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67th YEAR. VOLUME 67 NUMBER 229 RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1917.—TEN PAGES. WEATHER PAGE 5 —FAIR PRICE, TWO CENTS

PREMIER'S SPEECH INDICATES VIEWS OF ALLIES ON PEACE

His Optimistic Assurances Hailed Joyfully by Entente Diplomats.

POPE'S MESSAGE LAID BEFORE THE PRESIDENT

Conferences Will Begin Shortly, but It Will Be Some Time Before Response Goes Forward.

NO COMMENT BY OFFICIALS

Changes in Military Situation Make It to Germany's Advantage to Endeavor to End War.

WASHINGTON, August 16.—Premier Lloyd George's optimistic speech in the British Parliament to-day was interpreted here as a preliminary indication of the attitude the allied nations may be expected to adopt toward any discussion of peace on a basis which might permit Germany as a conqueror to dictate terms.

News of the Premier's speech came while the State Department was receiving by cable the text of Pope Benedict's message to the leaders of all belligerent nations, proposing a basis for peace negotiations, and earnestly appealing for its consideration. In entente diplomatic quarters and among government officials Lloyd George's announcement of improvement in food conditions, removing the danger of England being starved into submission, his assurance that losses through submarine attacks continued to decrease, and his declaration that there would be sufficient tonnage for 1918 and for 1919 if necessary, were hailed joyfully.

The Pope's message was laid before President Wilson by Secretary Lansing. Conferences will begin shortly, but necessarily some time must elapse before the response goes forward.

SLIGHT DIFFERENCES DUE TO VARYING TRANSLATIONS

A translation of the message made public by the State Department tonight does not differ materially from the unofficial version cabled from Europe. Slight differences are due to varying translations of French idioms. Where the unofficial text has the message addressed to the "rulers" of the belligerent peoples, the department's translation makes it "leaders." Instead of "lovely" exhortations, the official translation reads "earnest" exhortations. Instead of Germany being required to guarantee Belgium's independence of "it," the official version says "of any power whatsoever."

While there already have been many informal conferences among officials and diplomats regarding the Pope's proposals, Secretary Lansing so far has not discussed the subject with the President, and also has refrained from communicating his views regarding the character of the reply which should be made, to any of the many diplomatic callers.

Mr. Lansing has also deprecated any attempt by the newspapers to forecast the action of the government in this matter, as likely to prove embarrassing.

NO SUCH RETICENCE AMONG THE DIPLOMATS

Among other officials and the diplomats there is no such reticence. While battles have increased in number and waxed in intensity and the slaughter has continued in a distressful manner, it is pointed out, there has been no such change in general war conditions as would warrant a different reception for peace proposals from any quarter than would have been accorded to those made a year ago. Attention is directed to the fact that any such changes as may have occurred in the military situation have made it distinctly to the advantage of the central powers to endeavor to make peace now.

Notwithstanding the different and conflicting statements made by German and Austrian ministers as to a basis for peace negotiations, it is declared by some of the diplomats who have closely studied the situation that nowhere has there been any real evidence of an abandonment of the first German demand for a peace, which would insure the central powers actual military, if not technical and political, control of the territories in possession of the Germanic troops when peace is declared.

The Germans, in possession of most of Belgium and a large part of France, were quite willing a year ago to make peace, but with the Russians in possession of some of their best eastern provinces, the Austrian government was not of like mind. Now, it is pointed out by the entente diplomats, as a result of the collapse of the Russian offensive, and the clearing of Galicia of Russian troops, the Austrian government also is willing and anxious for peace, as are the Germans, in the knowledge that the tide has turned against them in the west, and that next year probably will find them in possession of little or no French and Belgian territory.

VATICAN NOT INFLUENCED BY MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS

It is admitted by these diplomats that it is inconceivable that the Vatican should have been influenced by any of these military considerations, but it is insisted that they must be taken into account by the Foreign Offices of the entente powers when they pass upon the Pope's appeal.

In addition to consulting with President Wilson, Secretary Lansing will begin now to ascertain the views of entente governments regarding the Pope's message. Although no party to a formal alliance, the United States,

(Continued on Second Page.)

