

GIAN ARMY STILL LOCKED IN BATTLE IN NORTH FRANCE

GIVE AND TAKE ALONG THE BATTLE LINE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH; RUSSIANS WIN

Germans Fiercely Attack and Force Allies Back in Several Places---Enemy Driven Back at Other Points by Counter Attacks---Austrians Held in Check on San River.

After days of incessant fighting a change at last has been worked in that part of the line of battle which had run virtually straight north and south from Ypres, in Belgium, to the bend in the elbow in the vicinity of the forest of Alouette in France.

Just a short distance above its centre this line now curves like an inverted letter "S," the Allies having pushed back the Germans at the east of Armentieres in an endeavor to press on to Lille and the Germans having forced the Allies to give ground around La Bassée, probably hoping to obtain control of Bethune, an important railroad centre about seven miles due west from La Bassée.

That ground has been won and lost in this district is admitted in the latest French official report, but that neither the engagements we describe seems probable, as the report declares that the actions near La Bassée and Armentieres near Arras on the same line a short distance south of La Bassée, continue with great violence. In fact, the report says that, generally speaking, the situation on this part of the war front remains the same.

The British Admiralty has issued a statement saying that the necessity to use its warships for convoy duty having passed, British cruisers, aided by like vessels of the Australian, Japanese, French and Russian navies, will now search the seas in an endeavor to run down the eight or nine German cruisers, including the Emden and the Karlsruhe, which have been playing havoc with the shipping of the Allied countries.

Great Britain has prohibited the importation of sugar in order to keep the German and Austrian product being shipped in from neutral countries.

President Wilson has approved the demands of the State Department on Great Britain for the release of the steamers Platania and Brindilla. The president took the position that every right of American shipping must be protected.

Of the fighting near the coast where the British and French naval vessels are endeavoring to aid the allied troops in holding back the German attempt at an advance, nothing was vouchsafed in the report.

Attkirch, in Upper Alsace, a short distance from the Swiss front, has been taken by the French at the point of the bayonet. Since the outbreak of the war this town has been the scene of much fighting and several times has changed hands.

RUSSIANS CLAIM VICTORIES.

Petrograd claims that the Germans continue to retreat and that the forces of Emperor Nicholas have crossed the Vistula without resistance. The Austrians are given credit in the Russian report for continuing to fight stubbornly on the Vistula, on the San and south of Przemyel. No reports were received from Germany or Austria, and Serbia likewise was silent regarding the operations in the south.

London, Oct. 23, 2:39 p. m.—The Germans have undertaken a general offensive movement along the line extending from the mouth of the River Yser, on the North Sea, to the River Meuse, and while they have compelled the allies to give ground in some places, they themselves have lost positions in others. This, in a few words, is what is gathered from official reports coming this evening from the French and German headquarters.

The German attack was today particularly severe in the west where their right wing, strongly reinforced by fresh troops attempted an advance against the Belgians who are holding the allies extreme left. This left rests on the coast and is supported by English and French warships and by Anglo-French troops which form a front from a point somewhere in the vicinity of Dixmude southward to La Bassée Canal. Both sides claim success, but the French alone admit that in places they have been compelled to fall back.

Generally, however, there is little or no change in the situation, the swinging and swaying of the lines being the same as has been going on for weeks.

NO DECISIVE BATTLES.

Although it is just two months now since the allies concentrated on the Franco-Belgian frontier to oppose the German advance, and the invaders have been to Paris and back in the interval, no decisive battle has been fought. Neither side has destroyed or partially destroyed an army.

Even the Belgian army escaped almost intact after their country was overrun by the Germans. The same can be said of operations in the east, where the armies of Russia, Germany and Austria are fighting, except in the case of Lieut. Gen. Samsonoff, the Russian commander, whose army was partially destroyed by the Germans in the battle at Tannenberg, East Prussia.

In the present battle on the River Vistula, from Warsaw south to the River Pilica, the Russians have scored an important victory in driving the Germans back, and have captured many prisoners besides guns and ammunition. But the defeated army is still in being and when it gets back to its selected position it can entrench itself and start another siege battle, such as that which occurred on the River Alene in France.

