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AT

"The Dispatch" Office

How the Germans Were Routed

New York, Sept. 21.—The London correspondent of the Tribune, sabling last night says:

"As if to disprove the statement that their counter assaults had lost their elan, the Germans made a desperate effort to-day to regain their hold on the Peronne Bapaume road. A series of terrific rushes were hurled against the French and the British lines, but they made no headway.

The blows began last night on both sides of the river, but they met with no success. On the French front the Germans penetrated some trenches, but Foch's troops drove them out in short order. This apparently was preliminary work—an attempt to feel out the strength of the new Allied positions.

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"With morning a greater effort was begun. This attack was confined to the French front, in the sector between Rancourt and Clery. It aimed to regain possession of those parts of the Bapaume-Peronne road won by the French a week ago. Through this gap it is possible for the Allies' troops to drive a wedge between the two towns.

"From nine o'clock in the morning until nightfall the attack continued with fury along a three mile front. Moving forward in dense masses—as the Russians assail the Teuton line in Galicia—the Kaiser's troops threw themselves repeatedly at Foch's positions.

"Wave after wave broke under the intense fire of the French artillery. As each crest receded it left behind it wreckage of dead and wounded. The ground before the French trenches was covered with corpses. Reports from the front indicate that the destruction of the Kaiser's troops has been seldom equalled.

"The ability of the allies to hold their gains is extremely encouraging. It must be remembered that the positions won by the allies have been almost completely destroyed by the gun-fire which always precedes the attacks. The

allied troops thus are confronted with the task of defending positions almost unprotected by trench lines. That task was accomplished to-day."

London, Sept. 21—"Of the landships or tanks, one continues to hear amazing stories," says a Daily News despatch from the Somme front. "One whose steering gear got out of order could not turn to the right and left, so it trundled straight ahead until quite out of touch with the infantry. Then sat down on a German trench and for five hours withstood bomb attacks.

"In another case the landship found the infantry was not coming on behind, so it went back to find out what was the matter. They were held up by a trench which the tank had overlooked, where a strong bombing party of Germans were situated. So the machine walked over to the trench, deposited itself on top of it and wiped the homo party out.

"One tank is known to have put out of action six German machine guns in a single position. Another wandered around for hours nosing out German machine gun positions in shell holes about the open, and dealing with them firmly when found.

"Another, after rendering yeoman service in the operations in High Wood, went on to what it thought was our front trench and then discovered it was a German one. It came back shortly afterward with twenty-five German prisoners, who walked beside it like a flock of sheep cowed by its machine gun.

"Another cleaned out a German post in a shell hole and then one of the gunners of the crew got out and took charge of a German gun and stayed there to use it against its former owners.

"They have proved themselves real and formidable engines of war, and a new service has been created: 'His Majesty's Land Navy.'"

Vivid Incidents Of Battle Field

With the British army in France, Sept. 21.—(Via London, Sept. 22)—Some of the best stories of the battle are told only after some battalions which have been in a big attack are out of the line. Then, after they have slept they recall vivid incidents in the midst of charges and their struggle for positions. They live over again their sleepless nights and days when they faced death in their grapple with the foe. Stories laughable and ridiculous are mixed with the tragic.

To-day the correspondent has been visiting the Canadian battalions after their storming of Courcellette. These men, their eyes blinking after sleeping the clock around, had taken more than their own number of prisoners in the

swift rush through the village. The Germans thought the attack was over. They did not anticipate the second charge which came just before dusk. They were in their deep dugouts taking cover from a sudden burst of shell fire, when, as the shell fire lifted the Canadian, were at their doors. The battalion, which took the eastern end of the village had got up only just in time to deploy for the attack before the minute set for it, and then rushed across the open under the German curtains of shell fire, and the officers could not give detailed instructions to their men before they went forward. They had to trust to the intelligence and initiative of their men to adapt themselves to a general plan.

Turning corners and dodging in and out, the men cleared the streets of Germans and saw that the dugouts were guarded. Given another half hour and the Germans would have organized their defences. As it was they were helplessly confined in their cellars.

