

BELITTLES SOMME GAINS.

German Headquarters Says Unheard-of Efforts Failed Completely.

BERLIN, Nov. 5, (by Wireless to Sayville.)—A report issued from the German Army Headquarters with regard to the battle between the Anglo-French forces and Germans in the Somme region of France is published in the German newspapers. It says:

"Contrary to former wars in which the destiny of nations and continents is often decided by one battle and in the space of a few hours this world-war brings battles which go on for months without an important result being decided. Such is the engagement being fought on the River Somme.

"The attacking powers without any doubt conceived and planned a battle of the greatest style, destined to change radically the general strategical situation on the war theatres of three continents. What is the result? An inflection of the unshakable German front hardly noticeable even on maps of the largest scale.

"The gain of this inflection, according to conservative calculation, cost about 600,000 men, a loss that means 2,000 men for each square kilometer of terrain transformed into a desert. The enemy has not even obtained the conquest of Péronne and Bapaume.

"The fact that these figures offer sharp contrast to the result reached up to the present is the reason why the Entente Powers now deny their original intentions in making the attack and why they affirm that they did not plan to break through, but only to detain German masses of troops on the western front.

"This is the success of the Somme offensive undertaken with all the world's means and with the highest hopes.

"The first great thrust of the Entente offensive in July surpassed German expectations as to power and endurance, but it failed owing to the unparalleled aggression of the German troops, and our assailants gave up their intention to break through in that direction.

"Already in August the enemy had passed somewhat the unmethodical tactics of a general pressure against the whole front which, as was natural, brought only isolated advantages. In September the tactics of the enemy again were completely changed. By an undeniably increased pushing force he obtained an important gain in terrain, and, resuming his bold intention of breaking through, the enemy directed all his efforts against the top of the triangle and to gain some ground north of the Somme between that river and the Ancre. This meant the definitive division of the general battle into two separate engagements.

"The southern battle in the district of Blaches and Vermandovillers, after the failure of the idea to break through on a big scale, resulted in a noticeable gain of terrain in the sector of Berny and Chaulnes in consequence of powerful local thrusts. These gains, however, could not be extended owing to the heavy losses sustained by the attacking troops.

"In the northern sector the weight of the common thrust succeeded in extending considerably the conquered triangle by the conquest of Gueudecourt and further terrain, including Combles, during the battle of Sept. 25 to 27, but the aims of this unheard of effort—the strategical breach of the lines at the top of the triangle—were not obtained in spite of murderous fighting beyond all human comprehension.

"The unheard of Anglo-French efforts in the battles of October also finally failed as the result of the German resisting power which certainly had increased enormously since the middle of September.

"The result of the Somme battle, therefore, can be stated as follows: The enemy did not succeed in breaking through the German lines. Neither did he crush the German forces, which would have meant the shaking of the German west front. The enemy did not even obtain the modest aim of detaining a sufficient number of German troops on the western front in order to impede a great German action in another war theatre. Conquered Dobrudja and liberated Transylvania are proofs of this."