Germany's Only Hope Is in Defeat of England

[By Associated Press.]

COPENHAGEN, August 16.—General von Ardenne, military critic of the Berlin Tageblatt, warns the German military leaders that they must bestir themselves to find some strategic or tactical means of winning a decisive victory on the western front, and of defeating England, the soul of the hostile coalition on land. Otherwise, he says, there is no hope of bringing the war to an honorable end for Germany.

German leadership, General Ardenne maintains, always has been able to direct the campaign into new courses when stagnation threatened, and he believes methods will be found to force England, through battles on land, to seek peace. The military critic intimates that this might be done by an attempt to overwhelm the French army, which he assumes is weakened and discouraged, before the arrival of American assistance, which, he says, would leave England isolated.

PREMIER GIVES MESSAGE OF CONFIDENCE TO NATION

Declares People of British Isles Cannot Be Starved, Despite Submarine Campaign.

MILITARY SITUATION BETTER

Difficulties of Allies Will Grow Less and Their Power Increase, While Troubles of Germany Will Increase and Power Fall Away.

[By Associated Press.]

LONDON, August 16.—A message of hope and quiet confidence in the future was given to the British nation today in the House of Commons by Premier Lloyd George. The people of the British Isles cannot be starved, notwithstanding the German submarine campaign, and the military situation grows more hopeful. The difficulties of the allies will grow less and their power increase, while the troubles of Germany will increase and her power fall away.

"This is the supreme hour for patience," the Premier declared in conclusion, "for courage, for endurance, for hope, for unity. Let us go through this hour with a temper that will enable us to destroy a great military despotism. Let us go through this hour with the old temper of our race, so that next year we shall begin, and the world shall begin, to reap the fruits of our valor."

The Premier said that this time last year the wheat in this country amounted to 6,450,000 quarters, and that now it is 8,500,000 quarters. The stock of oats and barley, he declared, also was higher.

BIG INCREASE IN ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION

Lloyd George said the acreage under cultivation showed an increase of 1,000,000 acres, if the harvest weather was good. The condition of food supplies was very satisfactory. The Premier added that there had been increases in the sugar reserve.

"The government has come to the conclusion," Premier Lloyd George said, "that with reasonable economy there is no chance of starving England out.

"The Admiralty plans for dealing with submarines have been increasingly successful."

Premier Lloyd George announced in the House of Commons to-day that the troops of Field Marshal Haig had captured Langemarck. The Premier said that Field Marshal Haig had telegraphed that 1,200 prisoners had been taken, and that five guns had been captured by noon to-day.

The British Premier said that in the single month of April, 560,000 gross tons of shipping were lost through Teuton submarines. In July the tonnage lost went down to 320,000 gross tons. This month there was a substantial improvement over that of July.

The net losses since the commencement of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare were under 250,000 tons a month.

The Premier said: "Germany now is barely able to hold her own—not even that."

Premier Lloyd George said that in the first six months of this year the new tonnage built was 484,000, while in the last six months, including purchases, the new tonnage would be 1,424,000.

ADDITION TO PROGRAM OF NAVAL CONSTRUCTION

The Premier also said that a considerable addition had been made in the program of naval construction.

In addition to capturing Langemarck, the Premier said, the British troops gained ground at many points. Severe fighting is continuing, with the result undetermined.

The French, Lloyd George added, had been co-operating most effectively on the British left, where the Canadian infantry had won conspicuous success.

With the co-operation of America, the Premier said, there would be sufficient tonnage for all of 1918, and if necessary, 1919. Although tonnage had decreased during the last year, he added, more goods had been carried from overseas. There had been a considerable saving in bread consumption, the Premier said, and owing to closer milling and food economy there had been addition to the wheat stock of 70,000 quarters per week. (A quarter is equivalent to eight bushels).

NO TIME FOR REVIEW OF MILITARY SITUATION

"I do not think," the Premier said, "the time has come for a useful review of the military situation. The main facts are well known to the House and the country. I had anticipated this year a great converging movement against our foes. Russia was equipped for that part as she

(Continued on Second Page.)