One boy of 19 discovered a dugout of forty Germans and marched them away as prisoners, according to the accounts of his comrades.

One of the two battalion commanders captured was a baron. "Being of the aristocracy, he put on a good deal of airs," said a Canadian colonel, "till I took him aside and told him it was out of place and that I was too busy to be ceremonious. Then he became amiable."

Two German doctors worked like Trojans looking after their own and helping to look after the British wounded. They objected to be kept under guard, saying that they were medical officers and not combatants.

"Sorry, but there are too many of you friends still armed in the dugouts to let you circulate about this village freely," was the answer to their protests.

The Baron was sent across the open with the other prisoners under a Red Cross flag and with the warning, "If your guns fire on you, we cannot help it."

The baron was wounded in the leg by German shrapnel.

One Canadian officer of small stature, as he turned a corner found himself confronted by an enormous Prussian, but got the drop on him.

"My business was to get on through the village to our objective," said the officer, "that big German became a white elephant. I did not want to spare any man just then to guard him, so I drove him on ahead of me, making him keep his hands up. The thing was ludicrous in the midst of bursting shells and houses burning and no moving picture operator in sight. There were lots of funny things. Now I remember them.

"After we had established ourselves beyond the village and things were pretty well cleaned up, I saw a Canadian and a German prisoner, who had been fighting fiercely minutes before, goodnaturedly discussing the old theme when the war would be over. It ended by the German declaration that it would be over when the allies admitted that they were licked. The German insisted that his friends would come back and take Courcellette and the Canadian told him not in a thousand years—that not enough Germans had been born yet to do it.

When the Canadians saw something move under a pile of earth in a battered German trench they had occupied they dug out one dead German who had been killed by a shell burst, and one slightly wounded in the arm. They bound up the wound and dug him out as far as the hips and then told him, "this is our busy day; see if you can't do the rest for yourself." That German not alone dug himself out, but kept on digging

all night helping the Canadians make a trench.

"He was certainly some digger," said the man who told the story.

"When morning came we sent him back, and he arrived at the rear all right."

British Gain

More Trenches

London, Sept. 20.—A splendid lesson the Empire has taught the Huns in the recent fighting, when Australians and Canadians, charging together, took a certain important work to the right of Mouquet Farm. This is the first time in the present war the two colonies have actually been side by side in battle.

Paris, Sept. 20, noon.—Determined attacks were made by the Germans last night on the French positions at Hill 76, north of the Somme. The Germans gained a foothold at some advanced points, the War office announced today, but subsequently were ejected.

London, Sept. 20, 3.30 p. m.—British troops south of Arras yesterday captured 200 yards of German trenches, says the official statement issued today by British army headquarters.

The rainfall has been general along the whole British front in Flanders and France. The British troops spent Monday night in consolidating their new positions northwest of Bouleaux wood, where the capture of the "Quadrilateral work" enabled Gen. Haig's men to advance 1,000 yards on a front of a mile. This gain was another important advance in the encircling of Comblis, whose capture is now considered but a matter of a few days.

Comblis is so surrounded, north, west and south, that there remains only an opening of less than two miles to the west through which it can be supplied. The town is thoroughly well fortified, and the Chateau possesses vast underground caverns, extending under the village, over an area of nearly 400 yards, so that it is unlikely that any direct assault will be attempted.

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Allies Airmen Do Much Damage

London, Sept. 23 (12.55 p. m.)—British naval aeroplanes have successfully bombarded German aerodromes at several points in Belgium, the admiralty announced to-day. Especially notable results were secured by this and previous bombardments of the aerodrome at St. Denis Westrem, says the announcement which follows:

"The enemy aerodrome at St. Denis Westrem was again attacked yesterday by a squadron of naval aeroplanes. The results appeared to be highly satisfactory. Reliable reports now at hand show that very considerable damage and many casualties had been caused by previous bombardments of this objective.

"In the early hours this morning enemy aerodromes at Christellose and Hardeleme were heavily bombarded by a naval aeroplane squadron.

