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ST. QUENTIN AND DAMASCUS CAPTURED BOCHE RETREAT FROM HINDENBURG LINE

ST QUENTIN CAPTURED BY FOCH'S ARMY

Cornerstone of Hindenburg Defense System Taken by Allies—Germans Make Desperate Struggle and Fire City—Everywhere Allies Advance Through Enemy Lines—British Drive Salient Entirely Through Defense System Opposite Le Catelet.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Oct. 2.—(Reuter's.) The long, bitter battle is still raging, but it has turned so definitely in favor of the British that it is scarcely even now premature to hail it as a great victory.

To the north of the sector where the chief tactical gain of yesterday was scored (in the region north of St. Quentin), there was continuous and desperate fighting. Again and again the reserves of enemy storming troops were flung into the counter-attack and the battle swayed with incredible fury.

The fighting was resumed this morning with the enemy opposition increasing as reinforcements hurried to the line.

St. Quentin Captured PARIS, Oct. 2.—St. Quentin is taken and the cornerstone of the Hindenburg system has fallen. Thanks to the prodigious and unrelenting efforts of the armies of General Debeney and General Rawlinson, under the general direction of General Fayolle, it is a most resounding triumph.

St. Quentin's fall shakes the whole German system. Its effect will be widespread. This will be accentuated by the strong push that is being made in the upper Oise valley. The allies here are across the multiple waterways upon which the enemy so largely based his defenses.

Hun Retreat Probable Under the circumstances the holding by the crown prince's armies of their positions on the Albert and the Aisne is out of the question. Outflanked from the north and harried by General Mangin, who is now along the Aisne, as far as south of Craonne, the crown prince's armies are in a much graver position than were those of Generals von Boehm and von Hutier on the Marne and the Aisne in July.

A general German retreat becomes more and more imperative. The problem for General Ludendorff is

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REORGANIZATION OF HUN MINISTRY

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 2.—Plans are under consideration of the reorganization of both the imperial German and Prussian ministries on the lines of a parliamentary system, according to the Berlin Tagblatt, which quotes Friedrich von Payer, the imperial vice-chancellor, to this effect.

The vice-chancellor, the newspaper says, received the leaders of all the parties yesterday and discussed the contemplated parliamentary system which the vice-chancellor declared would extend to the Prussian as well as to the imperial ministry.

The representatives of the right of the Independent Socialists and of the Poles, the Tagblatt states, have refused to co-operate in the formation of a coalition government.

BRITISH SMASH THRU GERMAN LINE OF DEFENSE

Salient Driven in North of St. Quentin Breaks Hindenburg System—Cambrai Encircled and Attackers Take 1,700 Additional Prisoners—Ground Won All Along Front.

LONDON, Oct. 2. (1:20 p. m.) Between Cambrai and St. Quentin the German line of defense has been broken. It is uncertain what lines the enemy has in the rear. The British advance threatens the German line of retreat in the Oise valley and also from the massif of St. Gobain.

In view of the loss to the Germans of St. Quentin and the lines to the north of that city an enemy retirement on a fairly large scale seems probable. Given fairly good weather some very big changes on the western front may be seen before winter.

British Create Salient WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Oct. 2.—(By Associated Press.) British forces, breaking thru the German line on the Beaufort-Wancourt front and capturing both these villages together with Sequehart, created a salient which aided materially in the capture of St. Quentin by the French.

The British Fourth army took these places, while the Third army captured Crevecoeur and Rumilly, south of Cambrai, and the high ground east and north of those villages.

The Canadians had a hard day yesterday north of Cambrai, the Germans making a determined stand around the burning city.

Cambrai Is Mined PARIS, Oct. 2.—(Havas.) Cambrai has been mined, but the British have fought around the town and thus foiled the enemy's plans. The Germans decided on September 1 to burn Cambrai and forced the civilian population to leave.

LONDON, Oct. 2.—Wide gaps have been torn in the German line between St. Quentin and Le Catelet by Field Marshal Haig's forces. The British commander reported today the breaking of the German line on the Ponsommes-Beaufort front.

