

ARMIES ON AISNE EXHAUSTED AUSTRIANS ASSAIL RUSSIANS GERMANS CAPTURE MAUBEUGE

ATTACKS AND COUNTER ATTACKS DAY AND NIGHT

French Attempt to Smash Right Failed and Germans Are Steadily Gaining Ground, Berlin War Office Asserts—Kaiser's Troops Make Three Counter Attacks Against British Forces, but Fail to Break Through Their Line.

The French War Office announced a lull in the great battle along the Aisne, but there is no particular change in the general situation, although the allied army has made slight progress on its left flank. Violent attacks by the German army against the British troops have been repulsed and the German army, heavily reinforced in the centre, has adopted a purely defensive attitude. In the Vosges and Lorraine the Allies are still the aggressors.

German Army Headquarters by wireless reported the battle continuing between the Oise and the Meuse but with sure indications that the force of the allied troops is falling. A French attempt to cut through the German right wing was broken, according to Berlin, and the German army is advancing slowly but surely.

On the Battle Front, via Paris.—The armies of the nations become deadlocked north of the River Aisne after the most terrible artillery duel of the centuries.

Sheer exhaustion and frightful losses checked assaults and counter assaults all along the battle line. The gigantic battle, or more properly battles, continue day and night along the entire front from Noyon to the German frontier.

The fight does not consist of one sustained and continued movement, but of several combats proceeding incessantly at the strongest points of the Germans' defending line along the river Aisne.

Each encounter, however, influences the execution of the general idea of the commander-in-chief of the Allied army. Attacks and counter attacks follow one another in rapid succession every hour out of the twenty-four.

The most impressive reports of the battle of many days, so evenly balanced, are that it is a combat of artillery. Day and night thousands of German cannon hammer at the Allied armies, while every gun that the French and English can bring to bear is directed toward attempting to silence these destructive guns. In hulls of artillery fighting the Allies have assaulted the German positions and have been able here and there to gain ground, but only at dreadful cost.

The fighting at Reims between three days of incessant artillery dueling. The Germans, believing they could break the French centre by a counter assault, essayed three times to recapture Reims and were each time hurled back.

Every fragment of news from the Far Flung line of battle makes it positive that the Allies are facing a more difficult situation than that which existed along the Marne. The Germans have been heavily reinforced. They are strongly entrenched along a vast battle line. Their great resources of artillery are operated in many places from wooded heights and the location of batteries has been shrewdly concealed. There is every indication that the armies of the Kaiser are ready once more for a powerful offensive movement.

The German artillery was operated from double lines of embankment twenty rods apart, while the German infantry was protected by trenches three and four feet deep.

Everywhere from the Oise to the Argonne the fighting has been pressed at night, and searchlights have been used by the Germans in an attempt to deceive the Allies as to battery positions.

More than three million men are engaged in this titanic struggle for the mastery of Europe.

Strengthened by fresh troops rushed to the front from the Rhine fortresses, the German right and center made a desperate effort successfully to resume the offensive after their retreat, but in vain, and the Allies' left is farther advanced than ever in the hills of the Aisne.

Both sides were so nearly exhausted by the bloody work that then the battle calmed down a bit.

Three times, the German right attacked the English lines and three times were General von Kluck's men hurled back with heavy loss. The night assault on Rheims by General von Hausen's forces was also a costly failure.

Ten times the German infantry tried to overwhelm the Allies' lines, and each time they were driven back with very heavy losses. In the last

attempt the British delivered a counter attack, breaking the German lines and following up their advantage with a bayonet charge in which an entire Brigade was badly cut up.

The army of Crown Prince Frederick William has finally turned on its pursuers at Montfaucon, northwest of Verdun, encouraged by reinforcements coming from the Rhine garrisons, and the line of defense was clearly established from sixty-seven miles northeast of Paris, to Montfaucon.

