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THE BIG BATTLE OF AISNE STILL RAGING

Terrific Conflict Has Now Been in Progress for Nine Days---Casualties on Both Sides Have been Very Heavy---A Fierce Artillery Duel Carried on

General French Reports the Condition of His Army as Being Satisfactory---Attacks and Counter Attacks are of Frequent Occurrence---Heavy Fighting Along Between Rheims and the Argonne Forest---Heavy Rain Storm Fills the Trenches and Causes the Troops Great Inconvenience---British Soldiers Maintaining the Best Traditions of Their Race.

WAR SUMMARY

Entrenched Armies are still carrying on a fierce artillery duel.

The latest advices are favorable to the allied armies; the troops are cheerful and confident.

It is not believed that there were Indian troops sunk by a German cruiser in the Bay of Bengal.

Every officer and man at Valcartier camp will go to the front.

The Germans have strongly reinforced General Venkluk. British warship is pursuing German cruiser which sunk merchant ships in the Bay of Bengal.

The Kaiser has withdrawn troops from Brussels to help the Austrians against the Russians.

Peking, Sept. 22.—Mail advices from Tsimo state that the Japanese lost a second torpedo boat outside Kiaochow. The vessel was sunk by a German cruiser.

Correspondence from Tsing Tau dated Sept. 16, says:

Japanese destroyers shelled the German barracks on the coast, fourteen miles north of Tsing Tau. Bombs dropped from hydroplanes today, damaged neither the town nor its defenses, because the constant firing of the garrison kept the airships about two thousand yards above the town.

THE PEGASUS BEACHED.

Gibraltar, via London, Sept. 21.—It is officially announced from Zanzibar that the British cruiser Pegasus, which was recently attacked and disabled by the German cruiser Koenigsberg, has been beached.

CRUISERS GOING SOUTH.

New York, Sept. 21.—There was a persistent report in shipping quarters today that six of the fleet of British cruisers who have been patrolling North Atlantic waters have been ordered to steam south at full speed, to clear the South Atlantic of German cruisers, recently active there.

It was said they would make an effort to capture the Karlsruhe and the North German Lloyd liner Kronprinz Wilhelm. The report was given added credence when it became known that mail received at the British consulate here for delivery to the British cruisers had been forwarded to Rio Janeiro.

Two cruisers, the Lancaster and the Suffolk, were outside the harbor today.

TEN SHOTS TO SINK STEAMER.

Oalcutta, Sept. 21.—The crews of the six British steamers captured by the German cruiser Emden, in the Bay of Bengal, five of which were sunk after the crews had been taken make light of the German shooting. off, arrived here this afternoon. They George Read, second officer of the Indus, says that his ship was intercepted on the morning of September 10th by the Emden, as she was coming up the bay. The Germans had in-

tercepted all wireless, reporting the movements of ships, and so knew the positions of all the vessels in the bay. The cruiser fired ten shots at the Indus which, however, was not sunk until more than an hour after the attack began, the German marksmanship being very poor.

FURTHER COUNTER ATTACKS.

London, Sept. 21.—The official press bureau announced at 7.45 o'clock this morning:

"Since the last report was received from Gen. French, further counter-attacks have been made, and successfully repulsed."

PROGRESS IN FRENCH CENTRE.

Paris, Sept. 21.—The official communication issued tonight says: "The engagements today have been less violent. We have made appreciable progress, notably between Rheims and Argonne."

GAINED SEVEN MILES.

On the battlefield Sept. 21, via way of Paris, 5.30 p.m.—The western wing of the German line has been thrust back about seven miles during the last forty-eight hours, as a sequel to continuous fighting, night and day.

Both armies, despite almost super-fatigues, show the utmost determination not to yield an inch of ground without a terrible struggle, but the fresher troops at the disposal of the allied commanders, have gradually forced the Germans to recede.

The Turcos are adding daily to their record of daring achievements. Late last night, in a costly bayonet onslaught, they broke through the German lines without firing more than a few shots, and recaptured and brought back four field guns which the French troops had abandoned the previous day. They seemed to disdain the murderous rifle and machine gun fire poured into them, refusing to listen to the officers who tried to keep them under cover.

Cold steel again played a considerable part today in the battle of the enormous hosts fighting along the Aisne, the Oise and Woevre. The most remarkable point about the encounter is that the troops scarcely see each other before they actually come hand-to-hand.