Beaufort is 2 1/2 miles east of Le Catelet and Ponsommes is nearly 3 miles northeast of St. Quentin.

Sequehart, 4 1/2 miles south of Bellecourt, has been captured as has the hamlet of Preselles, just north.

Field Marshal Haig reported the Australians had finished the work of clearing out the German defenses south of Le Catelet and Gony and freed Juncourt, just to the south, of enemy troops.

SHOE PRICES FIXED BY WAR BOARD

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—Maximum and minimum retail prices for shoes as agreed to by the industry and ranging from \$3 to \$12 for men and women, were announced today by the war industries board. Shoes are grouped in three classes as follows: Class A from \$9 to \$12; class B, \$5 to \$8.50; class C, \$3 to \$5.50. Proportionate prices will be fixed for youths and children's footwear.

YANKS COMPEL WITHDRAWAL OF ENEMY FORCES

Americans Make Progress in Argonne Forest Driving Germans Back to the Junction of Betunhild and Kriemhild Systems—Enemy Attacks Growing Weaker.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—The enemy tonight appears to be withdrawing on the American left. Broadly speaking he is going in the direction of the junction of the Betunhild and Kriemhild systems.

In the Argonne forest Americans made progress today. East of the forest they are operating north of Clerges and hold positions on the road from Gesnes to Exermont.

In this district there has been stiff fighting, local positions repeatedly changing hands until the Americans today established their supremacy. German efforts to penetrate or bend the line between the Meuse and the Aisne dwindled rapidly today.

The Americans repulsed a counter-attack north of Apremont. The German front line and back areas were shelled vigorously. In the afternoon the clouds disappeared and aviators were able to resume their observation patrols and pursue enemy planes and balloons.

Restoring the Country Engineers have converted the areas back of the American front into an orderly place once more. Roads that have been untouched for years and made worse by the movement of tank trains and artillery, were once more made passable.

On the left flank of the Americans the French pressed their lines slightly forward, bringing near the line when the Germans must fight with less hopefulness to maintain their line west of the Meuse.

American detachments in the Argonne forest continue to clean up that wilderness, sending back scores of machine guns, trench mortars and other captured material, among which were three observation balloons. They had been left in their shed at the eastern edge of Exermont wood.

Mines Removed In addition to their work of reconstructing bridges and roads the engineers have had to remove numerous mines. Many positions abandoned by the Germans have been elaborately camouflaged with mines, but almost every mine was sprung by the engineers, who traced the wires to a train left nearby.

Below the level of the town there was hundreds of yards of subterranean passages which had been turned into comfortable, even luxurious, quarters.

Information reaching American headquarters continues to indicate confusion behind the German lines in organization. It is known the enemy is using units as small as platoons to reinforce those in the fighting line.

BURN RHINE CITIES IN RETALIATION FOR DESTROYING FRANCE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—An ultimatum to Germany regarding the ruthless destruction of cities and private property in northern France and Belgium is being urged on the allies and the United States and is under consideration.

The burning of Cambrai and St. Quentin and the devastation of one of the most populous regions of Europe as the Germans retreat, has aroused great indignation, and it was said in diplomatic circles today that Germany would be warned soon that if she allows the work of destruction to continue, severe reprisals will follow.

It is suggested that the cities of the Rhine should be marked for destruction and the Berlin government told that for every French and Belgian city ruined without military reason a city equally important and valuable sentimentally and materially will be laid waste.

TURK FORTRESS OF DAMASCUS WON BY BRITISH

Turkish Base in Syria and Palestine Captured and Fall Probably Means End of All Turkish Resistance in Palestine and Syria—Is One of the Holy Cities of Mohammedans.

LONDON, Oct. 2.—Damascus, the capital of Syria, was occupied by General Allenby's forces on Tuesday morning, according to an official statement issued today by the British war office.