The brunt of the French frontal attack being thrown against this point and the care the Germans have taken in fortifying accounts for the slow progress of the French offensive.

The Germans offered the most obstinate resistance and fought as though made of iron. The Allies at the same time doggedly pursued the small advantage they gained and kept at the heels of their reluctantly retiring foe.

During the seventh night of battle the Germans made a formidable movement in the western sphere, but were met by the French and British with great courage. The Germans returned to the attack no fewer than ten times with marvelous tenacity and intrepidity, but were unable to break through the allied infantry.

The fight just before daybreak was the most violent of all. The Germans appeared to throw into the charge all that remained of their energy, but were rolled back with enormous losses. Before retiring behind their big guns they sacrificed many of their numbers, displaying a resolution which approached desperation. A vigorous counter attack ensued, during which a small extent of ground was gained.

During the combat the adversaries in many instances came to hand-to-hand clashes, and the bayonet was extensively used. The carnage was terrifying, but the troops of both armies appear to have been hardened to such scenes, and fought with indomitable coolness despite the heaviness of the losses.

Two things stand out as news amid the general uncertainty. One is that the French Government has issued decrees by which young men of less than twenty years, legally ineligible for military service, are to be admitted as volunteers. The other is that Maubeuge has fallen into German hands.

The first indicates that France has at last determined to put forth her full fighting strength. Properly carried out, this new decree means that France will have at least 7,000,000 men to face the invaders, for the summoning of youths below twenty will add enough to the fighting ranks to bring the total up to more than one-sixth of the entire population.

The second item, that relating to Maubeuge, means that Germany now has a free and uninterrupted line of retreat into Southern Belgium and Luxembourg.

While Maubeuge stood, the German lines of communication in this district were performed menace. Maubeuge fallen gives a clear route back along the Sambre to Charleroi, Namur and Liege.

Maubeuge Taken by Germans, After 12 Days of Fighting

London.—The Times correspondent at Boulogne announces the fall of Maubeuge in the following despatch: "Maubeuge fell on September 7. The investment began on August 25. On August 26 the first shell was fired. On August 27 the main attack was concentrated on the forts to the north and east of the city.

de Forts de Boussois, des Sarts and de Fontaine and the earthworks of Rocq were destroyed by heavy artillery.

"The town suffered severely from the bombardment, which continued with great violence for twelve days. More than a thousand shells fell in one night near the railway station and in Rue de France was partly destroyed. The loss of life, however, was comparatively slight.

"At 11.50 o'clock on the morning of September 7 a white flag was hoisted on the church tower and trumpets sounded 'cease firing,' but the firing only ceased at 3 o'clock that afternoon. In the meantime the greater part of the garrison succeeded in leaving the town. The German forces marched in at 7 o'clock that evening.

Czar Sweeps 900,000 Men Over Poland

Main Army Moves Toward Breslau as Start of Advance Into Germany—2,000,000 Trained Reservists in Readiness to Join Invading Troops.

Rome.—Another Russian tidal wave is rolling toward Germany. The Czar's central army of 900,000 men is sweeping across Poland, with Breslau, in Silesia, as its objective.

In addition, it is learned that Russia has in Poland 2,000,000 reservists who have been under training until the great first line army could be assembled and put in motion.

It has been forces of these reservists at which German armies have been striking and often defeating in encounters in Russian Poland. Russia's intention is to strike hard with the main army and to keep it constantly reinforced and refreshed with the reservists.

This is the important development in the eastern theatre of war that has been expected for days. That Russia was mobilizing a great central army for a direct advance on Germany has been known, but this army was not given impetus until the campaign in Galicia was practically ended with the overthrow of Austrian power from Cracow to Bukovina. Until this vast force was ready, the Russian troops in East Prussia, the northern army marked time or fell back.

It is believed by Italian military critics that Russia will now strike directly for Breslau to open the road to Berlin, while her northern army keeps the Germans in check in East Prussia and her southern army completes the subjugation of Galicia. This latter necessity has about been accomplished with the investment of Premysl and Jaroslav.

