

OPINION OF EXPERT ON EVENTS

Von Kluck Really Saved German Army.

Crown Prince is Gradually Being Driven Back.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]
NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—The Herald's military critic to-day says:

"As the veil is gradually removed from the almost bewildering succession manoeuvres concomitant with the operations of the extreme right of the German army in France and Belgium, it becomes more and more apparent that General Von Kluck was not forced to retreat when almost in striking distance of Paris for the reason that his forces were in danger of being enveloped.

"While it is true that when the German commander's sudden movement in a southeasterly direction was observed by the reconnoitring aviators of the Franco-British forces, the commander-in-chief of the allies immediately cut a strong flanking force with the object of taking the enemy in his flank and rear and dislodging him from his line of retreat, the real reason for General Von Kluck's manoeuvre was not then apparent to the allies' general staff. The flanking movement, however, was in part successful.

"Just why did the splendidly mobile force of cavalry and light artillery of the Franco-British column fail to deliver a decisive and crushing blow upon the retreating German wing? In the first place the German commander had a good start, having commenced their movement away from their extreme westerly position before the flankers rode out to cut them off. More important than all in the light of events of the last few days the greatest of all reasons why the indomitable German commander should turn away from Paris when he believed the French capital was within his grasp, looms large.

"It was not any sudden manifestation of weakness in his own position that wheeled him to the left. It was weakness in the remainder of the German battle line, and it was General Von Kluck, with his general utility force, that was called upon to save the situation. It now appears that he not only accomplished this at tremendous cost to his own force, but was enabled after he had re-inforced the weak spots in the line and inspired a general feeling of confidence which the entire army dug into the trenches and threw up parapets, to assume a vigorous counter-offensive to outflank the line.

"Behind all of this is the fact that the French army, once it was able to get its bearings drove into the all-confident advancing German line and stopped it completely. Even as Von Kluck backed toward so would the French have hurled back the German center and left. They would have done this save for the timely arrival of the ubiquitous Von Kluck with the necessary reinforcements.

"It was a disastrous manoeuvre on the part of the Germans insofar as maintaining a complete defensive was concerned. The outstanding effect of the entire movement was to give to the allies the complete measurement of the German strength which hitherto had been an uncertain quantity. Ever since that time all attempts of the Germans to force any part of the Franco-British line to retreat has met with decisive repulse.

"Now from the eastern flank of the battle front comes information in fragments that the French are exercising determined pressure. This in spite of the fact that the German force which has been endeavoring to penetrate a barrier line of the French fortifications has been made up of some of the finest troops in the kaiser's immense army, for it is unbelievable that the crown prince would be placed in command of other than the flower of German militarism.

"It has been reasonably established that the army of General Von Kluck, although heavily reinforced by the troops released after the reduction of the Antwerp forts has been effectively held. From western Belgium along the entire battle line there have been reported a succession of successes

(Continued on Page Four.)

HOW THE MOTOR TRANSPORT FIGURES IN THE GREAT EUROPEAN WAR.



BRITISH MOTOR TRANSPORT TRAIN HALTED BY THE ROADSIDE.

A British soldier who is serving at the front as a Royal Field Artillery motorman writes:—"While the battle is on we have all our wits about us, and even if we score a victory we must follow this up by making the enemy run still further away. And, of course, the transports must follow hard after the troops, for they must be supplied with ammunition and will want food as soon as there is an opportunity to eat it. Before the order is given for the troops to advance, in fact often for hours—in one case it was thirty-six hours—before the battle begins, we have to stand by to set the motor going, and off we start, never knowing, but always praying, that we may get through successfully." The above picture, drawn by Philip Dadd, special artist for this newspaper, the New York Herald and the London Sphere, shows a motor transport train halted by the roadside, with an aeroplane rapidly approaching from the rear.

BRITISH COURAGE SHOWN

Every Man Was at His Post as Cruiser Hawke Sank.

LONDON, Oct. 17.—The Chronicle has a despatch from Aberdeen giving the statement of a rescued stoker from the British cruiser Hawke, which was sunk by a German submarine in the North Sea on Thursday, with a loss of 350 lives. He says: "When the explosion occurred, I, along with others who were in the engine room, was sent flying into space and was stunned for a time. When I came to my senses I found myself in the midst of what must be described as an absolute inferno. One of the cylinders of the engine had been completely wrecked, and steam was pouring out in dense, scalding clouds. The horror of the situation was increased when a tank of oil fuel caught fire and the flames advanced with frightful rapidity.

"Seeing that there was not a ghost of a chance of doing any good by remaining in what was left of the ship, I determined to make a dash for it. I scrambled up the iron ladder to the main deck. All this had happened in less than a minute. I found myself in the British pluck and coolness and nerve, even in such a situation, that the commander and officers were on the bridge, and as calmly as we were given and as calmly obeyed. Buglers sounded call which summoned every man to remain at his post. During the first minute or two, many believed that all that was wrong was the boiler explosion, but the rapidity with which the sea-board side quickly disintegrated all minds of this belief. Realizing the actual situation the commander gave orders to close all watertight doors. Soon after that came orders to abandon ship and launch boats.