Damascus is the Turkish base in Syria and Palestine and its fall probably means the end of all Turkish resistance to General Allenby in Palestine and Syria. The ancient city is the junction point of railroads.

Allep is the most important Turkish base in this region of Asia-Minor as it is a junction point of the railroads from Palestine and Mesopotamia.

Damascus has a population of about 150,000. It is one of the Holy Cities of the Mohammedans and the Arabs regard it as one of the four paradises on earth.

The capture of Damascus marks an advance of 130 miles by General Allenby's forces since September 29. In that time the British have captured more than 59,000 prisoners, destroyed at least three Turkish armies and driven the enemy from Palestine and a great part of Syria.

RAPID PROGRESS MADE BY FRENCH IN AISNE DRIVE

2,000 Prisoners Taken and Many Towns Redeemed—Germans Being Forced Back to Old Line—Boche Retreat Becoming Swift as Allied Forces Push Forward.

LONDON, Oct. 2.—(5 p. m., by Associated Press.) Two thousand prisoners have been taken by the French between the Vesle and the Aisne in their operations of the last two days.

General Berthelot's army is making good progress between the Vesle river and the Aisne canal. The French troops have captured five or six villages and their advance at some points has reached a depth of from five to six kilometers.

Advance Is Rapid PARIS, Oct. 2.—The armies of General Gouraud and Berthelot on the fronts east and west of Rheims continued to advance today against the Germans who appeared to be falling back more hurriedly than at any time since September 25.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Tuesday, Oct. 1.—(By Associated Press.) Three French armies won important successes today. While General Debeney's forces were marching thru St. Quentin to Rouvray across the Somme, General Berthelot's army made a big gain on the St. Thierry massif, northwest of Rheims. Farther east, General Gouraud's army advanced still further north toward vital German positions.

General Berthelot's men have virtually crossed the hills between Rheims and the Aisne. On that river they held the left bank as far east as Concreux and have taken Bouvincourt, Havelon, Trigny and St. Thierry. They also are in Nouville, a mile and a half northwest of Rheims.

Important Gains Made General Gouraud, attacking in the Champagne sector, advanced north of Aune to within a thousand yards of Liry. Farther east, even more important results were obtained in the advance north of Bouconville and Binerville. His line was pushed on to Vieux and Lancon, crowding the Grandpre gap and putting the German forces west of the Montpois-Vouziers line into an awkward position.

Their communications with the forces operating in Argonne forest and east of it are virtually cut, which means that this region becomes untenable. German counter-attacks in the region south of Liry were repulsed with severe losses to the enemy.

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES IN FRANCE, Oct. 2.—(By Associated Press.) It was reported tonight that the Americans on the front between the Meuse and the Argonne had again moved forward over one of the most hotly contested sectors of their advance, the ground north and west of Montauzon.

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND BURIED AT ST. PAUL

ST. PAUL, Minn., Oct. 2.—State, municipal, civic and industrial activities in St. Paul and Minneapolis halted today when the body of Archbishop John Ireland of the Roman Catholic diocese of St. Paul, was borne to a grave in Calvary cemetery.

The ceremony in the Archdiocese cathedral this forenoon and the funeral procession at noon were considered solemnly impressive. Nearly one thousand Catholic clergymen participated in the ceremony.

More than seventy-five thousand persons escorted the body to a small green plot in Calvary cemetery.

GERMANS MOVE ARTILLERY FROM BELGIAN COAST

Allied Forces Continue Advance. Working Forward Through Sea of Mud and Encircling Roulers and Menin, Both of Which Have Been Fired by the Huns.

PARIS, Oct.—The Germans are moving their heavy artillery away from the Belgian coast, according to reports received here today. The Belgian army, co-operating with the British army under General Plummer and the French army of General Daguette, successfully renewed today their heavy attacks on the Flanders front.

Menin on Fire PARIS, Oct. 1.—The towns of Menin and Roulers, railway junctions in Flanders, have been set on fire by Germans in face of the advancing Belgian, British and French troops.

