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COLD AND WET TRY SOLDIERS IN TRENCHES

Rain Falls Almost Continuously and Men Are Almost Paralysed With Cold

THE DEVIOUS WAY OF GERMAN SPIES

Spurred on by Chance of Iron Cross Are Continually Up to Some Trick

(British Official Narrative.

London, Nov. 19.—The following descriptive account, which has been nt with general headquarters, conublished on November 17, of the the French armies in immediate touch

'November 16 .- The nature of the along our fine, and have focussed their attention mostly round Ypres, though there has, up to now, not been a resumption of the violent attacks ag-

Trying Conditions.

Friday, the 13th, was windy, with rain. Trying as life in the trenches is under such conditions, our men have at least the consolation of knowing that the enemy were in a worse plight, for the wind blew steadily in their faces.

"On our left, the morning passed n desultory shelling, which gradually swelled in the afternoon into a fierce combardment of the section of our line running south to the Menin-Ypres road. This was the prelude to an attack along the whole line. Around Ypres the enemy rushed our trenches at one point, but they were driven out gain, and the assault was repulsed. Here again our losses, though heavy were much less than those of the

"As each successive attempt to take Ypres by assault fails, the bombardment of the unhappy town is renewed with ever increasing fury.

"Further to the south, on our left centre, the situation remained practically unchanged, a little ground being lost here and there, and then regained. On our centre and right, and indeed along the whole of our line, the area in the rear of our trenches. This, no doubt, is part of the policy of

Sharp Fight in German Trench.

"On the right, on the night of the 13th-14th, a German trench was taken by a portion of our battalions, the occupants being bayonetted, or taken prisoners. Part of another battalion, which also advanced during the night, encountered some of the enemy who were attempting a similar operation. A hand-to-hand fight ensued, in which we came off victorious, we killed 25 Germans, and only lost two men our-

also some rain. On our left, proeedings were started with the usual heavy shelling, and the Germans again resumed the offensive in the afternoon a similar result to that obtained on the previous day. They penetrated ber. our line at one or two points, but were soon driven out, and the line was almost completely restored.

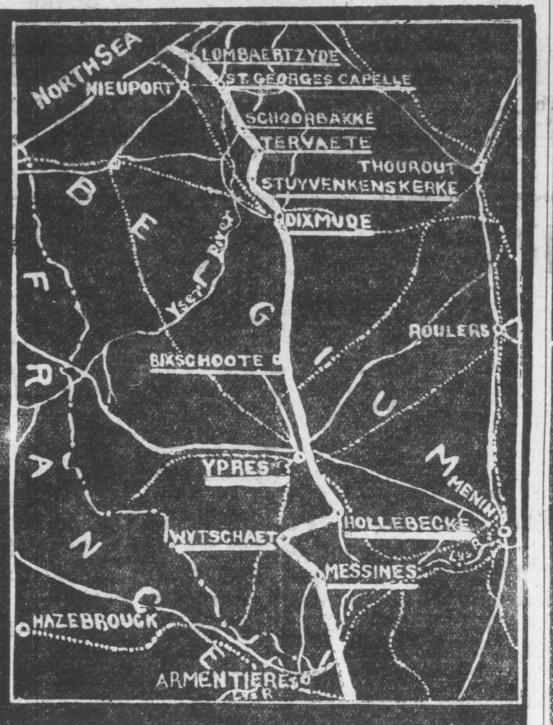
"Farther to the south the French nade an attack near Wytscaete, and gained some ground under cover of a subjected to shelling alone, and in our lines, observing the emplacements of two German wounded, and was finally centre, Armentieres was subjected to similar treatment. The town is now practically deserted by its inhabitants. 'During the day Bethune was bom-

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MAP OF THE WEST BELGIUM BATTLEFIELD



The places underscored in this map wih great violence beteen Hollebeke are mentioned in the Belgian official and Messines. The Allies managed to statement as points where the Belgi- held their positions at these points ans have made advances or where the and progressed toward Hollebeke and Germans have made attacks in their Wytschaete. The Belgians advanced new drive with heavy reinforcements detachments, which progressed as far for the French channel ports. The as Lambaertzyde toward the Yser, be-Germans are apparently endeavoring tween St. George Capelle and Tervate to break through the Allies' lines both They could advance only with great to the north and the south of Ypres. difficulty, owing to the poor roads in To the North they made attacks in the the inundated country. The Germans direction of Bixschoote bridge. They still occupy St. George Capelle and failed in this attempt and were forc- farms located on the left bank of the ed to evacuate the village Bixschoote. Yser in that neighborhood. Stuyvkens To the south they continued the attack kerke has been reoccupied by marines.

barded by the enemy, who continued the batteries, and searching the roads to devote his attentions to the towns, for hostile columns in the midst of villages and roads in the rear of our a storm of driving snow and sleet, line, rather than to the trenches them- which was encountered at high alti-

A Sunday Counter Attack.

"On Sunday, the fifteenth, on our "Further information has recently

sioned officer was awarded the distin- our line of trenches.

beyond the usual shelling. In the corners. centre we scored a local success. "Another reason for penetrating Saturday was very cold, there was | Some of the trenches and houses late- our lines is the cutting of telephone ly captured by the Germans were wires, and behind one section of our heavily bombarded by our howitzers front, breaks have of late, been very with the result that the defenders bol- frequent. That the damage has not ted from the position and were caught been entirely due to bursting shells, by the fire of our machine guns as they has now been proved by the capture

was bitterly cold and rain fell in cupied by us."

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German Method of Sniping.

left, east of Ypres, a well-conducted come to hand regarding the enemy's counter attack was carried out against method of sniping and spying. Nonthat portion of the line occupied by commissioned officers are offered Iron the enemy on the previous day, where Crosses if they will penetrate our lines he had established himself in some at night. Those that attempt this stables and trenches. Two attempts work, having discarded boots, helmets had already failed, when, at 5.30 a.m. and other impedimenta, crawl as close a gun was brought up to within three as possible to our defences, and try hundred yards range. After four to attract the attentions of one of our rounds had been fired, a party suc- sentries by throwing a stone in a dirceeded in carrying the position, the ection contrary to that in which they subaltern in command being killed. are crawling. This generally causes "The attack was led by the company neighboring sentries to fire, thus besergeant-major. This non-commistraying their positions and that our

guished conduct medal, but has since "These spies, or snipers, aften wear "The bombardment slackened con- similar to those worn by our men, and siderably in this quarter. During the thus disguised, sometimes succeed in day, on the south-east of Ypres, be- getting right behind our lines to favtween Hollebeke and Wytschaete, orable spots from which they shoot there was some hard fighting in men passing to and fro. Many of which the French held their ground, them speak English well, and display On our left centre nothing occurred great ingenuity in getting out of tight

retired, losing about half their num- of one of the enemy's secret agents, "On our right all was quiet. The man was known to have been on inweather on this day was about the timate terms with the Germans before worst we have yet experienced. It they retired from the area now oc-

torrents. Nevertheless, in spite of all The "eye-witness" concludes with a difficulties, our aviators carried out a eulogy of a French doctor who with successful reconnaissance. For some several nuns, remained in Ypres durthe afternoon our left centre was time they hovered over the German ing the bombardment, nursing fifty-

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