

KAISER ON FIRING LINE AS TROOPS CUT CZAR'S TENTH ARMY TO PIECES

Emperor Plunged Into Thicket of Fray at Grand Climax of Hindenburg's Sweep of Slav Invaders From German Soil.

Two-thirds of Russian Force of 165,000 Captured or Annihilated in Mighty Smashing of Muscovite Columns in Masurian Battles.

By KARL H. VON WIEGAND WITH THE GERMAN ARMY AT SUWALKI, Russia, Feb. 24.

Kaiser Wilhelm was on the actual firing line when Von Hindenburg swept the Russians out of Prussia. He sped into Lyck 30 minutes after the Germans, at a heavy loss, had stormed the city.

The Kaiser was with his men when they took Western Front, near Lyck, by bayonet. His staff officers could hardly restrain him from taking part in the fighting. It was impossible for them to keep him out of immediate danger.

His entrance into Lyck teemed with the dramatic. It was as if his arrival had been perfectly timed as the climax to the third great scene of triumph for German arms in the eastern theatre of war. His big automobile rushed into the East Prussian city just as the czar's armies, after four days of desperate, bloody resistance, began fleeing the town.

Before the Emperor's eyes Von Hindenburg and Von Ludendorff delivered one of the mightiest smashes of the war, once more clearing German soil of Russians. The 10th Russian army, under General Sivers, comprising 11 divisions (about 165,000 men), was two-thirds captured or annihilated.

SLAVS SCURRY IN RETREAT.

Von Hindenburg's mighty machine swept through East Prussia with startling velocity, sending the Slavs scurrying in retreat. The Russian 10th army, that since last October had occupied the narrow strip in East Prussia, extending from north of Gumbinnen southward to Dargkheim, and below Johannsburg, was rolled out of Germany, crushed and disastrously beaten as the result of desperate battling east and south of the Masurian Lakes.

Beginning at Dargkheim I have been with the German army for the last six days, following the retreating Russians. From Goidau south to the East Prussian became panicky. This was evident by the abandoned equipment, the stranded automobiles and the countless bodies of Russian dead. The character of the battle ground and the manner in which this great conflict was waged is best illustrated by the fact that we made less than 30 miles a day as we moved southward. Our automobiles frequently stuck in huge snow drifts.

For four days there was desperate fighting at Lyck, 15 miles inside the Prussian frontier. There the Russians made a final stand. The city was defended by the Third Siberian Corps, reputed to be the best fighters in the Russian army. The stand they made at Lyck did honor to their fame as soldiers. The city was taken by storm only after the Germans had suffered heavy losses. But the brilliant defense of the Siberians enabled part of the czar's beaten armies to escape over two roads leading out of Prussia through the swamps to Augustowo and Suwalki.

While this onslaught was in progress the Kaiser's northern army, forming the German left wing, was advancing by forced marches to effect a junction with the central army. The third German army on the right wing was swinging in from the south over Grajwo, squeezing in the Russian left.

Despite the most tremendous efforts and the unprecedented endurance of the German troops in making forced marches through snowstorms and vast stretches of marshes and swamps, the attempt completely to surround the Russian army, as evidently planned, did not wholly succeed. Fully a third of the Russians got past Augustowo before the Germans could close up the gap.

But yesterday when I left the army at Augustowo the Germans were hanging on the flanks and the rear of the fleeing Russians. Eight miles east of the town the Russian rear guard was making a desperate stand to cover the retreat, while Russian reinforcements, coming from Grodno, were thundering a cannonade.

When I left the Germans hoped to surround an entire Russian division in the swampy forests. Large bodies of Russian forces were still surrounded in the swamps, while the balance of the army was fleeing in the direction of the fortress of Grodno. It was known at that time that the Russian prisoners numbered 84,000; that 71 guns, over 100 machine guns, 150 ammunition wagons and thousands of rifles had been taken. The Russian dead and wounded was estimated at between 30,000 and 35,000.

SOLID COLUMN OF TROOPS.

At Crajevo I met General von Hahndorf, who ever since October with a brigade of 12,000 had defended Loetzen in the centre of the Masurian Lakes region, against a Russian force estimated at 40,000. His army is now part of the German right wing.