M'COY AND PHIPPS ATTEMPT ESCAPE

Alleged Conspirators Saw Bars and Prepare for Wholesale Jail Delivery.

PLACED UNDER HEAVY GUARD

Evidence Tends to Show That German Money Is Used Plentifully.

[By Associated Press.]

BIG STONE GAP, VA., August 16.—W. V. McCoy and J. W. Phipps, on trial here for conspiracy against the government, attempted a wholesale jail delivery early to-night. They and two other prisoners had sawed the bars to windows in the jail and were about to make their escape when the matter was reported by another prisoner.

Phipps and McCoy are under heavy guard to-night, and other prisoners were taken to the county convict camps until repairs are made on the jail.

Phipps and McCoy were put on trial to-day, and the first case will go to the jury some time to-morrow. A charge of "enlisting men for the purpose of waging war against the United States" was thrown out, on instruction of the court this afternoon. The charge on which they are being tried is "conspiring to seize and destroy arms and munitions of war."

EVIDENCE SHOWS ACTIVITY OF AGENTS FOR GERMANY

Evidence offered to-day tends to show that German agents had used large sums of money and other inducements to inspire the mountaineers to rebellion.

In his opening address to the court, District Attorney Byrd said the government would show that Phipps and McCoy had been offered $10,000 for their leadership work in arousing the people of this section to open rebellion.

Eleven witnesses were examined on the charge of "conspiracy to seize and destroy arms and munitions of the government," and this charge will be submitted to the jury to-morrow morning.

One other count of the five indictments to be tried after this is "interference with the war draft."

Witnesses examined to-day testified that they had been approached by McCoy and Phipps with proposals to join an organization to rob banks in several towns in this community, destroy railway property and otherwise interfere with the movement of war supplies and the drafting of men for war service.

A copy of what is alleged to be the original copy of a "declaration of war" was submitted as evidence by the district attorney.

HAS GALLON BUCKET FILLED WITH MONEY

Witness Noah Johnson testified that he was in McCoy's shoe shop and saw two strange and suspicious-looking men talking guardedly to McCoy. They had a gallon tin bucket full of something wrapped in paper. He testified that he saw one of the men tear a corner of the paper, and saw money. He said that the bills he saw were of large denomination.

Johnson also testified that McCoy had told him that the Germans would give the conspirators under McCoy and Phipps $30,000 for blowing up three important railroad bridges in this section. He said this statement was made to him by McCoy when he was in McCoy's shop and saw the money. He swore that he had been called to the shop by McCoy and solicited to join the conspiracy. He refused to have anything to do with the matter. It was before he had refused that he had seen the money in the bucket.

MAJOR BILLINGSLEA KILLED

Chief of Sanitation Work at Camp Meade Found Dead in His Tent.

[By Associated Press.]

BALTIMORE, August 16.—Major Charles Billingslea, United States Army, chief of the sanitation work at Camp Meade, was found dead from a bullet from an army service pistol in his tent at the camp this afternoon. A committee of five officers, headed by Colonel Klein, of the Tenth New York Infantry, decided the shooting was accidental.

It was stated that Major Billingslea had been examining a new army service pistol. No one was in his tent.

Major Charles C. Billingslea was a native of Westminster, Md., and had been in the United States Army for fifteen years. Part of it he had spent in the Philippines, and more recently he had been assigned to Fort Myer, Va. He is survived by a widow and three children.

ESCAPED GERMANS CAUGHT

Three Who Got Away From Detention Camp at Fort Oglethorpe Captured in Trenton, Ga.

[By Associated Press.]

CHATTANOOGA, August 16.—William Wagner, Robert Aeur and Gustav Hartwig, three Germans, who escaped from the detention camp at Fort Oglethorpe on Wednesday, were captured at Trenton, Ga., to-day, having been recognized by Miss Elanore Coonrad, a woman lawyer of Chattanooga. They have been taken back to camp.