New York.—The above stipulations printed in a Washington despatch were shown to Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to the United States.

"That's just what I've been trying to get the American people to understand," was his emphatic remark.

Says Kaiser Moves 320,000 Men From Prussia to France

Petrograd.—Information was received at the War Office that eight German army corps, numbering 320,000 men, which had been sent east to repel the Russian attack in East Prussia and to strengthen the Austrian forces in Galicia, have been withdrawn and are being rushed to the western scene of operations in France.

London.—The movement of eight German army corps from East Prussia to the theatre of war in France is taken to mean that the Kaiser intends to aim a final terrific blow at the Allies in an effort to crush the opposition in France.

WAR NEWS TOLD IN TABLOID FORM

The German General Staff officially reported that the offensive of the Allies was weakening, that the Germans were advancing slowly and that a French sortie from Verdun had been repulsed.

Petrograd reported officially that Gen. Rennenkampf had stopped the German advance in East Prussia and that pursuit of the Austrian rear guard in Galicia continued.

All reports of Russian victories were branded as "incredible lies" by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, Dr. Dumba, who went to New York to protest to the American public against alleged distortion of news about his country.

John T. McCutcheon, special correspondent of The New York World, writing from Aix-la-Chapelle said that, though with the German army for two weeks, he had not seen a single instance of wanton brutality.

An official statement in Berlin announced that French attacks had been repulsed, and that counter German attacks had been successful, but that, in general, the situation was unchanged.

Demonstrations for Italy's entrance into the war, which started at Rome, have spread to Milan, Venice and Salerno.

Earl Kitchener said the tide is turning everywhere in favor of the Allies. He predicted a long war. Berlin reported the outlook as favorable, and denied any victories by the British or French forces.

The Kaiser is reported about to take personal command of the checking of the Russian invasion. The Belgium commission placed the official charges of German atrocities before President Wilson, who replied that the neutrality of the United States prevented him from passing judgment on the case. He sent a similar reply to the Kaiser's complaint against the Allies.

The Italian public and political leaders demanded that Italy aid the Allies.

Peace, But Not Peace at Any Price

Count von Bernstorff Makes Clear Germany's Attitude Towards Proposals.

GERMANY'S ATTITUDE ON PEACE OVERTURES

FIRST—There must be something more substantial in the offer than the mere tender of good offices of the United States. While recognizing the kindly interests of this Government, yet it contains no assurances from the Allies.

SECOND—Germany in Europe must not be dismembered. While negotiations might be considered concerning the colonies the German Empire must remain intact.

THIRD—Germany must be left alone by other Powers around her in the future. Every man in the empire believes sincerely and honestly today that the war is one of self-defense against the hostile encroachments of Russia, France and England. Live and let live is the policy that Germany wishes its enemies to observe.

Washington.—Germany suggested informally that the United States should undertake to elicit from Great Britain, France and Russia a statement of the terms under which the Allies would make peace.

The suggestion was made by the Imperial Chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg, to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin as a result of an inquiry sent by the American Government to learn whether Emperor William was desirous of discussing peace.

AUSTRO-RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN

CZAR REPORTS KAISER'S ADVANCE BLOCKED; AUSTRIA DECLARES RUSSIAN CLAIMS ARE FALSE.

RUSSIA.—The Russian force that has been operating in Galicia has crossed the San and is engaging the Austrians in a battle fifty miles west of Lemberg. They have left a small force to besiege Premysl. A new Russian army of 900,000 men is about to march through Russian Poland with the intention of joining the army from Galicia in the advance through Silesia toward Berlin.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says that the German troops have been frustrated in their attempts to surround Gen. Rennenkampf and that the failure of this movement has completely upset the German schemes in East Prussia.