"One cutter was being launched from the port side, but the Hawke at that moment keeled over before the boat could be got clear. The boat lurched against the cruiser's side and stove in one or two of her planks. As the Hawke went down the small pinnace and raft, which had been prepared for such an emergency floated free, but such was the onrush of men who had been thrown into the water that both were overcrowded. On the raft were about 70 men, knee-deep in the water and the pinnace also appeared to be overfilled. Those who managed to make their way into the cutter, which was also in grave danger of being overturned, caught a last glimpse of these two craft in their precarious condition. The men picked up around the wreck of the boat would hold. All those on board her, who had put on life belts, took them off and threw them to their comrades struggling in the water. Oars and other movable woodwork were pitched overboard to help those clinging to the wreckage, many of whom were seen to sink."

BRITAIN SLOWER THAN RUSSIA BUT PRESENT ARMY IS ONLY ADVANCE GUARD FOR THE WAR

LONDON, Oct. 17, 7.40 a.m.—The Times' Military correspondent, replying to the Frankfurter Zeitung's statement that Great Britain was unable to raise more than 600,000 troops, says:

"We have at the present moment exactly double that number, namely 1,200,000 men and the number grows almost faster than we can cope with it. This is only the beginning.

"It is our way to begin to raise our armies after war breaks out and to go on raising them until our ultimate ends are achieved. With 1,200,000 men at home, the army in the field and the hundreds of thousands forming in India, Canada, Australia, and elsewhere are merely the nucleus upon which other armies will eventually be built.

"It is only a question of time. It stands to reason that an empire of 400,000,000 can never lack men. This war for us has hardly begun. We have sent merely an advance guard into France. In the spring the remainder of the advance guard will follow and somewhere toward the end of 1915 the main body will begin to come within view.

"We are sorry for the allies that we are even slower than Russia in making our weight felt, but a year or so hence, when the allies need a rest, we shall be in a position to make good war.

"Nothing can arrest the steadily ascending figures of our army. Their cost is of little account since Germany will ultimately have to pay in territory as well as money.

"Imagine things at their worst. Imagine the last Cossack on the Urals and the last French doorkeeper evicted from Bordeaux. Then we would begin a maritime war against Germany and still be no worse off than when we began war against Napoleon."

LONDON SPECULATES AS TO AN AERO RAID BEING MADE ON THE CITY

LONDON, Oct. 17.—10.30 a.m.—German forces as was predicted have occupied Ostend, near the sea, where the German right wing and the allies' left are struggling in the latest phase of what was the battle of the Aisne. All reports reaching London say that German imagination has been fired by the taking of Ostend and the cry is not only "on to Calais," but "on to Boulogne."

What progress, if any, the Germans have made since they entered Ostend Thursday morning, is not known here, but their objective apparently is Dunkirk. Opinion in England seems to differ as to what part the British fleet would play should the battle continue to skirt the coast-line and the reports that British dreadnoughts would back up the French, British and Belgian forces from the straits of Dover, seem to originate in German sources.

London papers generally depreciate the importance of the German occupation of the Belgian coast line, pointing out that the British mine field prevents the enemy bringing ships to operate from the none too spacious harbor of Ostend. The fact reports reaching London say that England the public heretofore discussing and speculating on a Zeppelin raid, is bound to ask itself what will come next.

It is unquestionably true that if Germany is able to engineer submarine attacks from a base further away, Ostend, if held by the invaders, certainly would be of some strategic value. The allied left is holding its ground. At some points it is even moving forward, having occupied Laventie, driving the Germans back in the direction of Lille, but this has not been confirmed. The presence of Uhlans has been reported recently within forty miles of Calais, but a glance at the map in the region of the cavalry clashes of the last few days, which for a time extended as far west as Hazebrouck,

shows that notwithstanding the German claims of victories, the allies have made steady progress, Laventie being considerably east of the town mentioned. Little definite news came during the morning of fighting along the Vistula River, where the Russians claim to have repulsed a German attack. Whether the German advance on Warsaw has been permanently checked only the future can show. One version has it that the Germans are preparing to winter in Poland. According to a despatch from Petrograd dated Friday, but received here to-day, the Russians now have opened their attack along the entire line with special energy in the south, when General Brusiloff's cavalry is said to have captured several Austrian detachments together with trains carrying reinforcements and supplies.

In retreating from Warsaw, it is said that the Germans lost 42 guns intended for the siege of that city.

French language and refuse to obey orders given in English. An aeroplane flying over the camp to-day, almost caused a stampede among the horses. The troops showed much interest in the heavier-than-air machine. As the Canadians are only travelling at night and have a long march to camp at the end of their railroad journey, it is not expected that all the members of the contingent will reach here before Monday. The camp has not been completed as yet.

