

## UNYIELDING GERMAN LINE ACROSS FRANCE BROKEN BY ALLIES AT NANCY

### FRENCH DRIVE INVADERS BACK TO FATHERLAND

Offensive Resumed by Allies After Long Period of Comparative Inaction—Fighting Continues Along the Belgian-French Border With Undiminished Ferocity.

LONDON, Oct. 27.—The unyielding German line, which for six weeks has been stretched across France, is said by the French war office to have been broken at last. Near the eastern end of the line, in the region beyond Nancy, today's French official statement reports the invaders have been driven back on to German soil. At other points over a long line the offensive has been resumed by the allied forces after a long period of comparative inaction.

The French claim to have won the advantage in an engagement at the point where the line sweeps eastward, less than sixty miles from Paris. Between Soissons and Berry-au-Bac, to the east of the head in the line, heavy fighting has been resumed. Apparently the engagement was limited to an artillery duel, the entrenched positions of the opposing forces forbidding the use of infantry.

**Allies Hold the Line**  
To the northward, along the Franco-Belgian border, the fighting continues with undiminished ferocity. Along the Yser where the struggle had been most intense, the allies have not drawn back, says the French official statement, while toward the south farther progress has been made between Ypres and Roulers.

As reports filter in from the scene of fighting along the North sea, supplementing the unemotional official statements, it became evident today that the recent battles along the shore of the North sea have been the most terrible of the war. From Emperor William himself, it is said, came the order that the German advance down the coast must be continued at any cost and that Calais must be taken. The desperate assaults which followed, particularly along the Yser canal, have few precedents in modern military history.

**5000 Germans Sacrificed**  
British newspaper correspondents estimate that some 5000 Germans succeeded in forcing their way across the canal. They did it at a frightful cost. Into a hailstorm of shrapnel and shot the Germans charged night after night, only to be cut down by the thousands. The canal was clogged at points with their bodies. Those who succeeded in forcing their way across came to death grips with their waiting adversaries, and with rifle shot and bayonet the struggle went on. Of the Germans who crossed the Yser, according to British reports, few escaped alive.

All reports agree that the fighting in the east continues without decisive result. The French official statement says that on the river San and south of Przemysl the Russian offensive is becoming "more accentuated." Latest official Austrian communications state that the main Russian army is being engaged and that minor successes have been won by the Germans and Austrians. From Petrograd no report had come up to early afternoon.

### RUSSIANS RENEW PRZEMYSL ATTACK

PARIS, Oct. 27, 1:40 p. m.—The Russian bombardment of the Przemysl fortress, says a dispatch to the Havas News Agency from Petrograd, continues during the night, aided by strong searchlights. Deserters' say many of the fort's defenders are succumbing to epidemics and that the medicines and provisions virtually are exhausted. All the men of the garrison are obliged to work continually on the fortifications which the Russians are said to be fast destroying.

### KAISER ORDERS CALAIS TAKEN AT ANY COST

Battle of Straits of Dover Still Undecided—Both Sides Reinforced—5000 Germans Sacrificed Crossing Yser River—Emperor Demands Channel Ports Be Taken.

LONDON, Oct. 27, 10:30 a. m.—The battle of the road to Calais still was undecided today.

The territory west of the Yser, the crossing of which cost the German army more men, compared with the area of hostilities, than any other single engagement in the war, continues to be the scene of deadliest conflict, and although it is said the flow of German reinforcements seems to be without end, they apparently have made no noteworthy advance since gaining this river.

**Allies Reinforced**  
The left wing of the allies has been reinforced, a fact which may be due in part to efforts to offset the constant tide of fresh German troops and in part to make good the decreased activity of the British fleet, which, according to German advices, has been forced to withdraw further from the coast because of the German artillery. No German ships, aside from submarines, have been reported in this vicinity. The tone of all articles in the London press seems to be that the appearance of German warships would be welcomed as pre-empting that sea battle for which the Britons have long been hoping.

Germany has a number of small cruisers at Wilhelmshaven, together with a detachment of destroyers, and the sudden appearance of some of some of these ships would be no surprise.

**Kaiser's Imperative Order**  
Dispatches reaching London say Emperor William has demanded unequivocally that Calais be taken and a telegram received today quoting the Saxon Gazette, gives what purports to be an ambitious plan of German invasion, once the north coast of France is in their hands.

The towns of West Flanders, over and through which the battle for the coast has been waging, are in ruins. The canals are choked with dead and the countryside is scarred as if by an earthquake.

That the Germans have not been alone in heavy losses is attested by a dispatch declaring that the Belgians lost 10,000 men when they were driven from the banks of the Yser.

The biggest of the German guns are now reported to be at Bruges. They apparently are yet to be brought into action and some of the most terrible stages of the conflict remain to be decided.

**In Winter Quarters**  
There has been no notable change along the battle line in France proper, although the Germans claim that the fate of Verdun will be sealed promptly as soon as their powerful guns get into action.

From near Rheims has come a dispatch dwelling upon the local indications that the Germans are preparing to hold their positions in that part of the Aisne all winter.

