

**THE EUROPEAN WAR.
SEPTEMBER 1915 -
MARCH 1916; VOLUME III**

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The European War. September 1915 - March 1916; Volume III by Anthony Arnoux

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ANTHONY ARNOUX

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The European War

September 1915—March 1916



By

Anthony Arnoux, Ph. D., LL. B.

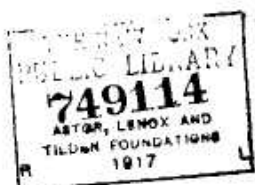
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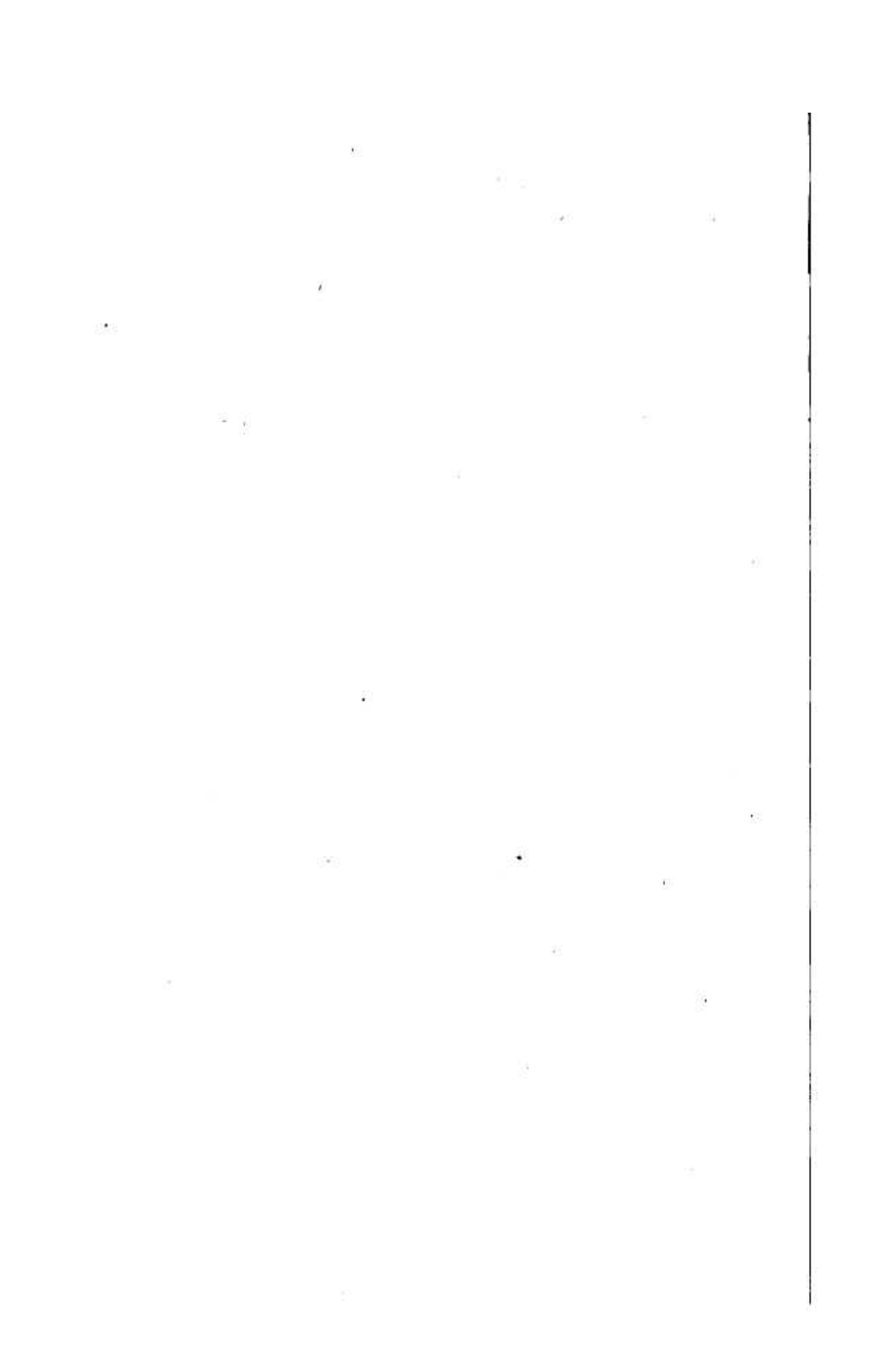
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THE CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST



CHAPTER I

FROM THE SEA TO CHAMPAGNE

THE comparative calm which obtained along this western portion of the end of the western battle front from late in August was not interrupted until the third week of September, when a joint offensive began on the part of both the French and the English. The joint offensive was commanded by Sir John French and General Foch and had as its purpose the forcing of a way between the projection of the line known as the La Bassée salient and the river Scarpe into the plain of the Scheldt, while at the same time the French, under Gen. Castelnau, opened an offensive to the east of Rheims, between this city and the beginning of the Argonne Forest, with the object of throwing back the German line in this region to the other side of the Aisne River. The entire latter part of the summer the British had been engaged in forwarding supplies of men and particularly large quantities of artillery and ammunition from England, with this offensive in view, and indeed it was necessary for the British to supply themselves amply with artillery since the attack upon the German lines which they intended to launch was of necessity a frontal one which could not be delivered with any hope of success before the defences of the trenches of the existing German position were blown away and holes made therein by the artillery so that the infantry could advance. We will consider the western offensive first and discuss the eastern offensive subsequently.

The battle opened with feigned attacks both on the Belgian sea coast, and on land at points other than the points at which the real effort was intended to be made. On the Belgian sea coast, on September 24, the towns of Knocke, Heyst, Zeebrugge, Blankenberghe, and the fortifications to the west of Ostend were bombarded by the British fleet, and on September 26, 27 and 30 these places were again attacked, as well as Middelkirke and West-