AUSTRIA.—Ambassador Dumba in a formal statement protested emphatically against the reports sent out from London, Rome, Milan, Geneva, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg about the Austrian campaign in Russian Poland and Galicia. He denies that the Austrian losses have been as heavy as reported. On the other hand, he says that the General Staff of the Dual Monarchy announces as a result of four weeks' fighting the capture of 41,000 Russian prisoners and 300 guns.

KING GEORGE TELLS WHY BRITAIN FIGHTS

in Proroguing Parliament

LONDON.—King George's speech proroguing Parliament included this reference to the war: "After every endeavor of my Government to preserve the peace of the world, I was compelled, in the assertion of treaty obligations, deliberately set at naught, and for the protection of the public law in Europe, to go to war. We are fighting for a worthy purpose and will not lay down our arms until that purpose is achieved. I rely in confidence upon the efforts of my subjects. I pray God's blessing."

Thirty-two Horses Draw Howitzer. But the most interesting of all, of course, were the five gigantic howitzers, each drawn by 16 pairs of horses. These howitzers can tear a city to pieces at a distance of a dozen miles.

Every contingency seems to have been foreseen. Nothing was left to chance or overlooked. Maps of Belgium, with which every soldier is provided, are the finest examples of topography I have ever seen. Every path, every farm building, every clump of trees, and every twig is shown.

At one place a huge army wagon containing a complete printing press was drawn up beside the road and a

in a zigzag course to a spot near Solsens.

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"It was a wonderful sight," the airman said, "to look down upon those hundreds and thousands of moving military columns, the long gray lines of the Kaiser's picked troops, some marching in a northerly, others in a northeasterly direction, and all moving with tremendous rapidity."

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DRIVEN TO ATROCITIES, GERMAN COMMANDER TELLS CORRESPONDENT

By E. ALEXANDER POWELL.

[By Cable to The Chicago Tribune.] Headquarters in the Field of the Ninth Imperial Army, Chateau Lafere, near Renais, Belgium.—Three weeks ago the government of Belgium requested me to place before the American people a list of specific and authenticated atrocities committed by the German armies upon Belgian non-combatants.

Today General von Boehn, commanding the Ninth Imperial field army, acting mouthpiece of the German general staff, has asked me to place before the American people the German version of the incidents in question.

So far as I am aware I am the only correspondent in the present war who has motored for an entire day through the ranks of the advancing German army, who has dined as a guest of the German army commander and his staff, and who has had the progress of the army on the march arrested in order to obtain photographs of the German troops.

This unusual experience came about in a curious and roundabout way. Invited by General von Boehn. After an encounter in the streets of Ghent last Tuesday between a German military automobile and a Belgian armored car, in which two German soldiers were wounded, American Vice Consul Van Hee persuaded the burghmaster to accompany him immediately to the headquarters of General von Boehn to explain the circumstances and ask that the city should not be held responsible for the unfortunate affair.

In the course of the conversation with Mr. Van Hee General von Boehn remarked that copies of papers containing articles written by Alexander Powell criticizing the German treatment of the Belgian civil population had come to his attention and said he regretted he could not have an opportunity to talk with Powell and give him the German version.

Mr. Van Hee said by a fortunate coincidence I happened to be in Ghent, whereupon the general asked him to bring me out to dinner the following day, and issued a safe conduct through the German lines.

Though nothing was said about a photographer, I took with me Photographer Donald Thompson. As there was some doubt regarding the propriety of taking a Belgian driver into the German lines, I drove the car myself.

In Midst of Kaiser's Men. Half a mile out of Sotteghem our road debouched into the great highway which leads through Lille to Paris. We suddenly found ourselves in the midst of the German army. It was a sight never to be forgotten. Far as the eye could see stretched solid columns of marching men, pressing westward, ever westward.

The army was advancing in three mighty columns along three parallel roads. These dense masses of moving men in their elusive blue gray uniforms looked for all the world like three monstrous serpents crawling across the countryside.

American flags which fluttered from our windshield proved a passport to ourselves and as we approached the close locked ranks they parted to let us through.