General von Hahndorf told me that the Russians sent part of the Imperial Guard, with other troops, from the fortresses of Casowitz, Lomza and Ostrolenka in an endeavor to turn the German right wing, but were defeated. I reached Augustowo a few hours after the Germans took the town, making 5000 prisoners.

Between Crajevo and Suwalki I passed more than 30 miles of solid columns of troops marching through blinding snowstorms. This endless snake of human units, winding its way in marvelous order and organization through the swamps and forests, formed a most impressive and imposing sight.

The long columns of Russian prisoners which I saw made a remarkably good impression. The men were well fed and well equipped. Generally they were of splendid physique.

The Russian commander of Augustowo, who was compelled at the last moment to abandon his wounded at the railway station with one of the Germans, left this note to be handed to the Kaiser's forces entering the town:

"I am compelled to leave my wounded in your hands. They are no longer enemies, but helpless human beings. I beg of you to treat ours as we did yours."

The German wounded spoke in the highest praise of the care and attention given them by the Russians. Needless to say, the kindness was reciprocated.

BATTLEFIELD PLUNDERER CAPTURED BY MILITARY CHAUFFEUR



This peasant was overtaken as he was leaving the scene of a recent battle in Poland after he had filled his bag with articles taken from dead soldiers. The usual penalty for such an offense is death.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

AUSTRIAN

On the Carpathian front the Russian attacks were shattered, with heavy losses for the enemy. We took seven officers and 560 men prisoners. South of the Dniester the conflict continues. On the battle front here Croatian troops threw the Russians from several villages and took several heights strongly occupied by the enemy. We gained an advance.

RUSSIAN

Stubborn fighting continues on the right bank of the Bobr and Narew rivers. At Casowitz the advancing German forces were repelled by fire from the fortresses. North of Lomza fighting is proceeding in the direction of Radzlow, Scuczyn and Kolno. Despite the enemy's heavy attacks, the Russians are holding the positions regained at Jedwabo. Terrific night attacks by the Germans proved fruitless, though they had the assistance of armored automobiles along the Scuczyn-Kolno roads.

The German offensive in the Przanysz region continues. The enemy attacked the town of Przanysz, but was repelled every time. Toward Plonsk some villages are continuously changing hands.

On the south bank of the Vistula, to the south of Mogile, the Russians exploded mines beneath the German positions. The cavities made by the explosions were subsequently occupied by the Russians, who captured three Maxim, some mine throwers and bombs and also took a number of prisoners.

In the Carpathians the Austrians shelled the cluster south of Mesoc, with their 12-inch howitzers. There have been persistent attacks upon our troops in the region of Mikow, Smolnik and Drowa, but these have been repelled with heavy losses.

FRENCH

There is nothing of importance to add to Monday night's communications. West of Lombaertzyde the enemy made ready to deliver two infantry attacks, which, coming under fire from the fortresses, were repelled. The bombardment of Rheims, under Monday evening, was extremely violent. It lasted for a first period of six hours, followed by a period of five hours. Fifteen hundred shells were dropped in all quarters of the town. What remains of the cathedral was made a special target and suffered seriously. The interior of the vaulted roof, which had resisted until now, was burst. About 20 houses were fired and about 20 civilians were killed.

To the east of the Argonne, between Malincourt and the Meuse, our battery found a German battery and blew up its ammunition wagons.

Along the remaining part of the front there is nothing new to report.

GERMAN

Near Perthes in Champagne, French infantry division attacked our troops at several points. Severe hand-to-hand fighting followed, but all the encounters resulted favorably to the Germans. The enemy suffered heavy losses and was driven back into his former positions.

In the Vosges the Germans have progressed as the result of their attack against Sultzern and Muehlbach and west of Erosswell. In the engagements of the last few days we have taken 500 prisoners. Otherwise nothing of importance has happened on the west front.

FRENCH AND JAPANESE LAND

MARINES TO SUPPRESS MUTINY

Revolt of Hindus in Singapore Will Be Crushed Out.

TOKIO, Feb. 24.—Marines were landed from French and Japanese warships at Singapore in the Straits Settlement today to reinforce the troops who are fighting rebellious Hindus. Following a fight, in which 20 persons were killed, many of the mutineers of the 5th Light Infantry surrendered, but the other rebels took refuge in buildings and prepared to continue the fight. Despite the fierceness of the fighting, there has been little destruction of any property. Word from Singapore today states that, with the strongly reinforced party of British, French and Japanese forces, there will be no difficulty in crushing out the mutineers.

