

Great Gains On Western Front

London, Sept. 27.—When Combles was captured on Tuesday, the town was filled with the bodies of Germans who had fallen fighting. Prior to the loss of Combles the effect of the victories of the French and British armies, in the capture of important strategic positions on the previous day, was reflected in the official communication issued by the German war office, which, after describing briefly the great artillery bombardment of the Entente Allies lasting four days, and the attack between the Ancre and the Somme, admits that the conquest of the villages on the line of Gueudecourt must be recognized," and adds, "but before all we must think of our heroic troops, who faced the united Anglo-French principal forces and the massed employment of material of the whole world's war industry, prepared during many months."

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Both Thiepval, at the north-western end of the British line, and the fortified town of Gueudecourt, northwest of Lesboeufs, have also fallen into the hands of the British. General Sir Douglas Haig's men, after capturing Thiepval, drove on eastward and took the Solern redoubt, a strongly fortified position which lies between Thiepval and the bend in the British line at Courcellette. The French likewise advanced beyond Fregicourt and captured the wood between that village and Morval and the greater part of the German fortified positions lying between this wood eastward across the Pethune road to the western portion of the German line of communication, to the south from Bapaume.

The German casualties in the fighting are declared by Paris to have been heavy, and in addition during the two days' fighting more than 1,200 Germans were made prisoners by the French, while the British took in excess of 1,500. Large quantities of booty, including machine guns, were taken by the Allies.

While Petrograd continues silent with regard to the operations on the eastern front, both Berlin and Vienna tell of the repulse of strong Russian attacks in Volhynia, Galicia and the Carpathian mountain region.

On the Roumanian front the Austrians and Germans have been compelled to evacuate the Vulcan and Szurdok passes of the Transylvanian Alps in order to avoid an extensive encircling movement started by the Roumanians.

Sofia reports the capture of the



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Amarsch-Pervels line in Dobrudja from the Russians and Roumanians, who retired northward.

Combles Fell As The Sun Rose

British Front In France, Sept. 26, via London, Sept. 27.—The capture of Combles was one of the most picturesque incidents in the whole course of the great Somme offensive. It marked the opening of the great forward surge of the British and French forces, which reached its climax in the capture of Gueudecourt and Thiepval.

All night long bitter fighting had been in progress at various points on the front and with dawn the battle broadened to include the whole British left. Combles fell as the sun rose on a perfect summer day. Sitting in the midst of a heap of hills, the town was isolated yesterday by the seizing of the high ground on either side by the French and British. In the early hours of the morning the British took an orchard in the northern outskirts and then, after a heavy preliminary shelling, they charged, the trenches on the edge of the village. The trenches were empty when they reached them. At the same time the French, dashing forward on the other side of the village, pushed victoriously forward into the heart of the village. In the main street the soldiers of the two nations met and joyously shook hands, calling out to each other "Parlez vous" and "How d'ye do."

Combles had a labyrinth of dugouts and well fortified cellars, but at the last practically no defence was made. Those Germans who had not managed to escape when the town was hopelessly surrounded were taken prisoners. One lot of Germans, who were endeavoring to find a way out through the encircling Allied infantry, walked into the British skirmishing line. The cellars and dugouts of the village were full of wounded, who found security there from the furious fighting on the slopes of the ridges. Having cleared Combles of any stray Germans, the British and French moved on side by side to further attacks.

One of the most striking features of the fighting last night and to-day was the surprisingly slight resistance offered at Morval and Combles by the Germans, according to all reports made by the British officers. The Germans made the usual counter-attacks against the British new positions last night, but the reports of the Allied

officers to headquarters agree that they lacked spirit.

Some German trenches taken yesterday were lightly occupied or not at all. In other instances the Allied commanders stated that considerable bodies of Germans threw down their rifles promptly as soon as the attackers approached their trenches, although it was known that they had orders to stand to the last. Batches of prisoners have been coming in from all parts of the front throughout the day.

In their attack yesterday the British found the strongest defence made in front of Gueudecourt. There the Germans used their machine guns with the tenacity and unyielding courage which has hitherto characterized them. The British resumed the attack bitterly and to-night all the village is in their possession. Both to-day and yesterday the Germans showed an inclination to withdraw their guns immediately they were in danger, evidently desiring to take no risk of losing any of their artillery. This sometimes leaves their troops in the front line unprotected by cannon fire, and may account for the number of surrenders. In the meantime, the British continue to pound the whole line with their seemingly inexhaustible supply of shells, leaving the Germans in doubt as to what sector will be the next to be attacked by the infantry.

'Game Birds'

Tested Fighters, But Not For Show

"I bet you \$5 that's a turkey, not a chicken," said a visitor at a recent agricultural show.

The bird in dispute was a chicken fattened and dressed by "disabled" soldiers at one of the convalescent institutions of the Military Hospitals Commission. All sorts of occupations are provided at these places, and do much to hasten the men's recovery as well as to make them more capable of earning a good living when they come out.

"Why don't you show some of your live birds?" asked another visitor—"Haven't you got any good game birds?" "Yes," said one of the staff, "We have some very fine specimens, first class fighters, too, as they proved in France and Flanders. But they don't crow or flap their wings about it, and they don't want to be put on exhibition. All they want is a chance to get back among their fellow-citizens and earn a decent living. That's what we are helping them to do. Have you got a few jobs to offer them when they come out?"

Have You?

When Peace Will Come

[The "Outlook" (New York.)

Two weeks after the outbreak of the war the "Outlook" said: "We believe with Hegel that God has a plan and that history is nothing but the working out of His plan in human affairs. And we believe that the Austrian Prime Minister and the German Emperor have made a fatal mistake in leaving this truth out of their reckoning in their endeavor to destroy the great democratic movement in Europe." That faith we repeat. The end of this war will come with the end of militarism, not before. And the end of militarism will come when the German people realize the falsity of their philosophy and the futile malice of their purpose. It may come only gradually as the wearing away of the German forces convinces the German people that militarism has failed; it may come suddenly with a disaster to German arms so overwhelming that no explanation can destroy its effect on the mind of the German people. But it will come in Germany, as it came in our own country, when the ambitious hopes of the leaders are destroyed and the people awake to the truth.

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