For five solid hours, traveling all ways at express train speed, we motored between the walls of the marching men. In time the constant shuffle of boots and the rhythmic swing of gray-clad arms and shoulders grew maddening and I became obsessed with the fear that I would send the car plowing into the human wedge on either side.

Miles of German Soldiers. It seemed that the ranks never would end, and as far as we were concerned they never did, for we never saw or heard the end of that mighty column.

We passed regiment after regiment, brigade after brigade of infantry, and after them hussars, uhlans, cuirassiers, field batteries, more infantry, more field guns, ambulances, then siege guns, each drawn by 30 horses, engineers, telephone corps, pontoon wagons, armored motor cars, more uhlans, the sunlight gleaming on their forest of lances, more infantry in spiked helmets, all sweeping by as irresistible as a mighty river, with their faces turned toward France.

This was the Ninth field army and composed the very flower of the empire, including the magnificent troops of the Imperial guard. It was first and last a fighting army. The men were all young. They struck me as being keen as razors and as hard as nails. The horses were magnificent. They could not have been better. The field guns of the Imperial guard were almost twice the size of any used by our army.

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At one place a huge army wagon containing a complete printing press was drawn up beside the road and a

morning edition of Deutsche Kreier Zeitung was being printed and distributed to the passing men. It contained nothing but accounts of German victories, of which I never had heard, but it seemed greatly to cheer the men.

Field kitchens with smoke pouring from their stovepipe funnels rumbled down the lines, serving steaming soup and coffee to the marching men, who held out tin cups and had them filled without once breaking step.

Covered Wagons Hide Machine Guns. There were wagons filled with army cobbler, sitting cross-legged on the floor, who were mending soldiers' shoes just as if they were back in their little shops in the fetherland. Other wagons, to all appearances ordinary two wheeled farm carts, hid under their arched canvas covers nine machine guns which could instantly be brought into action.

The medical corps was as magnificent as businesslike. It was as perfectly equipped and as efficient as a great city hospital.

Men on bicycles with a coil of insulated wire slung between them strung a field telephone from tree to tree so the general commanding could converse with any part of the 50 miles long column.

The whole army never sleeps. When half is resting the other half is advancing. The soldiers are treated as if they were valuable machines which must be speeded up to the highest possible efficiency. Therefore, they are well fed, well shod, well clothed, and worked as a negro teamster works mules.

Only men who are well cared for can march 35 miles a day week in and week out. Only one did I see a man mistreated. A sentry on duty in front of the general headquarters failed to salute an officer with sufficient promptness, whereupon the officer lashed him again and again across the face with a riding whip. Though wetts rose with every blow, the soldier stood rigidly at attention and never quivered.

Finally Reaches Von Boehn. It was considerably past midday and we were within a few miles of the French frontier when we saw a guidon, which signifies the presence of the head of the army, planted at the entrance of a splendid old chateau. As we passed through the iron gates and whirled up the stately tree-lined drive and drew up in front of the terrace a dozen officers in staff uniform came running out to meet us. For a few minutes it felt as if we were being welcomed at a country house in America instead of at the headquarters of the German army in the field. So perfect was the field telephone service that the staff had been able to keep in touch with our progress along the lines and were waiting dinner for us.

After dinner we grouped ourselves on the terrace in the self-conscious attitude people always assume when having their pictures taken, and Thompson made some photographs. They probably are the only ones of this war, at least of a German general and an American war correspondent who was not under arrest.

Then we gathered about the table, on which was spread a staff map of the war area, and got down to serious business. The general began by asserting that the stories of atrocities perpetrated on Belgian non-combatants were a tissue of lies.

"Look at these officers about you," he said. "They are gentlemen like yourself. Look at the soldiers marching past in the road out there. Most of them are fathers of families. Surely you don't believe they would do the things they have been accused of."