RUSSIAN 20TH CORPS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH

Last Cartridge Spent in Terrific Slav Reverse in East Prussia.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 24.

The 20th Corps of the Russian 10th army fought to the death when surrounded by the Germans in the forest of Augustowo. The story of the heroism of this Russian corps, which was commanded by Lieutenant General Bulgakoff, is one of the most brilliant in Russian history.

Details of its destruction on the retreat from East Prussia are given in an official account issued here today, giving further information as to the retreat from East Prussia.

The 20th Corps, commanded by General Bulgakoff, comprising the 25th Division and the reserve regiments of the active army, found itself on February 13 surrounded by the German army between Goldapp and Suwalki, communication with the remainder of the 10th army having been broken.

"The numbers of the enemy constantly increased until February 22, but the corps fought heroically against the enemy, though outnumbered several times. During these days it marched 32 miles, fighting all the time and continuing to force its way toward the southern-eastern part of Augustowo forest."

FURIOUS FIGHTING ALONG 125-MILE CARPATHIAN LINE

Russians Tenaciously Hold Ground in Hungary.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 24.

Fierce fighting is now in progress over a front 125 miles long in the Carpathians. The Russian wedge driven through Dukla Pass into Hungary is holding tenaciously to the ground gained, while to the east of Dukla Pass the Russian line is being pushed forward slowly, despite the obstinate resistance of the Austrians.

In one month's operations in the Carpathian mountains the Russian armies have taken more than 48,000 prisoners, and it is asserted at the war office today that the czar's troops are slowly but steadily pressing on to complete victory along the entire Gallican front. The prisoners include both German and Austrian troops. The attacks of the Teutonic allies have been seriously weakened by their losses in artillery as well as men. The Russians now are in possession of 17 guns and 118 machine guns, the official report says.

NORROY TAKEN BY STORM

French Deny Statement That Germans Voluntarily Evacuated Town.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—Official details of the capture by French troops of the village of Norroy were issued here today to disprove the claim made at Berlin that it was voluntarily evacuated by the Germans. Norroy is on a height of strategic importance north of Font-a-Mousson.

The French version of the conflict there shows that it raged for five days. It was recaptured by soldiers of the 27th French regiment.

As a result of the retaking of Norroy, the French fortified line in that region is again maintained unbroken.

GERMANS DRIVE ALLIES FROM SEACOAST TRENCHES

Paris Admits Battle Is Now Raging West of Lombaertzyde.

PARIS, Feb. 24.

While the French keep pounding away at the German left-center between Rheims and the Meuse river, the Germans continue their assaults against the British at the left end of the Allies' battle front. On the north seacoast the Germans succeeded in making a gain and the French war office now admits that fighting is taking place west of Lombaertzyde.

Between Ypres and the French front the Germans have been making furious drives against the British trenches, the infantry attacks being varied by terrific artillery fire.

Artillery duels are in progress near the Oise, the Lys and along the Aisne. Heavy cannon fire is still in progress in the section of Rheims.

SCANDINAVIAN NATIONS TAKE ACTION ON MINES

To Destroy Floating Explosives in Home Waters.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 24.—The Foreign Office announced today that the Danish Government had officially adopted the proposals made at the conference of Scandinavian representatives in Christiania recently, relative to the destruction of mines.

According to this agreement the Governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden will unite in destroying all floating mines that menace navigation in their waters. It was agreed also that all Scandinavian merchant ships should, in the future, be conveyed by warships so that their nationality cannot be mistaken by German submarines.

FRENCH ASSERT SUCCESS IN CHAMPAGNE REGION

Progress Made North of Perthes. Other Points Quiet.

PARIS, Feb. 24.

The continued French offensive in the Champagne region is resulting successfully, according to this afternoon's official communique. It states that the French forces have made new progress to the north of Perthes, and also that during yesterday engagements between the French and German troops in the direction of Auberve-sur-Stuppe resulted favorably to the French.

At other points on the front nothing of importance has occurred, says the communique.