The recklessness displayed at the beginning of the hostilities, with the resultant carnage through the machine guns, has almost disappeared, and every movement of the attacking and defending troops is carried out with the utmost caution, until the moment of actual contact.

GERMANS SUFFER.

The Germans have suffered most in these engagements, for the French troops from Africa and the British infantry are adepts with the bayonet, and they wait warily in the trenches until their adversaries are so close that a quick dash brings them together.

Gen. Joffre, who is enjoying robust health, holds in his hands every phase of the battle. Behind the firing line the commander of the allies confers daily with the generals in charge of the varied allied forces. He has created a feeling of the greatest confidence among the officers and men by his absolute indifference to political and other influences, and by his desire to spare them sacrifices.

The country behind the French army is being rapidly re-populated. Herds of cattle and sheep mingle with supply trains along the roads leading to the north. They are being driven by peasants, women, old men and boys, homeward.

TO GARRISON BRUSSELS.

Amsterdam, Sept. 21, via London.—According to a message which reaches the Telegraaf, the troops of the German empire who were in Brussels have left that city for the French and Russian fronts. The army occupying Brussels is now Austrian, and has with it seven heavy siege guns.

The Telegraaf says also that as an outcome of quarrelling between Bavarian and Prussian soldiers, several of the Bavarian ringleaders in these disorders have been court-martialed, and shot.

Brussels is reported as quiet. The price of provisions has increased considerably, and some products are scarce.

RESEMBLE SIEGE.

London, Sept. 21.—The unparalleled struggle on the River Aisne, which commenced about a week ago Saturday, has developed into siege operations. The two armies, strongly entrenched, are carrying on an artillery duel, while the infantry makes attack and counter attacks, which are in the nature of sorties from a beleaguered fortress.

Occasionally one or the other gains a little ground, but it is so little that the opposing forces remain in their trenches or take up positions in new entrenchments immediately behind those from which they are driven.

It is now becoming the conviction of the military men that nothing but outflanking movements can have any serious effects on either army. The Germans have, according to their own official report, been strongly reinforced both on their right, where General Von Kluck is making such a stubborn stand in almost impregnable positions on the hills north of Aisne, and inland in the centre, where the Germans are making almost super-

human efforts to recapture Rheims. It is probably the desire to recapture this town at all costs, because of its importance as the key to important communications that will improve all their connections for attack or retreat, that has led the Germans to continue the bombardment which has resulted in the destruction of the famous cathedral.

This bombardment has been of the most severe kind, and is being directed from Brimont, which the French recaptured but lost again, and from other hills around the town, and as if of deadly character. The French have brought up additional heavy artillery in an attempt to drive the Germans out of these hills, for until this is done the situation in the town must be difficult.

FRENCH ADVANCE.

On the allies' left the French report claims another advance on the right bank of the River Oise, as far as the heights of Lassigny, west of Noyon, which has been the centre of heavy fighting for a week past.

Severe fighting also continues north of the Aisne, and in the Craonn district, where the Germans, the French official communication says have been repulsed at all points with considerable losses.

This is an extremely difficult country over which to make an advance. The plateau of Craonne is of limestone formation, with the sides almost as perpendicular as walls; the valleys in wet weather become quagmires. It was on this plateau, just century ago, that Blucher failed to check Napoleon.

The allies apparently have scalded the walls of the plateau, and now hold the heights, but some of them they found Von Kluck in great strength, and are now awaiting the outcome of the attempt to turn his flank, which would clear the road for them. The French army, which is trying to work around the German right, is pushing its way slowly along. Starting from Compiègne, it reached Noyon, and today is on the heights of Lassigny.

The next objective point is Tergier, nineteen miles from Laon, an important railway junction, which the Germans are using for provisioning their forces. The French have made some headway in Champagne, and on the western slope of the Argonne and have re-occupied Mesnil-sur-Hurcus and Messiges, but elsewhere the situation remains as it was. One thing certain, neither front has been broken, all attempts to do this having been repulsed, and while the German right may be bending back a little, it is not yet outflanked.

All this fighting has been carried on in most execrable weather, a continuous downpour, which so often accompanies battles, filling the trenches with water, and putting a break on the movements of the men and horses.

ARMY SURROUNDED.