AUSTRIANS IN CHECK.

The Austrian army which was so often described as routed and destroyed in the battles of Gallioia, has sprung into life again, and is attacking the Russian left wing. The Austrians, however, apparently have found an impregnable barrier at the River San, north of Jaroslau.

The Germans claim a victory over the Russians west of Augustowo Suwalki, following fighting reported by them yesterday in the direction of Osowetz, south of Augustowo, shows that the Germans are attempting another attack from East Prussia into the Government of Grodno, to the east of Suwalki, doubtless with the object of compelling the Russians to reinforce their army in that region.

All these movements, however, have brought the belligerents no nearer their goals which cannot be attained until an army is destroyed, or one or the other of the contending forces becomes too exhausted to fight further.

The Admiralty tonight issued a report in which it was said that the German cruiser Karlsruhe had captured thirteen British steamers in the Atlantic.

WHY GERMANS USE THE CLOSE FORM IN LINE

Lord Roberts Learned Secret from Kaiser—Men Require Psychological Comfort of Contact.

London, Oct. 23.—Light is thrown on the question why the Germans use a close formation when it brings such disastrous results, as is described in frequent despatches from the front, by a conversation Lord Roberts once had with the Kaiser when Lord Roberts went to Germany to witness manoeuvres.

Lord Roberts during these manoeuvres noticed the German close formations and remarked to the Kaiser that he supposed that this formation would not be used in an actual battle. The Kaiser replied that it would. Then Lord Roberts expressed some surprise, having noticed the danger of such tactics.

The Kaiser said the formation must be used else the soldiers would not go forward, that being their temperament. They must have some one with in reach, evidently just for psychological comfort, before advancing on the enemy.

AUSTRIA EATS HORSE FLESH; BEEF SCARCE

Venice, via Paris, Oct. 23, 9:50 p. m.—Advices received here from Budapest say that owing to the war and the necessity to supply the army with beef, the consumption of cattle has increased enormously. Since the beginning of the war, 35,000 oxen have been slaughtered in Budapest as against 25,000 for the corresponding period of 1913.

The shortage in the supply of cattle is very apparent. The consumption of horse flesh is rapidly increasing. Five hundred horses brought into the Vienna market on Monday sold for from \$30 to \$50 each.

Since the beginning of the month the price of eggs and butter in Vienna has risen tremendously, placing them far beyond the reach of the poorer classes. Hungary is now the sole source of the egg supply. The peasants are making enormous profits also from other products but show a disposition to hoard their gains that the Catholic clergy in the country districts recently were instructed to urge their people to spend their unexpected gains in buying farm machinery and other useful articles in the interest of the whole community.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE SMALL GERMAN FORCE

London, Oct. 23 (4:50 p. m.)—In a despatch from Warsaw the correspondent of Reuters' Telegram Company says the German retreat from Warsaw was so precipitate that the soldiers had to abandon their food supplies. Many of the prisoners taken are exhausted from starvation. One complete unit of 800 men has been captured by the Russians.

MINISTER OF MILITIA NOT A MAJOR GENERAL



MAJOR GENERAL THE HON. SIR ROBERT PERKS, WITH HIS STAFF. (Photo by The Standard Staff Photographer at Vauxcelles Camp.)

London, Oct. 23.—Never has Canada played so conspicuous a part in the London and British press generally as during the past ten days in connection with the arrival of the first Canadian Contingent. Not a daily or weekly can be scanned which does not contain flattering eulogies on the Dominion's action, and the quality of the men sent over. The Illustrated London News, published today, leads a page of varied snapshots: "Unrivalled Since William the Conqueror," "The portrait of the Minister of Militia appears in the centre of the page, which shows views of the contingent. The fact at the foot of the page says: 'The photograph was taken at Vauxcelles Camp, near Arras, France, on Oct. 22, 1914.'"

Major General the Hon. Sam Hughes was warmly congratulated on all sides on the news of his promotion which appears in the evening paper. Sir Robert Perks had booked the new Major General to attend a popular concert at Westminster Central Hall, the Methodist headquarters, tomorrow, when the minister would have been expected to speak, but he has had to excuse himself, as he journeyed to Salisbury Plain in the morning.

