



## FRENCH WON VICTORY IN UPPER ALSACE

### STATEMENT

### FRENCH WAR OFFICE

ts on the Battle front, Bet-  
h and 24th Reviewed--  
itude of the French Con-  
Increased Energy---Men  
at Hardships From Bad  
illes Choked With Mud  
as Clubs.

en given front of St. Georges. December 19,  
of the further progress; we advanced two  
Dec. 16 and hundred yards along this entire front.  
s resulted in December 20 we occupied a German  
es won by trench, and December 21 we made a  
ceding. Our further onward rush, gaining one  
n continued hundred and fifty yards in the direction  
everywhere of Westende. The enemy delivered  
ed to a de a counter-attack December 22 but  
was repulsed.

"All the ground gained by us re-  
mains in our possession. The German  
marines and the German coast artill-  
ery have not been successful in re-  
capturing from us the positions we  
have taken.

#### 700 YARDS GAINED.

"December 20, to the north of Ypres  
the fighting concentrated near Scaen-  
straete and near Bixchoote, in the  
vicinity of the Koeteker Inn and at a  
point further to the southeast where  
there is a windmill. December 17 we  
captured in one engagement several  
trenches, four machine guns and made  
150 prisoners and advanced five hun-  
dred yards. During December 18 we  
took one by one the houses close to  
our lines. The next day the Inn came  
under our control. We swept up the  
surrounding country and took posses-  
sion of a forest, certain houses, and a  
redoubt. On December 22 we gained  
another one hundred yards. The  
enemy delivered counter-attacks but  
in vain. The operations of December  
17 and 18 represented together an ad-  
vance of more than seven hundred  
yards.

"To the south of Ypres near Weld-  
oeke and near Zwartelen, we gained  
on December 16 a total of four hun-  
dred yards. December 17 and the  
days following we continued our ad-  
vance, capturing two machine guns,  
certain caissons and several groups  
of houses as far along as December  
21, 22 and 23. At this point also the  
ground presented great difficulties.  
It was necessary for our men to fight  
in the water, nevertheless, our ad-  
vances were continuous and never  
once did we falter.

"From the Lys to the Oise, in the  
region of Lens and of Arras there oc-  
curred several very brilliant actions  
which, in their entirety presented the  
same characteristics as those that  
developed to the north. To the north  
of Lens in the region of Bermilles we  
made gains not far from Notre Dame  
De Consolation on December 16, run-  
ning from two hundred to three hun-  
dred yards. On the 17th a further  
rush forward won us one hundred  
yards in one direction and five hun-  
dred in another. Our total advance  
December 18 was eight hundred yards.

(Continued on Page Nine.)

Paris, Dec. 31--The French have captured the village of Steinbach, Upper Alsace, a strategic point on the road to Altkirch and Muelhauss-  
en. The place was taken after the most desperate fighting of the war.

Amsterdam, Dec. 31--Constant communication over the border of  
Holland and Belgium which has continued despite the efforts of the  
Germans to cut it, has resulted in an order closing the frontier abso-  
lutely after midnight tonight.

### ESTABLISHED NEW DEPOT

Amsterdam, Dec. 31--Germans alarmed at the frequent bombardment of their aviation sta-  
tions by the aeroplanes of the allies have established a new depot at Ghistelles, about five  
miles inland from Ostend, on the railway line. The hangers are now being built great distances  
apart, to offer less target for bombs. Benzine is steadily growing scarcer.

### ZEPPELIN DRIVEN OFF

Paris, Dec. 31--A despatch from Nancy says that a zeppelin which attempted to  
reach the French fortifications and supply depots, between Toul and Pont Amousson  
yesterday afternoon, was driven back by the French artillery at Luneville.

### ITALY'S ATTITUDE UNCERTAIN

Rome, Dec. 31--Italy will not issue any statement that the occupation of Avlona  
will be either provisional or temporary. In the absence of any declaration as to its  
intentions, Italy will be in a position to take any action which may be necessary to  
quiet the country, and should she enter the war, will be enabled to demand the  
territory occupied there as indemnity.

### HANDICAPPED BY THE WEATHER

Paris, Dec. 31--Operations on a large scale are taking place in Upper Alsace and  
in the Champagne district. Large bodies of troops massed along the Toulancy line  
are being pushed forward to the support of General Pau, the plan being to clear  
Upper Alsace of the Germans for the campaign against Metz and Strassburg. Severe  
fighting is taking place in other parts of the line, but the severe weather is handicap-  
ping the troops.

### GERMANS TOO LENIENT ?

Amsterdam, Dec. 31--The "Norddeutsche" Allgemeine Zeitung, the German imperial organ in Berlin,  
published a letter from Brussels, stating that the Germans are too lenient in their control of Belgium  
and their treatment of the Belgians. The paper points out however that the Conquerer must be just to  
the conquered country, and that anyway it would be dangerous to drive to despair the population of  
Belgium, which might become a menace to the rear of the army fighting in Flanders and France.