

STORMING THE MESSINES RIDGE

was the supposedly safe ground of the Wytschaete-Messines Ridge won from the enemy, but so paralysing was the blow struck that it was not until forty hours had passed that the Germans were able to concentrate for a counter-attack, but with the British guns dominating the eastern approaches to the ridge the attack completely failed.

HEAVY GERMAN LOSSES

The victors paid but a small price for their triumph, less than 10,000 men were killed or wounded and of these fully 7,000 were light casualties. Official information places the German losses at 30,000 and of these 7,000 were valid prisoners. This victory, significant in its immediate results, was far reaching in its effects. It taught the Germans that their fortresses were of no avail against the British artillery, it took from them their last commanding position on the west front, and it gave their foes perfect command of the region surrounding the important city of Lille.