

# To Evacuate Belgium?

## GERMANS FIGHT HARD JUST NOW

### Canadians and English Engaged in Bitter Street Fighting With Enemy on Three Sides of Cambrai, Which Is Suffering Heavily From Gunfire and Is Burning.

### Enemy Makes Deep Withdrawal From the Vesle and West of Rheims—French Advance Next To Argonne—Americans Fighting Hard East of Argonne Forest.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)  
Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.  
London, Oct. 2.—The outstanding features of Foch's gigantic operation which will rush the German armies before they can retire on the new defensive system are, first, the widening of the line at Flanders until at periphery it is almost forty miles in width, showing the notable progress being made by the British, Belgians and French in the directions throughout Lille, second, the firing of Cambrai by the Germans with the envelopment of both Cambrai and St. Quentin, where the fighting rages violently under unfavorable weather conditions; third, the deep withdrawal of the enemy from Vesle and the west of Rheims; fourth, the fine advance by the French next to Argonne, and fifth, the terrific fighting of the Americans on the eastern side of the forest. The German resistance has stiffened on all battlefronts, consequently the progress is less spectacular, but everywhere the enemy is recoiling under the mighty blows of the Allies.

### TWO THOUSAND BOCHES TAKEN

French Make Sweep Between Vesle and Aisne Rivers—Ostend in Danger.

London, Oct. 2.—(By The Associated Press.)—Two thousand prisoners have been taken by the French between the Vesle and the Aisne in the past two days.

On the Belgian front, the Anglo-Belgian troops have been subjected to violent counter-attacks. Neither these nor the bad weather, however, has stopped the advance although the combination has had the result of slowing down the Allied progress.

### ITALIANS DO WELL IN MOUNTAIN ZONE

Artillery Duels Continue in the Same Region.

Rome, Oct. 2.—Artillery duels in the mountain zone and the repulse of Austrian patrols on the same sector are reported in the official statement from the Italian war office today. The statement reads:

### INFLUENZA SPREADS

Washington, Oct. 2.—While reports today to the office of the surgeon general of the army showed decreases in the number of new cases of Spanish influenza at army camps, information coming to the public health service was that the disease was rapidly spreading among the civilian population over the country.

## Germans Retreating Over Wide Front In Flanders, Says Haig

London, Oct. 2.—The Germans are in retreat over a wide front north and south of La Bassée Canal, with the British closely following them, according to Field Marshal Haig's report from headquarters tonight. The Germans have lost further ground to the British in the outskirts of Cambrai and northwest of Miry, but northeast of St. Quentin the British, under a violent counter-attack, have been forced from the village of Sequehart, according to Field Marshal Haig's report. The text follows:

"This morning the enemy attacked strongly northeast of St. Quentin with fresh troops from his reserves and succeeded in pressing back our troops from the village of Sequehart when his progress stopped.

"Local fighting has taken place today north of Croisnoir (south of Cambrai) and west of Cambrai, but without material change in the situation. As a result of their operations yesterday and last night in the neighborhood of Cambrai, Canadian troops now hold the suburb of Neuville St. Remy and the high ground west of Ramillies.

"Early this morning the enemy commenced to withdraw on a wide front south and north of La Bassée Canal. Our troops are following the withdrawal closely and have taken prisoners."

## GERMANS ARE IN STEADY RETREAT

### Scene of New Retrograde Movement Is Wide Front North and South of La Bassée Canal—Belgian Flanders and North France Gradually Being Reclaimed and Teuton Defences Are in Serious Danger.

(By The Associated Press.)—Again the Germans are in retreat on an important sector of the western battle front in France. The scene of the new retrograde movement is a wide front north and south of La Bassée Canal.

The continuation by the Entente Allied forces of their brilliant achievements in restoring Belgian Flanders and the expulsion of the enemy from further territory in France from the region of Cambrai to Verdun evidently has brought the Germans to the realization that the great bend in the line from Menin to the east of Arras is likely to prove another such trap as was the St. Mihiel salient unless they are fast enough of foot to move eastward, giving up Lille, Lens, and Douai and straighten their line from the vicinity of Cambrai to Belgium.

## LILLE EVACUATED BY THE ENEMY

Paris, Oct. 2.—(Havas)—The main announcement that the Germans are evacuating Lille and that the commander there has requisitioned all means of transportation, even wheelbarrows and baskets, to take away the booty. The newspapers add that the evacuation of the townpeople to Belgian towns near the German border is being pursued hastily.