GERMAN FLIERS ON SCOUT

LONDON, Feb. 24.

German aeroplane sighted off the east coast near Colchester last night evidently were on a reconnoitering expedition, according to dispatches from Colchester today. The feat of German aviators who on Sunday night dropped incendiary bombs on Colchester.

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ALLIED PRESS DEMANDS RETALIATORY ACTIONS

Cabinet Meets But Fails to Announce Program Against German Submarine Raids.

LONDON, Feb. 24.

The Cabinet met again today and adjourned after a two-hour session without making any announcement as to the retaliatory methods to be used against Germany. The action of the United States in reopening diplomatic negotiations over the "bread war" and its resultant peril to neutral shipping may war too far to permit England to chance further delay the expected proclamation declaring an embargo upon food and raw materials consigned to Germany.

While Government officials declined to comment for publication today upon the American action, it was plainly intimated that Germany had carried her submarine retaliatory plans, as to which the Foreign Office is now communicating with Petrograd and Paris.

In the meantime the British press is becoming bolder in its demands for aggressive action by England. The Globe says today:

"The Germans have shown us that their blockade threat is not merely bluff, and there is not a shred of excuse any longer

for delaying the establishment of a strict blockade over the enemy's coast. Let him feel the pressure against which he is perpetually protesting, but which has not yet been applied. What we want now is action."

The Westminster Gazette says: "Certain losses must be expected from the new policy of the German navy, but these should decrease as time goes on. The areas in which submarines can operate must become more circumscribed."

The Pall Mall Gazette says: "We could almost believe that some of Admiral Von Tirpitz's pirates do not relish their job. The groans of men who have breathed sea air must rise at the cold-blooded murder of a crew and hapless passengers. The German sailors must feel acutely the dishonor of being put upon a level with a callous ruffian who piles an obstruction upon the tracks to wreck an express train."

AUSTRIA TO SEIZE ALL GRAIN

Follows Germany's Example in Method of Food Distribution.

VIENNA, Feb. 24.

The Austrian Government today officially announced that all private stocks of rye, barley, corn and wheat will be confiscated immediately. The owners will then be paid and the accumulated stocks will then be distributed equitably among the various provinces.

In following the example set by Germany, the Government issued a statement declaring its action to be only precautionary.

ITALY TO BE ON WAR FOOTING THIS WEEK

New Corps Are Called to Colors as Important Developments Take Place.

LONDON, Feb. 24.

Developments are expected within the next three days which will have an important bearing on whether or not Italy will participate in the war, according to dispatches received from Rome today. February 27 is the date set for military preparations, in addition to those which King Humbert's Government already has felt it necessary to take, and which will put the country practically on a war footing.

Complete mobilization may not be in question, but new contingents are to be called to the colors on a vastly increased scale. There is disposition here to regard these developments as connected with an allied move upon the Dardanelles. Italian interests are so closely concerned with any new phase in the Balkans that the possibility of allied occupation of Constantinople cannot leave Rome unconcerned.

While it is impossible to predict what will be the outcome of the Allies' naval bombardment begun last week against the Dardanelles, it is believed in well-informed quarters here that the action was not much more than a demonstration and was, in fact, merely preliminary to combined operations on an imposing scale.

German France

Are you wondering what the German soldier is saying about this war? Are you wondering how the proud French of Northern France are facing the humiliation and heart-break of the second German invasion? Then read John Reed's "German France." Reed was with the German army. He came back and wrote his story in America, where the truth is safe from censorship of the soldier's bayonet. This is the John Reed whose war stories in the Metropolitan introduced Pancho Villa to the world, and made Rudyard Kipling and a million Americans see Mexico as they never saw it before.

And in the same remarkable and timely magazine you will read a compelling and timely contribution by Theodore Roosevelt on Mexico and Japan. "Twilight Sleep in America," by the pioneers of the movement in this country, Mary Boyd and Marguerite Tracy. Four short stories, any one of them big enough to be the headline feature for the average magazine, by Richard Harding Davis, Rupert Hughes, Booth Tarkington and Fannie Hurst. Washington in Pen and Picture, by Art Young. "How the Socialists Met This War," by Morris Hillquit. The Story of a Pioneer, by Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. Today and Tomorrow, by Walter Lippmann.

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