ADMIRALTY IS PLANNING ROUND-UP FOR GERMAN CRUISERS NOW ON SEAS

Six of Enemy's Ships Still Searching for British Commerce—Royal Navy Has Given Wonderful Protection—Empire's Merchant Vessels Sunk, 30, Germans 133.

London, Oct. 23, 7 p. m.—The Admiralty tonight issued a statement outlining the steps that are being taken to round up the eight or nine German cruisers at large in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. These cruisers include the Emden, which has sunk or captured twenty British vessels to date in the Indian Ocean, and the Karlsruhe, which has taken thirteen British ships in the Atlantic. The statement says:

"Searching for these vessels and working in concert under various command, are upwards of seventy British, Australian, Japanese, French and Russian cruisers, not including auxiliary cruisers. Among these are a number of the fastest British cruisers.

"The vast expanse of seas and oceans, and the many thousands of islands offer almost infinite choice of movement to the enemy's ships. In spite of every effort to cut off their coal supply, it has hitherto been maintained by one means or another. In the face of increasing difficulty the discovery and destruction of these few hostile cruisers therefore is largely a matter of time, patience and good luck. The public should have confidence that the commanders in chief and the experienced captains serving under them are doing all that is possible and taking the best steps to bring the enemy to action.

"Our commanders so far have been occupied in very serious and important convoy duty, but this work has somewhat lessened, and the number of searching cruisers is being continually augmented. Meanwhile merchant ships must observe the Admiralty instructions, which it is obviously impossible to specify, and use all the precautions which have been suggested. On routes where these instructions have been followed they have so far proved very effective. On the other hand, where they have been disregarded, captures have been made. The same vastness of the sea which has so far enabled the German cruisers to avoid capture, will protect trade.

"The only alternative to the methods now adopted would be the marshalling of merchantmen in regular convoys at stated intervals. So far it has not been, though necessary to hamper trade by enforcing such a system.

"The percentage of loss is much less than was reckoned on before the war. Out of four thousand British ships engaged in the foreign trade only thirty-nine have been sunk by the enemy, or less than one per cent in all. Besides seven vessels are now overdue in Atlantic waters.

"The rate of insurance for cargoes which at the outbreak of the war was fixed at five guineas per cent, has now been reduced to two guineas per cent. "Between 8,000 and 9,000 foreign voyages have been undertaken to and from United Kingdom ports, less than five per thousand of which have been interfered with; and of these losses a large number have been caused by merchant vessels taking everying for granted and proceeding with precautions as if there were no war.

"On the other hand German overseas trade has practically ceased to exist. Nearly all their fast ships which could have been used as auxiliary cruisers were promptly penned into neutral harbors, or have taken refuge in their own. Among the comparatively few German ships which have put to sea 133 have been captured, or nearly four times the number of those lost by the very large British mercantile marine.

"In these circumstances there is no occasion for anxiety and no excuse for complaint. On the contrary the more fully the facts concerning our overseas trade and its protection by the Royal Navy can be disclosed and the more attentively they are studied, the greater will be the confidence and satisfaction with which the situation can be viewed."

HAS ROYAL APPROVAL

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—King George has approved of the naval volunteer force of Canada being known as the "Royal Naval Canadian volunteer reserve."

TORONTO CHANGE WILL OPEN MONDAY

Toronto, Oct. 23.—The Toronto Stock Exchange will open on Monday for trading in all listed securities upon the basis which has governed transactions in the limited list selected for experimental purposes. As before, the intention is to relieve margined holdings which may be embarrassed, and all transactions will be for cash.

HOW CLEVER CAPTAIN KEPT BRITISH CONVOY FROM GERMAN GRASP

He Suspected Officers in British Uniform who Supplied Misleading Information and Shot Both Dead—Germans, Seeing Plot Foiled, Attacked Violently, but were Hurlled Back.

Paris, Oct. 23 (11:45 p. m.)—Watching each other's every move in order to take advantage of the slightest weakness at any point, the two great armies continued violent attacks and counter-attacks throughout last night and today, according to statements made by officers and officials arriving here from various sections of the battle line. These assaults did not effect any noticeable change in the positions although the Allies were compelled to give way a little at La Bassée, thirteen miles southwest of Lille. At Armentieres also the fighting was very stubborn, and the Allies gained some more ground.