PROTEST GOES TO BERLIN

Dutch Government Resents Violation of Territorial Waters by German Torpedo Boats.

[By Associated Press.]

THE HAGUE, August 16.—Official announcement was made to-day that the Netherlands minister at Berlin had been instructed to protest seriously to the German Foreign Office against the violation on August 7 of Dutch territorial waters by German airplanes and torpedo boats off the Scheldt.

NEGRO ASSAILANT OF GIRLS LYNCHED

Northumberland Farmers Break Virginia's 18-Year Record by Hanging William Page.

WIT SAVES INTENDED VICTIM

Captured by Father, Taken From Sheriff and Executed in School Yard Within Four Hours.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

HEATHSVILLE, VA., August 16.—Virginia's unblemished lynching record of eighteen years' standing has been broken.

At Lilian, Northumberland County, within a few miles of Heathsville, William Page, a colored farm hand recently accepted for the new national army, last night was hanged by a party of nearly 500 masked and grimly determined farmers, following an attempted assault made upon the daughter and niece of Captain Truitt, one of the most prominent farmers on the Northern Neck.

That the assailant of the young women was unsuccessful was due entirely to the presence of mind displayed by eighteen-year-old Miss Truitt, the object of Page's attack. She it was who sped to her parents' home, after outwitting the negro, and gave the alarm. Truitt, armed with a shotgun loaded with buckshot, was on the trail of the negro within a few minutes, and captured him in less than half an hour. Three hours later, the negro's body was dangling from a tree within the confines of a small negro settlement, and the farmers who had meted out summary justice were dispersing quietly for their homes.

The attack was made about 8 o'clock in the evening and within a stone's throw of the Truitt residence. Miss Truitt and her young cousin were returning home, when suddenly they heard a movement in the bushes beside the road, and the burly form of a negro appeared at their horse's head. As the horse stepped, the negro slipped rapidly to the side of the buggy in which the girls were driving.

NEGRO GRABS GIRLS AND DRAGS THEM TO GROUND

Reaching in, he grabbed Miss Truitt and her cousin by the arms. The elder girl was too frightened to offer opposition for a few seconds after the negro caught hold of her, and the younger was quite paralyzed with fear. However, as she felt herself being dragged forth, Miss Truitt began to fight. She hit the negro in the face, scratched and poked at his eyes, but, with her cousin, was dragged forth to the ground where the younger girl collapsed in a heap.

With the collapse of the child, Page turned his attention to Miss Truitt. In spite of the fight which the young woman made, Page hurled her to the ground. There she was being overpowered by the giant black when her ready wit came to her assistance.

Pretending to see a neighbor approaching along the road, she cryingly pleaded with him for aid. At first the negro did not notice the appeal, but the girl cried out again for succor from the supposed man, and this time Page heard and looked up. It was while his face was elevated and half-turned toward her that Miss Truitt recognized her assailant as Page, a negro recently employed by her father.

As the negro hesitated, Miss Truitt once more begged assistance of the imagined neighbor, insisting that he hurry and save her. So sharp was her demand, so true her acting, that Page released her and stood up ready to meet an assault.

"Hit him!" the girl on the ground exclaimed.

With the words, Page gave one glance around and took to his heels, running up the road a short distance before plunging into the heavy woods which bordered it.

REVIVES COUSIN AND HURRIES HOME WITH NEWS

Miss Truitt revived her cousin and lifted her into the buggy, in which she drove rapidly the short distance to her home.

There the story of the attempted assault soon was sobbed out to Captain Truitt, a stanch old Virginian, who places the safety of his womenfolk first and the majesty of the Commonwealth second, and who is one of the foremost citizens of the Northern Neck.

A few minutes served to satisfy Truitt that his daughter and niece were unharmed. Within ten minutes after the girls had arrived, he had secured his shotgun, loaded it with buckshot and, with a pocketful of shells, was on the road in search of their assailant.

Captain Truitt knew the negroes of the neighborhood as well as he knew the locality itself. He first searched along the road near the scene of the assault, and then proceeded at once to the little store that stands just between the white and negro settlements.