Explains Aerschot Crimes. "Three days ago, general," I said, "I was in Aerschot. The whole town now is but a ghastly, blackened, blood-stained ruin."

"When we entered Aerschot the son of the burghmaster came into the room, drew a revolver, and assassinated my chief of staff," the general said. "What followed was only retribution. The townspeople only got what they deserved."

"But why wreak your vengeance on women and children?" "None has been killed," the general asserted positively.

"I am sorry to contradict you, general," I asserted with equal positiveness, "but I have myself seen their mutilated bodies. So has Mr. Gimson, secretary of the American legation at Brussels, who was present during the destruction of Louvain."

"Of course, there always is danger of women and children being killed during street fighting," said General von Boehn, "if they insist on coming into the street. It is unfortunate, but it is war."

Data Startles General. "But how about a woman's body I saw, with her hands and feet cut off? How about a white-haired man and his son whom I helped bury outside Sempstad, who had been killed merely because a retreating Belgian had shot a German soldier outside their house? There were 22 bayonet wounds on the old man's face. I counted them. How about the little girl two years old who was shot while in her mother's arms by a uhlans, and whose funeral I attended at Beystopdenberg? How about the old man who was hung from the rafters in his house by his hands and roasted to death by a bonfire being built under him?"

The general seemed somewhat

in a zigzag course to a spot near Solsens.

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"It was a wonderful sight," the airman said, "to look down upon those hundreds and thousands of moving military columns, the long gray lines of the Kaiser's picked troops, some marching in a northerly, others in a northeasterly direction, and all moving with tremendous rapidity."

"The retreat, the aviator declared, was not confined to the highways, but

many German soldiers were across fields, jumping over crawling through hedges, and their way through woods without semblance of order or discipline.

"These men doubtless belong to the elements which were to be the fiercest fighting which preceded the general retreat. Deprived of the glory of their officers, they were mere rabble of fugitives."

Canada has now a debt of \$4,000,000,000.

PLEDGES JAPANESE AMITY.

Tokyo Banquet Speaker Says Philippines Will Not Be Attacked. Tokyo.—A notable demonstration of friendship toward the United States was made at a dinner given by the Japanese Association, which was attended by Takaki Kato, the Japanese Foreign Minister, and George W. Guthrie, the United States Ambassador. Viscount Kentaro Kaneko, president, in a speech, scored those persons who, he said, were trying to estrange the United States and Japan.

AUSTRIA NEEDS EVERY MAN.

Son to Call All Reservists and Emperor Mourns Necessity. Rome.—Dispatches from Vienna say the Neue Freie Presse announces the approaching call of all reservists en masse.

According to the Reichpost, Emperor Francis Joseph said to the Archduke Charles Francis, when the latter was leaving to take his place in the army: "Never in my life has anything cost me so much pain as the duty of taking such a grave decision."

21 LOST WITH TRAINING SHIP.

Fisgard II Goes Down in English Channel. London.—The Admiralty announces that the training ship Fisgard II, formerly the battleship Erebus, foundered in a gale off Portland, in the English Channel, and that 21 members of her crew were drowned. At this time of the disaster the Fisgard II was being towed. Forty-four of the crew were rescued by the tugs.

Boy artificers were trained on the vessel.

ENGLAND REQUISITIONS LINER.

Empress of Asia Now Scouts for Prizes in the Pacific. San Francisco.—The new Canadian Pacific transpacific liner Empress of Asia has been requisitioned by the British Government and transformed into a merchant cruiser. She is now combing the Pacific for prizes. This was the word brought from the Orient by the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria. The Japanese liner Nippon Maru had already been pressed into the transport service.

GERMAN RETREAT AS SEEN FROM THE SKY

London.—The following dispatch comes from the Standard's correspondent in Paris:

"The best view of the retreating German armies was obtained by a French military aviator, who, ascending from a point near Vitry, flew northward across the Marne and then eastward by way of Reims down to the region of Verdun and back again