Most of the claims from the eastern arena of the war continue to give the upper hand to the Russians, although the Germans are rallying and seeking to stem the Russian onrush.

It seems to be officially confirmed that Italy has landed forces in Albania and that Greeks also are making their way into this territory.

### FRENCH MORATORIUM GRADUALLY MODIFIED

BORDEAUX, Oct. 27, 5:20 p. m.—President Poincare today signed a decree modifying the moratorium proclaimed on August 31 and providing for a gradual return to normal financial conditions.



Dr. Withycombe first opposed the single item veto proposed by Dr. Smith. He spoke against it as a "dangerous weapon in the hands of the executive." Lately he has asserted that he favors it. This is a sample of the stability of his convictions.

### SPIRITED BATTLE ON DOVER STRAITS AND NEAR NANCY

PARIS, Oct. 27, 2:44 p. m.—The French official announcement given out this afternoon says that spirited fighting continues between the mouth of Yser and Lens; that in this district the allies have not drawn back, and that they have continued to advance in the region between Ypres and Roulers and elsewhere.

The text of the communication follows: "The fighting continues to be particularly spirited between the mouth of the Yser and the region of Lens. In this part of the front the allied forces have at no point drawn back and they have continued to make progress in the region between Ypres and Roulers. In the general region between Soissons and Berry-au-Bac an artillery engagement resulted in our advantage and resulted in the destruction of several batteries of the enemy."

"In the region to the east of Nancy between the forest of Bezange and the forest of Parroy we have assumed the offensive and have driven the enemy across the frontier."

"Russia: On the River San and to the south of Przemysl the Russian offensive is becoming more accentuated."

### MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF FLOUR SHIPPED

NEW ORLEANS, La., Oct. 27.—What is said by local railroad officials to be the largest consignment of flour to a single consignee from an American port is being concentrated here for the Netherlands government. Already 144 carloads, shown on railroad waybills as 4,722,000 pounds, has arrived. An equal amount soon will be in transit, it is stated. The flour was milled in Kansas, and it is understood will be transported to Europe in vessels of the Holland-American line.

### RUSH OF KAISER'S TROOPS TO DUNKIRK CHECKED AT LAST

LONDON, Oct. 27, 1:15 p. m.—On a miniature scale the status of the opposing armies in Upper Belgium ran parallel today to the conditions which prevailed when the German rush toward Paris was checked. The German forward movement has been characterized by an even greater prodigality of men than was shown in the march in the direction of Paris. The invaders succeeded for days in battering their way on and then suddenly came to something which caused them to pause.

Since Saturday no German gain has been recorded and it is apparent the allies have either brought up such strong reinforcements or entrenched themselves so well, or both, that the Germans must sacrifice man after man for every foot of ground.

The flat country in West Flanders permits no such entrenchments as made the area of hostilities in France famous, but the British and Belgians with warships at their backs, have dug themselves in wherever practicable, while throwing out every obstacle possible to impede the enemy.

Whether Germany can drive her forces like a ram through the allied barrier is a task, the result of which should decide the success or failure of her plan to reach Calais and from there set in motion a long cherished scheme to harass England. On the other hand the failure of the German forbes to progress, it is maintained by military observers in England, probably would mean another retreat.

A statement issued by the official press bureau today indicated how slowly each side must feel its way among the hundreds of little Belgian villages. To go forward without a careful reconnoitering would be extremely perilous, as it never is known whether a village is merely occupied by harmless citizens, or by armed forces ready to attack.

The admiralty has not yet admitted that the monitors working off the Belgian coast have sustained any damage though the Germans claim to have reached the vessels with their artillery.

### GRAIN SHORTAGE THREATS NATIONS NOW AT WAR

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Germany and Russia will have less grain this year to draw upon to feed their armies, according to statistics cabled to the department of agriculture today by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

Wheat production in Prussian this year is estimated at 91,000,000 bushels, or 85 per cent of last year's crop, while rye production is 234,000,000 bushels, or 90.6 per cent; oats 410,000,000 bushels or 90.7 per cent and barley 82,000,000 or 81.2 per cent.

In Asiatic Russia (ten governments), the wheat production is estimated at 121,000,000 bushels or 87.7 per cent of last year's crop; rye, 30,000,000 bushels, or 103.1 per cent of last year; oats, 122,000,000 bushels, or 90.6 per cent.

Japan's rice crop is estimated at 13 per cent greater than last year, the present crop being 17,808,000,000 pounds.

### EX-KING MANUEL VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT

LONDON, Oct. 27, 5:35 p. m.—Failing the acceptance of the offer of his services by King George for the war against Germany, Manuel, former king of Portugal, has now offered the government of the republic of Portugal to serve with the Portuguese contingent if that country decides to join the allies.

### REFUGEES FROM CALAIS ARRIVING AT HAVRE

LONDON, Oct. 27, 9:15 a. m.—Two thousand refugees from Calais, fearing a German advance, have arrived in Havre, says a Reuter's Telegram company dispatch from that place. Most of them have been distributed in towns in the center and north of France.