Two officers in British uniforms today brought to a halt the motors belonging to an ammunition convoy as it was proceeding to the British lines at Armentieres, with supplies.

"Halt, you are running right into German trenches," was the command given to the convoy.

The captain in command went and spoke to the two officers, who were driving a British automobile. After a few words passed the captain noted that the men who had issued the orders spoke with a slight accent, whereupon he drew his revolver and shot both his supposed comrades. At the same time a squadron of German cavalry approached a short distance ahead.

The British captain then ordered the truck drivers, most of whom were London motor bus chauffeurs, to dismount with their rifles and take a position in a ditch beside the road in order to defend the convoy. The Germans were about to charge, and a detachment of German infantry had arrived on the scene, but from the other side a French battalion appeared. A sharp fight ensued and the Germans retired with heavy losses. The ambushade had been well prepared.

REPORTS FAVORABLE

The Allied commanders regard the results of today's fighting as favorable to the Allies, since it has proved their ability to withstand frequent and formidable shocks from the powerfully reinforced German army without perceptibly giving way, in fact, advancing somewhat at various points. Since the end of September, when the bulk of the Allies were on the Oise and Somme Rivers, near Compiègne and Amiens, the battlefront has been prolonged 125 miles to the sea coast, where with the support of the British fleet, the Allied forces heretofore have effectually barred the German advance on Dunkirk and other channel ports.

In the vicinity of the Arras the forcing tactics of the Germans were again in evidence today but the invaders made no progress. The artillery duel was exceedingly heavy but the French big guns did such splendid work that three German batteries were put out of action while the damage done to the Allies was small.

In the eastern district the battle of the Vosges continued vigorously. Further south the French and German infantry came to close quarters at Altkirch. This place, after changing hands several times, was finally captured today by the French at the point of the bayonet.

UNITED STATES BANKING HEADS IN CONFERENCE WITH BRITISH FINANCIAL EXPERT

Assurances Given that Financial Difficulties Between Two Countries Will be Overcome Without Trouble—All Optimistic as to Future—Exchanges May Open January 1.

Washington, Oct. 23.—Financial forces of the government, the wisdom of some of the most prominent men in the American banking world, and the friendly counsel of representatives of Great Britain, were turned today toward a solution of the problem of a re-adjustment of the foreign exchange market to meet conditions which have arisen as a consequence of the European war. For more than three hours the Federal Reserve Board, Sir George Paish and Basil B. Blackett, representing the English treasury, and some of the best known bankers in New York, discussed the situation in all its aspects. According to those present there was not a note of pessimism heard to mar the harmony of the conference, and there was every reason to believe tonight that all the problems which loomed so large on the financial horizon a few months ago will be solved without great difficulty.

American bankers stand ready to pay their obligations to England in cash. The \$100,000,000 gold pool already formed and \$50,000,000 raised by a New York syndicate to meet New York city's obligations probably will suffice to satisfy England. Payment of this total may not be necessary.

The New York and London stock exchanges will not be opened, possibly, before the beginning of 1915. Sir George Paish, while not attempting to speak with authority, felt confident that English holders of American securities would not be disposed to dump them upon the market if the London exchange is opened. England, he explained, was fighting the war on

her savings and on her current receipts. A selling of American investments may come, he said, but will be offset by the large exportations of cotton, grain and other commodities which must come in the next few months.

He added that all maturities had been taken care of up until January 1. By that time the balance of trade probably will swing back to a marked degree toward the United States.

Previous reports showed that of the crew of 569 officers and men, 52 men were saved by a trawler, and 21 others were picked up from a raft on which they had escaped from the Hawke.

MANY LOST WITH HAWKE

London, Oct. 24.—A list of casualties among the crew of the cruiser Hawke, which was sunk recently by a German submarine, shows that two men were killed and 494 are missing. These figures are contained in a list issued by the Admiralty. It is feared that the men reported as missing must be regarded as having been lost when the vessel sank, according to the Admiralty's statement.