GERMAN STRATEGY FAILURE

Attempts Made in Every Quarter Have Not Succeeded.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

PARIS, Oct. 17.—8.50 a.m.—A steady downpour of rain last night has drenched the fields of battle. The discomforts of the troops have been added to by the rain, and the difficulties of operations increased.

With the resumption of fighting to-day interest centers at the point in the long line, where the most important developments are expected. This is on the left wing.

The brevity of recent official communications is being commented on in Paris to-day, and the fact that fighting has been going on as usual is making the people of the city ask if the present comparative silence is not the lull, preceding the storm.

The joining of the barrier between the coast and Ypres to that of the existing front has made it impossible, in the judgment of French military experts, to turn the allies. On the contrary it will now be necessary for the Germans to attack the allies on their front, and it has been thought here that such an attempt would be made between Ostend and Ghent. To challenge this argument, however, is the fact that significant developments are said to be taking place near Lille. The strength of the positions of the allies near Lille in the face of repeated and unsuccessful attacks by the enemy, has given them great encouragement.

Colonel Roussel, the military critic, in his review of the situation to-day, declares that it is now too late for the Germans to envelope the Franco-British line on their left. "I see in the change of front operated by the enemy," the colonel writes, "only an admission of increasing embarrassment. German strategy is at the present time a little disconcerting and I believe that the directors of this strategy are themselves completely disconcerted. They have tried to force both our wings, the engagements in the region of Roye and Lassigny have par-taken of the Homeric. They have not procured for the Germans any benefit, nor have the combats which have taken place on the other extremity of our front."

LIEN ACTION

A mechanic lien action took place in the Judges' chambers at the county court house yesterday when Howie & Peely sued Charles Vandusen and the Theatre for \$800, the amount of their account against the building. Evidence was taken upon both sides, and judgment was reserved. E. R. Read represented the defendants, while A. M. Harley appeared for the plaintiffs.

WORRIED OVER FATE OF LONDON

A Number of Americans Hold Meeting on Atlantic.

Decide to Send a Petition to President Wilson.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—Unless the United States intervenes at once, London and Paris will be attacked and fired by a fleet of Zeppelins. The attack is not far off, and the only power that can stay the hands of the unscrupulous German is the United States.

This statement was made last night on board the White Star Liner Olympic, by F. Hopkinson-Smith, the author and painter, who returned from Glasgow after a trip of five months abroad. As soon as the Olympic docked, Mr. Smith mailed to President Wilson a set of resolutions protesting against the use of bombs dropped from aeroplanes and Zeppelins upon women and children. It was signed by two hundred prominent passengers on the Olympic, and with it Mr. Smith sent the following personal letter to the president:

"I have the honor to forward to you the enclosed memorandum which explains itself. We earnestly beg that some steps may be taken, to forestall, before it is too late, the setting free of the fleet of Zeppelins and aeroplanes which are now preparing for this deadly work. We feel that it is not a question of neutrality, but a question of humanity, and that any power refusing to act with wisdom and humane counsel would forfeit the sympathy of the world. The meeting, which was held on board the Olympic, and which day night, in aid of the Red Cross authorized the following resolutions:

"That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States, accompanied by a personal letter begging him, in the interests of humanity, to protect, as far as within his power, against the continuance of this practice.

"First: Because it is contrary to the instincts of all self-respecting nations.

"Second: As being sure to alienate every particle of sympathy from those indulging such outrages, and,

"Third: As only brutal and cruel in the last degree, but without any other military advantage than the terrorizing, maiming and killing of innocent non-combatants who are helpless against such attacks."

Mr. Smith said that few in this country realize what menace threatens London. He predicted that there would be many innocent women and children killed in their beds and in the streets if the United States did not step in and warn Germany.

London is helpless against this Zeppelin attack," he said, "and it is coming as sure as their word on the air fleet, and I hope sincerely that the United States will advise them to abandon it before it is too late. I am confident that Germany would heed a warning from this country and government.

"I am a disciple of neutrality, ideas on neutrality. It has to do with legitimate warfare, but the dropping of bombs on unfortified cities by stealth in the middle of the night, when no one can defend himself, is not warfare. It is brutal treachery, and in the name of humanity it should be stopped."

He said that Germans are openly boasting that they have no desire to take Paris. They say they will set it on fire, and that they will burn London, so that Berlin, the only city worth while in all the world, may be prosperous and grow.

"When I left London, the city was in darkness every night. By light means that every light is out. A wealthy friend of mine told me that he had a certain light to look out for. He had assumed the responsibility of the putting out of that street light at the proper hour each night, and seeing that it was kept out. It is the same everywhere.

"London knows this Zeppelin raid is coming, but the city is calmly and stoically awaiting it.

"Germany has defied the civilized world. She has gone into a fight against civilization and challenged the right of anyone, but Germans to live and prosper."

Mr. Smith said that Germany was not fighting fair, and unless some power like the United States took cognizance of her tactics, she would continue to fight foul.



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