

plans to Belgium, demanding free passage for troops through her land. Belgium refused and appealed to Britain. At practically the same moment, 11 p.m., London time, August 4th, Great Britain and Germany declared war.

The Germans came forward in force all along the Franco-German and Belgo-German borders during August 5th, 6th, and 7th. It soon became evident that they relied mainly on success in the north to bring them before Paris. Liège was assaulted heavily, but her troops drove off the invaders with enormous losses. The Belgian mobile force, however, withdrew leaving the garrison force in Liège.

In an effort to compel the enemy to divert troops from the north, the French used their most readily available troops in the southern part of the Verdun-Belfort line. This seemed a wise thing to do from another point of view as well—the moral value to the French of an advance into the Lost Provinces. By August 8th, they had carried forward forces as far as Altkirk and Mülhausen. This advantage was not long held.

The Belgian forces fought heroically, but before the fierce and continuous onsets of superior numbers, they could only fall back. At a terrible cost the great mission of the Belgian people to the allied cause was being fulfilled; they were holding on and giving time to Britain and France. By August 12th, they had retreated twenty miles to the west through Huy and Hasselt; but the British and French had by that date come up to their right by extending their left wing into Belgium as far as the Sambre, east of Namur.

Pursuing their policy mentioned above, the Germans on August 15th, with an army of over half a million, began to move around Brussels on the north. The government was removed to Antwerp on August 17th, and, to avoid bombardment, Brussels was left to the enemy on August 19th, without a fight. The Belgian army drew off to the north towards Antwerp, leaving a gap straight to the west. With wonderful speed the Germans rushed through as far as Ghent, and then turned to the south, leaving sufficient forces to protect their lines of communication against the Belgian army from Antwerp.

Things now looked rather gloomy for Belgium. No doubt there were acts of desperation on the part of Belgian civilians. The Germans, holding lines through the land of the enemy, seized upon these acts as an excuse for wholesale reprisals calculated to strike terror into all Belgians; civilians were shot in numbers, Louvain with its renowned university was completely destroyed.

The German line now moved south directly upon the Franco-Belgian boundary. At Mons the British, under Sir John French, came into action for the first time on August 24th. The enemy had now accumulated driving force and impetus. Longwy fell after a 24 days' siege; the French line was driven in on the Meuse near Sedan, necessitating a