

They continued until about March 28 pressing the British back to the Somme and were stopped only a short distance east of Amiens. They failed to budge the British, at Arras early in April, But they later made a large salient at Armentieres All the British gains in Flanders (1917) were lost. Southwards the Germans stormed the Chemin de Dames and thrust the French nearly to Compiègne They took Soissons and reached in the Marne in June. All these great attacks were preceded by long periods of preparation and comparative quiet. It was really a race between the German offensive (made possible by the failure of Russia) and the American reinforcements. Thanks mainly to the stubborn[?] British and Marshal Foch's genius, the Germans failed. They broke their own power by their efforts. On July 15, there were over 1,000,000 Americans in France. On that day the Germans began their last great offensive. Our hearts sank as we read of their advance across the Marne and with the Rheims hill country But our American troops held them and threw them back with loss on both sides of Chateau Thierry. Also East of Rheims, Gen. Gouraud with a mixed French and American force stopped them with very heavy losses. On the 16th and 17th, they continued to gain south of Rheims and I felt in the depths. But on July 18th, Foch hurled a French and American army against the German line from Soissons to Chateau Thierry and broke the German r. flank. From that day to Nov.11, Marshall Foch gave them no rest, --blow on blow, victory after victory. The greatest phase of this long battle (which lasted nearly 4 months), began on Sept. 26.

Sept. 26: Americans north of Verdun between that and Argonne, and French east of Argonne Forest struck north at the vital communication of German army. Germans brought in every man available to stop them: weakening[?] rest of front from Rheims to Arras.

Sept. 27: British broke Hindenburg line at Cambrai. Great victory. Germans forced to denude[??] Flanders and St. Quentin