Several farmers were loafing around the counters as he entered, and it was a few minutes before Truitt recognized the dark figure at the rear. His entrance had attracted no particular attention, but the bristling command of "Hands up!" that he addressed to Page, who was half hiding close to the back of the store, focused all eyes upon him. Page, with the others in the room, wheeled toward Truitt, to look into the muzzle of the double-barreled shotgun.

PAGE ONLY MAN WHO RAISES ARMS INTO AIR

Slowly Page's arms went toward the ceiling. The action would have been self-convicting even if Miss Truitt had not identified him positively to her father, for all the farmers in the room were too surprised to move. Obeying Truitt's orders, the negro advanced to the front of the store, and there he was secured by others in the room at the command of Truitt, who continued

(Continued on Second Page.)

Army Is Reorganized, as Urged by Pershing, Along European Lines

Recently Announced Divisional Plan to Be Carried Down Into Regiments and Companies.

[By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, August 16.—Complete reorganization of all branches of the American army to conform with European standards, as recommended by Major-General Pershing, is provided for in army orders revealing that the recently announced divisional reorganization plan is to be carried down into the regiments and companies.

The administrative unit of the infantry arm hereafter will be a company with 250 enlisted men and six commissioned officers, in place of something over 100 men and three officers. The company will be divided into four platoons, each in command of a lieutenant. There will be two captains as first and second in command, one first lieutenant and three second lieutenants. Reports of the review of the American troops in France yesterday show that this plan already has been carried in General Pershing's forces.

The object of assigning two captains to each company, it is understood, is to provide against disorganization of the unit through the loss of its commander. The second captain, under the European system, does not go into battle line with the company if his senior is present. He is held as a reserve to reorganize the company if necessary.

TOTAL OF 3,000 MEN IN EACH REGIMENT

Under the new plan, each regiment will have three battalions of four companies, making a total of 3,000 men. Supplemented by the regimental headquarters, supply and machine-gun organizations, the strength of the new regiments will be brought up to approximately 3,600 men, as against little more than 2,000 in existing war-strength regiments.

The unit organization of the field artillery and other arms of the service has not been changed. As a result of reducing the number of regiments in a division, the division, instead of 28,000 men, will total hereafter about 19,000 men—15,000 of them infantry.

The advantages of the system, in addition to the better adaptation of the divisional unit to trench warfare, lies chiefly in the reduction in overhead expenses. One colonel and his regimental staff, including his three battalion commanders, will now handle 3,600 men, instead of a little more than 2,000.

To-day's orders show that provision has been made for organization of thirty-two new infantry divisions in addition to the regular divisions, out of troops already called to the colors, including the first increment of 687,000 drafted men. A system of numerical designations has been worked out under which any division numbered below 26 will be regulars; between 26 and 75, National Guard, and 76 and above, national army. Regular infantry brigades will be numbered from 1 to 50, inclusive; National Guard, from 51 to 150, and national army, from 151 up. Regular regiments will be numbered from 1 to 100, National Guard from 101 to 300, and national army from 301 up.

ASSIGNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NUMERICAL ORDER

Assignment of brigade, regimental or other numerical designation will be in accordance with the numerical order of divisions, with the result that any person familiar with the system will know that the Three Hundred and Thirty-fifth Infantry, for instance, is attached to the One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Brigade of the Eighty-fourth Infantry Division, and that it is composed of national army troops, while the Three Hundredth Infantry Regiment, by the same process, would be in the One Hundred and Fiftieth Brigade and the Seventy-fifth Division, composed of National Guard troops.

The department approved to-day collar insignia to designate the three elements of the army. Regulars will wear the standard U. S. monogram. National guardsmen will wear a similar monogram, with the initials N. G. superimposed, and the national army men will have the initials N. A., superimposed on the U. S.

OFFICERS AND STAFFS ASSIGNED IN ARMY ORDERS

WASHINGTON, August 16.—Thirty-two major-generals are assigned in a War Department order made public to-night to command the National Guard and national army divisions of the war armies. On the list are all of the present regular departmental commanders, including Major-General Leonard Wood, ranking officer of the service, who now are called upon for duty in the field, and probably at the front in France.