### HUNDRED COAL MINERS PERISH IN EXPLOSION

Hundred Out of Estimated Three Hundred in Mitchell Colliery at Royalton, Ill., Escape, Balance Incinerated, Imprisoned on Lower Level—Cause Explosion Unknown.

ROYALTON, Ill., Oct. 27.—One hundred or more miners probably were burned to death in the Mitchell coal mine near here today when a terrific explosion occurred in the lower level of the mine soon after 300 men had begun work.

Of those who entered the mine, about 100 escaped, but thirty bodies soon were brought to the surface and more than 100 other men were known still to be imprisoned in a lower level cut off from rescue by fire.

Because of the fire, attempts of rescuers to enter the shaft were impossible, and it was thought all of those shut off by the wall of flames in the interior were burned to death.

### Village Is Deserted

Royalton, a mining village, eighty-six miles southeast of St. Louis, was deserted save for a woman telephone operator, soon after the report of the explosion came from the mine, about a mile away. The villagers all had gone to assist in the work of rescue. But the telephone operator helped, too. She sent out distress calls to surrounding towns and help was soon on the way from Duquoin, Murphysboro and Benton.

All the dead taken from the upper level had been overcome by gas and none had been burned.

The explosion occurred in the northwest corner of the mine, where from 150 to 300 men were working. Men in the southern part of the mine heard the explosion and hurried to the cages that took them to the surface.

### Explosion a Mystery

General Superintendent Mitchell said he could not account for the explosion, as the mine had been in continuous operation and no gases had been detected.

Lines of hose were carried down two shafts and an attempt was made to direct streams of water through cross shafts to the burning level.

Experts said the fire could be controlled only by sealing both entrance shafts and pumping water into the mine until all chambers were flooded. This, however, will not be done until all hope of rescuing the imprisoned miners is abandoned.

Twenty physicians accompanied the rescue car from Benton.

The mine belongs to the Franklin County Coal company.

At noon rescuers said they could see at least twenty five bodies on the upper level.

From this level, rescuers sought to check the fire in the lower level where one hundred men were trapped, by dropping blankets soaked with water. This temporarily checked the flames but the poisonous gases drove the fire fighters back.

### BELGIAN PARLIAMENT TO MEET AT HAVRE

LONDON, Oct. 27, 4:40 p. m.—Telegrams from Berlin state, according to a dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Amsterdam, that the report about convoking the Belgian parliament by the German administration in Belgium is a pure invention and that all attempts to connect Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's visit to Brussels therewith are unfounded.

The Belgian government intends, it is expected, to convocate at Havre both chambers and to open the session of parliament as usual on the second Tuesday in November. Numerous deputies and senators followed the flight of the Belgian ministry from Antwerp to Havre.

### VILLA ESCAPES ASSASSIN WHO ADMITS GUILT

Attempt to Murder Mexican General Frustrated—Would-be Slayer Shot After Confessing That He Was Employed by General Gonzales, Staunch Carranza Supporter.

EL PASO, Texas, Oct. 27.—An attempt has been made to assassinate General Francisco Villa by an agent said to have been commissioned and paid by General Pablo Gonzales, General Carranza's staunch supporter, said a message sent the Associated Press today by Luis Aguirre Benavides, General Villa's first secretary. The would-be assassin, Francisco I. Mugia, was executed after making a confession before George C. Carothers, the American consular agent.

The accusation caused much excitement. The telegram from Villa's secretary said Mugia was apprehended at Guadalupe where Villa with his troops has been awaiting the outcome of the conference. The official report stated that the prisoner just prior to his execution had told the Villa officials in the presence of Carothers that he had been paid a large sum of money by General Gonzales at Mexico City. In his possession was found incriminating evidence and a loaded pistol.

"Mr. Consul: Please advise your government and my family that I died a traitor," Mugia was noted as having said.

The accused was an Argentine subject. It was Mugia who assassinated a German consular official in Mexico City some years ago.

General Pablo Gonzales, commander of the division of the east, has been regarded as Villa's strongest opponent in Villa's controversies with Carranza.

General Villa notified the convention delegates at Aguas Calientes of the matter, suggesting to them that they "act in the present case as justice and the Mexican honor demands."

### PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO STEEL TRUST

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 27.—David A. Reed of Pittsburgh concluded his argument for the defense today in the government's dissolution suit against the United States Steel corporation brought under the Sherman anti-trust law. In closing he submitted charts tending to show that the purchasing power of iron and steel as compared with other commodities has steadily fallen with the exception of two or three years since 1899.

This showing, he argued, refutes the government's charge that the steel corporation controlled prices. The steel trade is bigger than the steel corporation, Mr. Reed said, and competition has steadily forced down prices.

Mr. Reed said it is a high tribute to the steel companies that it continues prosperous and pays high wages while prices are steadily falling.

### WINTER'S FIRST TOUCH IN EASTERN STATES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Winter's first warning touched the country east of the great central valleys today and promised killing frosts in the lake region, the interior of New England, the middle Atlantic states and in the south, probably as far as the gulf states and northern Florida.

Clear, crisp, autumn weather was predicted generally, except about the lakes and east of the upper Ohio valley, where light snows or cold rains were expected.