Lille before the war had a population of 217,500. It is one of the chief cities of Northern France and one of the German strongholds. It is seriously menaced by the British advance at Cambrai and the Belgian gains in Flanders, which are cutting it in a pocket.

Lille is the center of the department of the Nord. The chief fortresses of the northeast of France, near the Belgian frontier, it is remarkably well built, has spacious, regular streets, Dutch, Belgian streets, traverse the city, and are connected by a canal, while the country around is so flat that for about one and half miles it can be laid under water.

Lille is the centre of an extensive commerce. The manufacture of linen and cotton thread and fabrics are the most important, but fine woolen cloth, velvets and carpets are also largely produced; in fact, the factories of Lille cover almost the whole range of textile goods. Chemicals, leather, machinery, paper, bead sugar, etc., are also tried out in ever-increasing quantities. Lille originally belonged to the Counts of Flanders.

In 1867 it was taken by Louis XIV.

## Enemy Has Prepared To Withdraw From Country

### THE MASSIF OF ST. THIERRY IS FINALLY TAKEN

French Also Capture Pouillon and Fort of St. Thierry.

### FRENCH DOMINATE PLAIN TO EAST

### German Positions All Along Aisne-Marne Canal Threatened.

(By The Associated Press.)—General Berthelot's forces in the course of the night and this morning completed the conquest of St. Thierry massif, northwest of Rheims, occupying Pouillon and taking the fort of St. Thierry.

The French now dominate the plain to the east and threaten the German positions all along the Aisne-Marne Canal from Betheny to the north, including the fort of Brimont, where were posted the guns that accomplished the greater part of the destruction of Rheims.

The French lines were pushed slightly northward toward Betheny. The conquest of the important positions around St. Thierry and the advance of General Gouraud's men in the region of Saint-Marc-A-Py, in the Champagne, increases the gravity of the situation for the German forces holding the heights to the east of Rheims.

Further advances by both Gouraud and Berthelot in these regions will make of the Rheims salient another pocket from which the Germans will find an exit with difficulty.

## U-BOAT OFF THE COAST

Fishing Craft Warned—Patrol Vessel Fires Shot Across Schooner's Bow, Scaring Captain.

An Atlantic Port, Oct. 2.—The master of the Nova Scotia fishing schooner Jellicoe got a bad scare this morning when his vessel was a few miles off shore. Without warning, the roar of a gun was heard, and a cannon shot passed the bow of his schooner. He turned thinking to see a Hun submarine near at hand, instead, he discovered that the shot had come from a patrol boat which had sent the shot across to attract his attention and to have the schooner come close for a message.

When within hearing distance, the captain of the patrol boat told him that he had sighted a submarine off the coast. The patrol boat captain advised the master of the Jellicoe to make for the shore with all possible speed, saying that the patrol would be engaged in warning other fishing craft in the waters. In port, the master of the Jellicoe, which arrived safe, said that no vessels were reported as having been sunk by the Hun submarines.

## FERDINAND MUST EXPLAIN TO PEOPLE

### King of Bulgaria Preparing Speech For Parliament

Sofia, Oct. 2, via Basel.—King Ferdinand's speech, which Premier Malinoff read to the Sobranje, announced that the National Assembly would be convoked and that the Sobranje would be adjourned until Friday in order that a complete statement of Bulgaria's situation might be laid before the representatives of the nation.

Amsterdam, Oct. 2.—Czech-Slovak leaders have sharply rejected an offer made to them to enter an Austrian coalition cabinet, according to a Vienna despatch printed in the Frankfort Gazette.

and was fortified by Vauvon. It was taken after a siege of several months by Eugene and Marlboro in 1708, but was restored to France by the peace of Utrecht in 1713. In 1792 it was ineffectually bombarded by the Austrians.

## Teuton Lines in Flanders, Particularly in Vicinity of City of Ostend, in Serious Danger — Germans May Quit France Before Great While—Enemy Moving Big Guns From Belgian Coast.

### Turkey Makes Further Approaches To Allies Through Financial Channels Which Are Being Considered By British War Cabinet—Austria Wants Peace More Than Ever.