"All the machines returned safely." Paris, Sept. 23.—Flying nearly 100 miles beyond the German border, Flight Warrant Officer Baron last night bombarded the important works at Ludwigshafen, in the Palatinate on the Rhine and at Mannheim, across the river from Ludwigshafen.

The official report of to-day says the bombardment caused a large fire and several explosions at Mannheim.

French aviators engaged in 56 aerial flights yesterday. Four German aeroplanes were shot down.

Paris, Sept. 23.—Lieut. Col. Rousset, the military critic, says the operation of the winter campaign will differ from those of predecessors. He says: "I think that I can predict that the coming winter will not be entirely one of stagnation and waiting on all fronts. No doubt the sledge hammer blows we intend to deal will be separated by greater intervals, notwithstanding that we do not intend to remain merely in an expectant attitude. Having everywhere seized our foe by the throat, we intend to allow him only as much breathing space as the circumstances render inevitable."

The situation, the critic says, is no longer what it was at the beginning of former winter campaigns. On all fronts the Allies, he says, have already driven in a wedge of victory.

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SAND AND GRAVEL

Increased Demand For Washed Material in Cement Work.

More than \$18,000,000 worth of sand and gravel was dug out for sale in the United States in 1908, according to a report just issued by the geological survey.

This notable increase in production is due in great part to the more extensive use of sand and gravel in concrete construction work, but larger quantities were also used as railroad ballast and filling. There was also a considerable increase in the use of molding sand. The production of glass sand in 1908 was but little more than that in 1906.

During 1908 the geological survey made field and laboratory studies of many kinds of sands and gravels in localities where federal buildings were in course of construction. These studies have shown great differences in the quality of sand and gravel used at different places for making concrete. Some contractors contend that "run-of-bank" sand gravel is the best for making cement concrete, but this contention is generally not sustained by practical trials and experiments. The most desirable material is that which is free from clay, loam or dust. Much also is objectionable if present in large quantity, as well as pyrite or limonite. A coating of dust on gravel prevents its proper contact with cement, and the pebbles are therefore easily broken out of the concrete.

During recent years, particularly in the large building centers, there has been a greater general appreciation of the importance of using proper sand and gravel in cement concrete, so that leading architects and builders are requiring sound, clean, washed material.

To Keep Brasswork Bright

Brass rails or other brasswork on launches or boats can be easily kept bright by the use of sperm oil. Some boatmen polish their brasswork only once with putty or polishing powder, while for the rest of the season they keep it bright with sperm oil, which is rubbed on with a very oily cloth. Before starting on a trip the brasswork is rubbed over with the sperm oil cloth to prevent the salt from reaching the brass, and on the return the salt is readily taken off, leaving the rail bright. This method was recently suggested to an automobilist, who found it to be a great success, because he could polish up his brass very easily after it had been left several days.—Scientific American.

The Queer Argan Tree

Among the most remarkable trees of the world is the argan, which abounds in southern Morocco, but is seldom seen elsewhere. A forest of argans has a curious scattered appearance, because the trees grow singly and far apart. They are very leafy, but seldom exceed twenty feet in height. The branches put out horizontally and begin a yard above the ground. Sheep, cattle and camels feed on the leaves, and goats will stand on their hind legs to reach them, but horses and mules refuse to touch them. The wood is very hard and extremely useful to the natives, who make charcoal from it. The fruit, resembling a large olive, is used to feed cattle and to manufacture a valuable oil. It also furnishes the principal sustenance of the poorer natives.

A Martyr to the X Ray

Dr. Bull-Edwards of the Birmingham university, according to the English Mechanic and World of Science, has not been spared the payment of a heavy price for the benefits he has conferred on mankind by his researches in X ray photography. A short time ago both his arms were amputated as a consequence of the dangerous experiments he had carried out. He has just made the novel suggestion that photography should be included in the ordinary university course of training. The connection between photography and art, he thinks, has been overstated. Nothing has helped science more than photography of late years, and it should therefore receive more attention than it does at present in the education given both in schools and in the universities.