The Russian grip on the scattered Austrian forces in Galicia is holding rentlessly. According to Petrograd advices the fortress of Jaroslau is being bombarded; Przemysl has been invested, and Gen. Dankl's army, which is retreating toward Cracow

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ENTIRE CONTINGENT WILL GO TO THE FRONT

Decision of the Government to Send Every Officer and Man at Valcartier to the Front Has Caused Great Rejoicing at Valcartier---The Supernumary Officers Likely to be Attached to the Territorial Regiments

Valcartier Camp, Sept. 21.—Canada will send nearly 10,000 more men on the first contingent than was asked by the British war office. This announcement was made by Col. Sam Hughes tonight and the decision was the result of a conference between Sir Robert Borden, the minister of militia, Sir George E. Foster, and Hon. Robert Rogers at the camp today.

It means that 31,200 officers and men and 7,700 horses will be transported to England, instead of a division of 22,500 men, which was the original plan of the government. It also means that every officer in training here will be taken abroad, which has caused great rejoicing among those who expected to be rejected. Every man in camp who is physically fit for active service will comprise the first contingent.

WILL SEND THE WHOLE FORCE.

Asked whether any soldiers would remain in training at Valcartier, and if there would be a second contingent immediately mobilized, Col. Hughes said:

"We have decided that every man will be taken from this camp. The firing line from Canada will consist of an army division of 22,500 men, but at the same time we have deemed it advisable to send the rest of the Canadians who will act as a reserve, instead of leaving them here, and not being able to use them at a time when they are greatly needed because of possible delay in transporting them."

"As to whether a second contingent

will be mobilized, I cannot say. The services of 100,000 men can be obtained just as easily as were the services of those at present encamped here. A second contingent will be quickly mobilized, if necessary."

The first contingent will consist of nineteen battalions of infantry, including the Princess Patricia Regiment. This latter regiment will go as part of the first contingent. The original intention was to send only twelve battalions. There will also be three squadrons of Strathcona Horse, three squadrons of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the artillery of about 4,000 men, and many twelve, eighteen and sixty-pound guns.

Sir Robert Borden shook hands with every officer in camp this morning. He addressed the officers of each brigade, telling them that it had been decided to send every officer and man to England. This, indeed, was a splendid surprise to the officers, many of whom thought that they could not go, owing to the surplus. It is quite possible that many will be unattached and may be used by English territorial regiments.

Canada will also contribute about three hundred machine guns. Already 150 have been given by wealthy Canadians and it is expected that many more will be forthcoming in the very near future.

The Duke of Connaught inspected the two cavalry regiments, the Strathcona Horse and the Royal Canadian Dragoons, this morning, and the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry at Levis this afternoon.

The royal party and cabinet ministers returned to Ottawa tonight.

GERMANS MADE FIERCE ATTACK ON BRUSSEL'S FORT

Antwerp, Sept. 21.—"I just heard of a desperate, but unsuccessful attack which took place yesterday and on Saturday, on the part of the Germans to take Fort Waelhem, one of the strongest forts which protects Brussels. It lies between Malines and Brussels, and is in reality the key of the situation in Belgium."

"Shortly after dark, the Germans, who brought up considerable forces in the region of Hofstaet and Canpenout, opened fire with deadly artillery, and at the same time half the division of the enemy fired on the Belgians who were concealed in the trenches before the forts. It was intended as a surprise attack but it failed."

The forts of Waelhem replied with telling effect, and the front line of the German forces was devastated. Still they brought up men who continued to fall before the guns of the fort and then the German firing ceased as suddenly as it began. Just before dawn on Sunday the sudden attack was repeated but on this occasion the Belgians were more fully prepared to stand the attack. Again it failed. Later in the day there came a third attack but the enemy's shells which fell wide, afforded little covering and protection to the first line of invaders. Ultimately the Germans withdrew, having lost nearly

one thousand men.

Rome, Sept. 21, via Paris.—When informed of the destruction of the cathedral of Rheims, Pope Benedict said that he "could not believe it possible, in such a civilized epoch as the twentieth century, to be plunged back to the times of Atilla."

The pontiff requested Cardinal Ferrata to request Cardinal Amette, archbishop of Paris, for full particulars, as telegrams for Rheims are not accepted.

USED PETROLEUM SHELLS.

Bordeaux, Sept. 21.—A detailed account of the German bombardment of Rheims has become available here. It relates that the cannonading of the French city has lasted for a fortnight.

The Germans are said to have used petroleum shells, and the city was set afire in many places.

Whole blocks of houses have been reduced to heaps of smoking ruins. That part of the population which was unable or unwilling to leave the city was without food for several days.

A certain number of them were injured but little or no loss of life has been reported.