign his forces, Byng will almost immediately strike again in an endeavour to capture Cambrai. The army of the German Crown Prince has not given up its efforts to overcome the success of the French troops last week northwest of Rheims

where gradual incursions into the German line are threatening Laon. Here the Germans again have made two violent attacks, but their efforts brought them, as has been the rule lately, nothing but repulses and additional loss of numerous men. Similarly in the region of Verdun, the Germans have been worsted in attacks against General Petain's front. In the Italian theatre the troops of General Diaz are more than holding their own against the savage attacks of the Teuton forces from the region of Lake Garda eastward to the upper reaches of the Piave River. After last week's severe repulses with heavy casualties, the invaders have switched their main offensive to the Asiago Plateau sector, but here also they have been held by the Italians without the gain of a yard of ground. The attack has been met with counter attack, and in addition to inflicting heavy casualties, the Italians also have captured two machine gun batteries. Fighting along the Piave River from the hilly region to the Adriatic has been sporadic, but at one place where the enemy attempted to cross the river on pontoons he was wiped out by the fire of the defending artillery.

For the first time in several weeks there has been activity on the northern Russian front, and despite the uncertain political conditions in Petrograd, and other parts of the country, the Russians are holding their positions against the Germans. Near Jacobstadt the German artillery opened a strong bombardment against the Russians, who replied in turn. To the south and also on the Roumanian front there has been a revival of activity both from the trenches and in the nature of scouting reconnaissances.

THE BATTLE IN FRANCE.

LONDON, Nov. 25.

(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—The correspondent of Reuter's at the British army headquarters in France, reviewing the battle, points out the fact that Tuesday's advance was greater than the base. This necessitated widening the latter by bombing the various Hindenburg lines. This was entrusted to the Ulstermen, who fought their way three miles northward against continuous opposition. Altogether the British in two days overran forty square miles of new territory and captured ten villages. The Scheldt canal, sixty feet wide, was a great obstacle behind the Hindenburg line, yet we overleapt it and are now two miles from Cambrai. A half-built line of trenches intervenes and here the Germans have massed their many guns, but it seems immaterial whether or not we attack, because Cambrai is worthless as an enemy base since its communications are commanded by our fire. By early Friday afternoon we had penetrated well into Middle Wood and with con-

tinual hand-to-hand fighting and skirmishing in the wood, in which the tanks rendered noble assistance, we continued pushing through until by evening some of our men had gone clear through it. Whether the whole wood rests in our hands cannot be ascertained. The wood is not only protected by formidably fortified and well camouflaged trenches, but is full of machine guns and strong points. We have again broken through further along the Hindenburg line west of Mouves, again enlarging the base of our wedge into the German defences to the northward. In Mouves, where we were on the southern edge of the village on Friday, street fighting of great ferocity has been in progress, the enemy continually bringing up new waves of men only to be thrown back every time. Even fiercer at times was the struggle around Fontaine, which hapless village is now in flames. After we evacuated it the previous day the Germans pushed in and manned the houses, mounting machine guns and firing from the windows. Fontaine is absolutely commanded on both flanks and our posts encircle it on three sides.

FURTHER GAINS.

LONDON, Nov. 24.

At various points west of Cambrai the British made progress yesterday, the war office reports. More than one hundred guns have been captured recently in this area.

ON THE ITALIAN FRONT.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 25.—The battle between the Piave and Brenta Rivers in the hills leading to the Venetian Plain is reaching a climax with fury of action exceeding anything that has thus far taken place on that front. After fluctuating furious mass attacks in which the Germans joined the Austrians, the heights are again in the hands of the Italians who made a magnificent charge upon the slopes. The Basilical, Calabral and Alpine brigades suffered most in this storm. The battalions of Alpini were almost wiped out of existence, but the enemy paid dearly. Dead Germans and Austrians were piled up in heaps. Their trenches disappeared in the fury of the artillery action. The Italian lines over great stretches of ground were strewn with bodies of Germans and Austrians.

DESTRUCTION OF AIRSHIPS.

Grand Headquarters, French Army in France, Nov. 25. (By the Associated Press.)—The brilliant record of French aviators including members of the La Fayette squadron for ten months ending October, shows that they destroyed 120 German airplanes over French lines and 397 over German lines whose destruction has been fully certified. There also were 513 others over German lines which prob-

ably were destroyed, but confirmation of the fact was not obtainable. This makes a total of 1,073. Twenty-two German captive balloons were destroyed.

AUSTRALIA REJOICES.

MELBOURNE, Aus., Nov. 25. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—The report of the Associated Chambers of Commerce emphasizes the necessity of cutting out trade with the enemy after the war. News of the British victory on the west front has evoked the greatest enthusiasm and there have been patriotic demonstrations throughout Australia.

BOLSHEVIKI NOT RECOGNIZED.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25. Ambassador Bakhmeteff, of Russia, formally notified the State Department to-day that the Embassy doesn't recognize the authority of the extremists now in control of the Foreign Office at Petrograd. In a letter

to Secretary Lansing, following the resignation of three of the chief officers of the Embassy to avoid having relations with the Bolsheviks, the Ambassador said the Bolshevik Government was not representative of the true will of the Russian people, and that he wouldn't recognize that or any similar government which would lead the country into non-participation in the war. He said he considered himself in duty bound to remain at his post and would do so with a competent staff of assistants. While expressing the belief that the true spirit of Russia was bound to arise, he said it was evident that until conditions changed, the Embassy couldn't arise in full measure to its essential duties, and therefore he had authorized members of the Embassy to find other fields for their activities. John Sookine, first secretary of the embassy, and an officer of the Russian army, and Ferdinand De Mohrenschildt, second secretary, who married Secretary McAdoo's daughter last May, have offered their services to the American Government for war against Germany.

GOMPERS RE-ELECTED.

BUFFALO, Nov. 25. Samuel Gompers was re-elected President of the American Federation of Labor at the closing session of its 37th annual convention here to-day.

ATTACKS REPULSED.

ROME, Nov. 25. Powerful thrusts which were carried out yesterday by the Austro-Germans after heavy artillery preparation on the Italian mountain front from Asiago Plateau to Brenta River all failed, the war office announced to-day.

RUSSIAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, Nov. 25. A Petrograd despatch from a semi-official agency says that the Mayor of Petrograd has announced that the

Germans have declined to receive the Parliamentary representatives sent by order of the Maximalist commissaries, declaring that peace negotiations could only be conducted with a constitutional government of Russia. One of the preliminary conditions for entering upon Four Farlers imposed by the Germans, is the withdrawal of the Russian troops for a distance of 100 kilometres (62 miles) while the Germans retain their present positions.

CHOLERA CAUSE OF MAUDE'S DEATH.

LONDON, Nov. 25. General Frederick Stanley Maude, Commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia, who died Nov. 18th, after a brief illness, succumbed to cholera, according to the Saturday Review.

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BY CARL ED

