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The Semi-Meekly Telegraph

& The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1915

REPORT RUSSIAN TROOPS LANDED AT VARNA IN BULGARIA; GENERAL FRENCH COMMENDS NEW ARMIES AND ARTILLERY

Sir John French Reports Germans Lost 80 Per Ct. of Forces Engaged in Loos Counter-Attacks

Enemy Left 8,000 to 9,000 Dead in Front of the British Trenches in Culminating Attack October 8—"Efficiency of Artillery and New Armies Exceeds Expectations"-Second Canadian Division Welcomed.

London, Nov. 1-Field Marshal Sir John French, reporting from the front, says:

On October 29 the enemy heavily bombarded the area east of Ypres. With this exception, owing to the wet and misty weather, the artillery on both sides during the last four days has been less active. Mining activity continues on both siles-

'The returns of casualties for seven German battalions which took part in the Loos fighting, as published, show that the losses averaged 80 per cent of the strength of these bat-

BRITISH ARTILLERY GREATLY STRENGTHENED

How the British strengthened their artillery by the introdu of new weapons and the skillful handling of the old along the front in Flanders, where the Germans were driven back in the great of fensive of September 25, is the chief disclosure of popular interest in a long official despatch from Field Marshal Sir John French to Earl Kitchener, which is published tonight under date of General Headquarters in France, October 15.

General French refers to the arrival in the field fr of a new division, which he says is composed of excellent material.

"This division will, I am convinced, acquit itself as rell as the first Canadian division always has done," the

The despatch is mainly a technical military review of the ince tion, the carrying out and the aftermath of the fighting around La Bassee, Loos and Hulluch. Nevertheless it brings to the British pub lic, for the first time, a full realization of the intensity with which the Germans launched their counter-attacks. These, General French says, were almost continuous from the day of the big British attack up to and including October 8.

Then", the field marshal writes, "the Germans delivered an attack with some 28 battalions, in the front line, and with larger forces in support, which was preceded by a very heavy hombardment on all parts of the German front.

"At all points of the line, except two, the Germans were re-pulsed, with tremenlous loss, and it is computed on reliable authority they left some 8,000 or 9,000 dead in front of the British and French trenches," General French says.

BRITISH CASUALTIES NOT EXCESSIVE.

Dealing with the British losses in the action of September 25, the field marshal says:

"I deeply regret the heavy casualties incurred in this battle. but, in view of the great strength of the position, the stubborn defense of the enemy and the powerful artillery by which he was suported, I do not think they were excessive. I am happy to be able o add that the proportion of slightly wounded was relatively large

Field Marshal French here refers to the improvement in the illery and the arrival of British reinforcements, saying:

Since my last despatch the army has received strong rein forcements, and every reinforcement has had its quota of field artillery. In addition, numerous heavy guns and howitzers have been added to the strength of the heavy artillery. The arrival of these reinforcements in the field tested the capacity of the artillery as a whole to expand and meet the requirements of the army.

Our enemy may have hoped, and not, perhaps, without reason that it would be impossible for us, starting from such small begin nings, to build up an efficient artillery to provide for a very large expansion of the army. If he entertained such hopes, he has now gool reason to know that they have not been justified by results.

"The efficiency of the artillery and the new armies exceeded all expectations, and during the period under review excellent services have been rendered the territorial artillery. The repulse of the enemy attack, both in the neighborhood of Loos and Hulluch, with such heavy losses, shows the capacity of the artillery to concentrate its fire promptly and effectively at a moment's notice.

GAS USED WITH GOOD ADVANTAGE.

Of the use by the British forces of gas, Field Marshal French the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the result of the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the retain the result of the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to retain the reta says the repeated use of gas by the Germans compelled him to resort to a similar methol.

'A detachment was organized for this purpose and took part in the operations commencing September 25 for the first time,' says the field marshal. "Although the enemy was known to have been prepared for such reprisals our gas attack met with marked success, producing a demoralizing effect in some of the opposing units, of which ample evidence was forthcoming in captured trenches. The men undertaking this work carried out their unfamiliar duties with conspicuous gallantry and coolness, and are confident of their ability to more than hold their own, should the enemy again resort to this method of warfare."

In the concluding paragraph Field Marshal French pays tribute More to the cooperation of the French forces with the British

BRITISH ARTILLERY Serbian Arsenal Town DOUBLE OFFENSIVE VASTLY IMPROVED Captured By Germans ON EASTERN FRONT

Army Headquarters. Occupied in Teutonic March

GROUND HELD IN ... SOUTHERN SERBIA

French and British Gunners With Modern Cannon Too Much for Bulgarians-Pressure From Roumanian People For Entrance in War.

London, Nov. 2—A despatch to the Times from Bucharest, says: "It is reported in naval quarters here that Russian troops were land-ed at Varna, in Bulgaria, on the Black Sea, Friday."

Take This With Salt. ne, No. 1, via Paris—The Austro-ans are preparing a new offensive (Continued on page 8.)

IN BROOKLYN

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Germans Make Slight Progress in New Drive on Riga But Face Russian Attacks Farther

Hill at Tahure Remains in German Hands But Other Attacks Checked at Start-German Claim of 40,000 Prisoners on Russian and Serbian Fronts During October.

London, Nov. 1—The Germans, having failed in two months of almost incessant attacks, to reach Riga and Dvinek, by various routes, are now trying along the railway which skirts the shores of the Gulf of Riga from Tukum and have, according to their own reports, reached a point west of Schlok. This is a very slight advance, however, and much low ground, over which it is difficult to move, lies between them and their objective.

In the Dvinsk sector, both to the west and southwest of that city, the Russians have begun an offensive, apparently in anticipation of renewed attacks by the Germans, and they are also on the move in the lake district east of the Dvinsk-Vilna railway, and in Volhynia and Galicia. The result of these various battles has not been disclosed, if, indeed, they are concluded. Those at the southern end of the line are doubtless designed to prevent the Germans and Austrians from sending reinforcements to Serbia.

In France the battle, for the Butte De Tahure, which the Germans recaptured from the French, is still in progress, without change in the positions of the two armies. There has been some lighting at other points in the west.

What the attacks on this front have cost is shown by a report issued by Field Marshal Sir John French tonight. He says that the published lists of the German casualties disclose that seven German battalions which took part in the Loos lighting—presumably a German counter-attack—lost eighty per cent, of their strength.