Both of the National Guard major-generals nominated on Tuesday by the President—John F. O'Ryan, of New York, and Charles M. Clement, of Pennsylvania—are placed at the heads of divisions in their branch, with some regular army brigadiers under them.

The order also assigns brigadiers of both regulars and guardsmen to command the brigades of each division, and a colonel or lieutenant-colonel to serve as chief of staff under each of the major-generals. All are directed to report not later than August 25, if practicable. Successors to the departmental commanders in their present posts have not been named.

NO RELATION TO ORDER IN MOVEMENT TO FORT

In a note appended to the order, it is stated that the order of designation

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Whisky Manufacture Stops on September 8

WASHINGTON, August 16.—Not another drop of whisky will be manufactured in the United States after 11 o'clock on the night of September 8. All other distilled spirits for use as beverages will cease to be manufactured at the same time.

This ruling was made to-day by the food administration, after it had been bombarded for several days with a ceaseless flow of telegrams from distillers asking for specific information. The food-control law provided that the production should cease thirty days after approval of the measure. The bill was approved August 10, and consequently its provisions would go into effect midnight September 9. This being Sunday, and as the internal revenue laws prevent the operation of distilleries on the Sabbath, a question was raised in the minds of the distillers.

The limitation is placed in section 15 of the food-control law, which reads:

"That from and after thirty days from the date of the approval of this act, no foods, fruits, food materials or feeds shall be used in the production of distilled spirits for beverage purposes."

The food administration has been informed that distillers were planning to continue manufacture up to the last minute, that is, to place the grains in the vats and allow the process of fermentation to continue after the limit prescribed by the law.

I. W. W. ACTIVITIES GRAVE MENACE TO WAR WORK

Movement on Pacific Coast and in Far Northwest Apparently Nearing Maximum.

WASHINGTON ALIVE TO DANGER

Swift and Drastic Action to Check Movement in So Far as It Would Cripple Industries Planned by Department of Justice Officials.

[By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, August 16.—Grave menace to industries whose continuation at high speed is deemed vital to the prosecution of the war is seen by officials here in the growing activities of I. W. W. leaders on the Pacific Coast, and in the far Northwest.

The movement apparently is nearing its maximum, and the full scope of its possibilities is not minimized here. A pretentious program calling for strikes, lockouts and general disturbances over seven States, or about one-fourth of the area of the country, has been brought to the attention of the Department of Justice by expert field investigators now in the affected territory. Swift and drastic action to check the movement in so far as it would cripple industries or curtail production of commodities necessary for war, is planned by Department of Justice officials. In many instances, however, the department labors under the handicap of being unable to proceed until an overt act has been performed.

Prosecution of strike leaders, where justified in the opinion of the department, on charges of conspiracy or under the espionage act, is contemplated in specific cases, but no general prosecution of the I. W. W. leaders is expected.

REGARDED AS POLITICAL AND NOT AS LABOR MOVEMENT

The entire movement, culminating yesterday in the declaration at Spokane of James Rowan, district secretary of the organization, that a general strike would be called August 20 in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho, unless certain demands were complied with, is regarded as being political, and not a labor movement. Instructions have been sent to field workers to determine, as far as can be done, whether the threatened strike is part of a program deliberately designed to hamper the government in the prosecution of the war.

District attorneys in the four States affected, as well as in California, Arizona and New Mexico have been instructed to institute prosecutions promptly where justified.

Officials here were much interested to-day in Rowan's demand for a ten-hour day in the harvest fields. Any organized movement, it was said, tending to prevent or delay the harvesting of the country's crops in any section, would come clearly within the class of subjects with which the President was authorized by Congress in the war resolution to deal very summarily.

Another industry which has already been affected to some extent by activities traceable to I. W. W. sympathizers is spruce logging in Washington. At one time the government's great program of aircraft construction appeared to be menaced, but the situation has been restored more nearly to normal within the past few days.

A third industry which might be seriously affected by general I. W. W. strikes, it is said is copper mining in Montana. The government is following this situation closely.