Amsterdam, Oct. 2.—Plans for the evacuation of Belgium, if necessary, have already been prepared, according to Baron Von Falkenhausen, military governor of Belgium, press despatches received here today reported.

In conversation with a leading Dutchman at The Hague Von Faulkenhausen was quoted as saying: "Plans are ready for the early evacuation of Belgium, if necessary. The Germans can return to their own frontier in order to show the world we really want to defend Germany."

The Dutch are said to be strengthening their frontier garrisons to prevent violations of their neutrality by the retreating Germans.

Paris, Oct. 2.—The Germans are moving their heavy artillery away from the Belgian coast, according to reports here today.

The Belgian army, co-operating with the British army of General Plumer and the French army of General Begouette, successfully renewed today their heavy attacks on the Flanders front.

It is said that the enemy may withdraw from France shortly.

Berlin, Oct. 2, via London—Parts of the German salient lines near St. Quentin, northwest of Rheims, and west of the Argonne Forest yesterday were withdrawn to positions in the rear, says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff.

### Belgian Evacuation.

Washington, Oct. 2.—Further evidence of German preparations of evacuating the Belgian sea coast reached the State Department today in despatches saying that hospitals, post offices and the contents of storage houses of the German fourth army district were being moved back and turned over to the military government in the interior.

The German civilian authorities are being generally recalled, and strict regulations affecting the maritime district are being enforced. Reserves in Belgium, which are to be sent to the front by the Antwerp navy staff, are said to be preparing to leave Belgium.

### In Direction of Peace.

Amsterdam, Oct. 1.—(Tuesday)—The five points made by President Wilson in his New York speech, opening the Liberty Loan, in conjunction with the letter of the German Emperor to Chancellor Von Hertling, are looked upon by Austro-Hungarians as constituting an important step in the direction of peace.

The consensus of opinion in the dual monarchy, according to a message from the Vienna semi-official news agency, is that the Emperor's letter solves the question of parliamentarization in Germany while the points made by President Wilson seem to offer a chance of agreement, inasmuch as he did not, it is held, definitely reject the essential principles laid down by the Central Powers, and, on the other hand, that his points "do contain a definite negation of the war aims everlastingly thrown in the face of the Central Powers."

The President's latest speech, says the message, opens fresh ground for a peace discussion, "which is the main thing." The message concludes by saying that the Austro-German monarchy must continue to labor unflinchingly in the direction of peace, and it exhorts the Austrian parliament, which reassembled on Tuesday for the Autumn session, to devote its entire attention to that end.

### Turkey After Peace.

London, Oct. 2.—(6.30 p. m.)—Turkey has made further indirect approaches to the Allies through financial channels, which are being considered by the British war cabinet, the Standard says it learns on good

authority. Important developments, the newspaper adds, are expected.

Enver Pasha is practically the only Turk favoring the continuance of the war. The British are on their guard against a revolution in Turkey, though they expect an application for an armistice shortly.

### Tremendous Sensation.

Amsterdam, Oct. 2.—Saturday's Vienna newspapers, which have reached here, describe the tremendous sensation caused in the Austrian capital by the Bulgarian collapse. Rumors spread with lightning-like rapidity that Turkey had followed suit, that King Ferdinand had abdicated that his palace had been blown up and that a revolution had broken out in Bulgaria.

These rumors were promptly denied, but the impression remained that Bulgaria's secession had administered a grave blow to the dual monarchy. There was a panic on the Bourse, where the losses, according to the Neues Journal, ran up to 190 points, in some cases. The pandemonium on the Budapest Bourse was such that business had to be suspended.

### Grave Situation.

Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 2.—The Bulgarian armistice undoubtedly has created a grave situation for Austria-Hungary, the Austrian premier yesterday told the lower house, but suitable military measures will be taken immediately in accord with Germany.

The premier, Baron von Hussarek, made a long speech on the situation. He was interrupted constantly by the Czech deputies.

### BISHOP HONORED

Ottawa, Oct. 2.—The department of public information has received the following cable from the Canadian overseas military authorities: Lieut. Col. W. A. Bishop, V. C., D. S. O., (with bar) M. C., D. F. C., Canada's greatest fighting aviator was today made a chevalier of the French legion of honor or of the first class and awarded the croix de guerre with palm leaf for his distinguished service in the zone of the French armies.