French guns now control the railway line running from Ostend, through Thourout and Roulers to Courtrai. British bombers are co-operating actively in bombarding the German line on and near the coast.

LONDON, Oct. 2.—French and Belgian troops have made fresh progress in the direction of Hooghelede and Roulers and the British have seized Loelshiem on the Roulers-Menin railway, says last night Belgian official statement. A British detachment has crossed the Lys between Wervicq and Comines.

Roulers Outflanked WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FLANDERS, Oct. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Field Marshal Haig's forces today captured Rolleghelede and advanced for a distance of 3,000 yards southeast of Roulers.

Heavy rains and mud have been interfering with progress of the Belgian army and the second British army. Today with the weather clear and cold, a change favorable to the allies was expected.

The Belgian and British forces now are astride the Roulers-Menin road. The second British army co-operating with the Belgians in Flanders front continued today to press forward. In the process of encircling Armentiers it took the hamlet of Le Biset, close to Armentiers on the north.

Strong Counter Attacks On the Belgian front Belgian and French troops have been subjected to violent counter-attacks. Neither here nor the had weather, however, have stopped the advance, although the combination has the result of slowing down the allied progress.

The Germans are making desperate efforts in Flanders as everywhere else to stop the onrush. They realize that if the allies push even five miles further eastward on the Belgian front Ostend will become untenable, while an advance of 10 miles would jeopardize the entire coast line.

The Belgians today continued to work forward through a sea of mud and have taken Hooghelede and Handzewe, northeast of Roulers. They are also closing in on Roulers.

RETIREMENT TO BELGIUM IN PROGRESS

Long Trains of Transports Moving Back Behind German Lines—Boche Defense System Crumbling Under Foch's Blows—Hindenburg Line Broken by British—Cambrai Encircled and in Flames—Roulers and Menin Burning.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 2.—Germany's defenses between Cambrai and St. Quentin, are crumbling under the determined blows of Marshal Foch and the time of the expected German withdrawal from France and Belgium apparently is drawing appreciably nearer.

Under the attacks of British, French and American troops the Hindenburg defense system from the Scarpe to the Oise, a distance of 50 miles, is being overrun. In the north the valuable network of railroads in Flanders rapidly is becoming useless and in the south the French are pressing vigorously their advance west and north of Rheims.

Along the road running back from the St. Quentin-Cambrai line in France long trains of transports are moving toward the Belgian frontier. Retirement in Progress Military observers expect, now that a retirement is actually in progress that the whole German line will crumble as the Teutonic armies make their way back to their next defensive positions.

St. Quentin and Cambrai are in flames and the fall of the latter will probably mean the abandonment of Douai by the enemy. La Fere, south of St. Quentin, seems in peril and if that city is taken by the allies, the Germans will probably be forced to retire from the St. Gobain forest and Laon. When this occurs the backbone of the German line in northeastern France will be broken.

Northeast of St. Quentin, the British have advanced more than five miles eastward from the front line of the Hindenburg positions. A salient most dangerous to the enemy has been driven in between St. Quentin and Le Catelet, and the British are advancing through a big gap in the enemy line across important roads and railways toward La Cateau, one of the most important traffic centers west of the German border.

Cambrai Surrounded Cambrai has not yet been occupied by the British, but Field Marshal Haig has taken important heights south of the town and east of the Scheldt canal, thus drawing closer the net around Cambrai. The French met with spirited resistance in entering St. Quentin, but succeeded in pushing the enemy beyond the canal which cuts through the eastern suburbs. North and south of the town the French have advanced farther eastward.

In Flanders, the Germans are reported to have set fire to the railway junctions of Roulers and Menin and to be removing their big guns from the Belgian coast around the submarine base of Ostend, which is being outflanked. The Belgians now are

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WOUNDED KILLED BY GERMAN SHELL

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Tuesday, Oct. 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—Twenty patients, many of them already suffering from wounds received in battle, were killed when a German shell struck an American hospital several nights ago. The hospital was only a short distance behind the fighting line.