ALLIES CONTINUE THEIR SUCCESSFUL DRIVE IN FLANDERS

Village of Langemarck and Other Important Positions Taken.

OVER 1,800 PRISONERS ALREADY COUNTED

British and French Move Forward North of Ypres-Menin Road.

NEW PROGRESS IN LENS SECTOR

Roumanians and Russians Driven Across the Sereth, in Moldavia.

Again the great Anglo-French war machine has struck the Germans in Flanders, and again it has been successful. The village of Langemarck and other important positions were taken on Thursday, and more than 1,800 prisoners already have been counted.

The latest blow in the Ypres area was on a front of nine miles, and only on the extreme right were the allied forces unable to make progress. The Germans resisted stubbornly, suffering heavy losses, but on the greater part of the front they were forced to leave valuable positions in the possession of the allies.

Before the fighting between Lens and Loos had died out, the French and British moved forward north of the Ypres-Menin road. Throughout Thursday, bitter fighting continued. On the left, the French occupied the ground between the Yser Canal and Martjesvaart, and then drove the Germans from the important bridgehead of Dreigrachten.

Field Marshal Haig's men carried the center and right of the attacking line. In the center, the British early gained their first objectives and then established themselves in Langemarck. Continuing their attack, they advanced a half mile beyond the village, gaining a trench system which was the final objective of the day.

GERMAN RESISTANCE IS MOST DESPERATE

On the right flank the German resistance was most desperate. Early in the day the British drove the Teutons back, but numerous counterattacks, in which they suffered severely, enabled the Germans to regain the lost ground.

In the Lens sector, the Canadians made further progress east of Loos and north of Lens. German prisoners to the number of nearly 900 were taken in the fighting here on Wednesday and Thursday, bringing the allied total for the two days to 2,700. In Flanders the British also captured some guns from the Germans.

Although Berlin says the allied attack in Flanders had been forced back with heavy losses, it admits French and British gains at Dreigrachten, on the Yser Canal, and near Langemarck. These are the places where London officially says the French and British advanced.

Except for the continued heavy artillery fighting on the Aisne front and near Verdun, a gain by the French south of Ailles, north of the Aisne, has been the only important infantry action south of Lens. The French captured German trenches on a front of two-thirds of a mile, took 120 prisoners and repulsed four German counterattacks.

DRIVEN ACROSS SERETH BY TEUTONIC FORCES

On the Sereth River, in Southwestern Moldavia, the Roumanians and Russians have been driven across the river by the Austro-German forces. Northwest of Fokshani the Roumanians and Russians have made numerous attacks in efforts to capture Stracani and Pantziu. In the Trotus Valley, Western Moldavia, the Austro-German advance apparently continues. Berlin says that the forces of Field Marshal von Mackensen have captured more than 3,500 prisoners, sixteen guns and more than fifty machine guns in the recent fighting.

The weekly French report of shipping losses records the sinking of one steamship of more than 1,600 tons and three of smaller size. The Italians lost six steamships and five sailing vessels.

A London newspaper says that wounded American soldiers from the western front have just arrived at a hospital at Bath, England. Washington is without official information regarding this report. Dispatches from the American training camp in France Wednesday night said all the American forces in France were reviewed yesterday, indicating that the entire body was still in training.

The American military authorities have made elaborate preparations for treatment in American hospitals in France of the wounded, who ordinarily would not be transported to England. The report of the London newspaper may refer to wounded Americans serving with the British armies, of whom there are several thousand.

FRENCH MAKE PROGRESS ALONG STEENBEKE RIVER

PARIS, August 16.—French troops in Belgium, attacking early to-day in conjunction with the British on both sides of the road between Steenstraete and Dixmude, captured all their objectives and crossed the Steenbeke River, the War Office announced to-day. Further progress is being made along the river.

The French made an attack on the Aisne, and captured German trenches on a front of one kilometer. Four German counterattacks were repulsed. The statement follows:

"In Belgium, after violent and most thorough artillery preparation, we made an attack at dawn this morning

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