

division, and the German garrison surrendered in the afternoon. On the British right the French First Army continued the line of attack southward to the vicinity of Guise, taking many prisoners and guns. By these operations the German resistance was finally broken. During the night they fell back on nearly their whole front, and on the three following days, in the midst of continuous rain, the victorious troops continued to press forward almost without opposition. The roads packed with the enemy's troops and carriages presented favourable targets for the airmen of the allies, who made effective use of their opportunities in spite of the weather. Many guns and vehicles were abandoned by the retreating forces. On November 8 the British troops entered the outskirts of Maubeuge, and that fortress was occupied next day. The First, Fifth and Second British Armies crossed the Scheldt in several columns. On November 10 the advance of all five British Armies continued with cavalry and cyclists operating in front of the infantry. Little opposition was encountered except in the neighbourhood of Mons, and in the early morning of November 11 that town was captured by the Third Canadian Division with small loss. (See the illustration facing page 52). The whole of its defenders were killed or taken prisoners. The great disorder of the retiring troops, the number of the abandoned trains and stores of all kinds indicated that their defeat had been decisive. At eleven a.m. on November 11, in pursuance of instructions from the Commander in Chief of the allied armies, hostilities were suspended in consequence of the conclusion of an armistice. The right of the Fourth Army had then crossed the Franco-Belgian frontier.

During this last phase of the operations which has received the name of the battle of Maubeuge, extending from November 1 to November 11, twenty-six British divisions were engaged with thirty-two German divisions from whom they took 19,000 prisoners and 460 guns. The enemy's last great line of lateral communications was broken. His positions on the Scheldt were turned and his forces separated into two distinct groups by the great natural barrier of the Ardennes.

During this long period of uniformly successful offensive enterprises beginning on July 18, the British armies had taken 188,700 prisoners and 2,480 guns, the capture of 31,537 prisoners and 623 guns being credited to the Canadian Corps; French armies had taken 139,000 prisoners and 1,880 guns; the American armies had taken 43,300 prisoners and 1,421 guns; Belgian armies had taken 14,500 prisoners and 474 guns.

The terms of the armistice provided for the evacuation by the German armies of the countries on the left bank of the Rhine, and the occupation of these territories by allied and American garrisons holding the principal crossings of the Rhine at Mayence, Coblenz, and Cologne with bridge-heads at those points having a radius of thirty kilometres on the right bank. This evacuation was to be completed in thirty-one days after the signing of the armistice. In conformity with these arrangements, it was decided that the First and Fourth British Armies should advance to the Rhine and that the