

Meeting the German Offensive in Picardy

Photographs © French Pictorial Service.



The trench habit is hard to break. Even in this, the first open fighting since the Marne, the poilus have dug themselves into individual shelters, each man for himself. Here they met the first shock of the oncoming attack, defending the lines behind them in the face of almost certain death for themselves.



Waiting.



At left. French machine gunners in holes hastily dug along the roadside near Montdidier. By extending their line under the trees they have given the German air scouts less to report.



At left. Rushing the wounded from the nearby battle to a *poste de secours*, the surgical outpost where temporary relief is given.



Below. When it comes to hand-to-hand fighting in the streets of a town the old barricade of the French Revolution is still the accepted mode of defence.



Here the French gunners have thrown up a rough camouflage around their artillery, relying on the anti-aircraft gun to persuade German fliers not to investigate.