

BRITISH WARSHIPS SHELLING TRENCHES WITH TERRIBLE EFFECT; COMPLEMENTS BELGIANS

Presence of British Monitors with Big Guns Proven Big Disadvantage to Germans — Allies Hold Ypres and Menace Enemy's Rear — French Troops Able to Withstand Fury of German Attacks — Russians in Poland Repulse Force Marching on Warsaw, and Inflict Heavy Losses, While Austrians Near Przemysl Have Also Been Driven Back — German Cruiser Sinks British Steamers.

London, Oct. 21, 9.30 p. m.—Although the Allies and the Germans have been delivering attacks and counter-attacks, and fighting of a fierce character has been almost continuous for a week or more, no decision has yet been reached in either of the West Flanders, Northern France or in East Prussia, Poland and Galicia.

This is clearly evident from the reports issued officially at the various headquarters, which today content themselves with recounting the fact that violent attacks have been made. The French, however, claim that the Allies have repulsed German offensive movements at various points in the west.

According to the French communication, the Germans made attacks against the Allied line at Nieuport, Dixmude and La Bassée, while the German general staff says fighting continued on the Yser Canal and that the Germans, taking the offensive west of Lille, have repulsed the French at several points.

These reports seem to dispose of the very optimistic accounts appearing in the English newspapers from correspondents who claimed they were in West Flanders, and who stated that the Germans have been driven back.

GOOD WORK OF BRITISH WARSHIPS.

The Germans, however, are believed here to be fighting against disadvantages, especially along the coast, as the British ships which have been assisting the Allies' land forces have long range guns that would be capable of making things uncomfortable for the ammunition trains and supply convoys, which must remain in the immediate rear of the troops, and also for the men in the trenches and the German gunners.

While no official information is available as to the ships which are being used for this purpose it is probable that they are the three monitors which were being completed in England for the Brazilian government when the war broke out and which were bought by the Admiralty.

These monitors, which have been renamed Mersey, Humber and Severn, draw less than nine feet of water and could take up positions not far from shore from which their six inch guns and 4.7 inch howitzers, of which each vessel carries two, would be able to throw shells nearly four miles across country, the range being given them by air-men.

The vessels assisting the Allies have not been allowed to carry out their practice in peace, for the crews of German submarines have followed them down the coast and while they have been shelling German positions made attacks on them. These attacks, however, were made futile by the presence of British destroyers. One account says the submarines suffered losses, but this statement has not been confirmed.

It has been remarked that the submarines and aeroplanes, which in times of peace have proved themselves most dangerous arms of the two services, have suffered little loss since the war commenced and have been doing splendid work, travelling thousands of miles. The battles on land are being contested with a ferocious and stubbornness which would indicate that strategic importance is placed on the positions held by the opposing armies. When a town is reached street fighting generally develops, such as that which took place at Ypres last week. First one side gains an advantage, only to lose it when the other side brings up reinforcements.

ALLIES HOLD YPRES

Thus far the Allies have been able to hold Ypres, which is considered an important point as it supports the Allied force thrown out toward Roulers and seemingly endangers the rear of the German army advancing toward Dixmude and the coast.

The Germans, on their side, are striking hard at the French line in the vicinity of La Bassée and have made counter-attacks against the force which for many days has been endeavoring to relieve Lille.

Along the rest of the line from west to east, the French communication says there is no notable change, while the German staff ignores that part of the battle front in its statement. These reports doubtless mean that neither side has made any considerable advance. It is not believed here that there has been a cessation in the fighting either on the Meuse, where the French are trying to drive the Germans away from Saint Mihiel and Camp Des Romains, or at Belfort, which the Germans are attacking.

RUSSIANS GAINING IN EAST

Of the fighting in Russia the German official report today says no decision has yet been arrived at, but the Russians make a claim of victory which if not a decisive one comes very near being decisive.

An official report received from Petrograd says the German troops which were advancing toward Warsaw in the region north of the Piltz River have been repulsed and are now in full retreat. They left their wounded on the field. The Russians according to this report, have assumed the offensive, but the Germans are retreating on the left bank of the Vistula, south of the Piltzka region as far as Sandomir.

The report seems to show that the Germans have concentrated a strong force of artillery in front of Kozienice, which is just across the river from the important fortress of Ivanograd. It adds that the Russians are holding this district under most unfavorable conditions as far as locality is concerned, but in the next sentence declares that the Russians' positions on the left bank of the Vistula is now secure.

Of the progress of the battles in East Prussia the Russian reports are again contradictory. The Russians say the Austrians have failed to cross the San river, and that the Russians are taking the offensive, while near Przemysl the Russians repulsed numerous bodies of Austrians. The Austrians on the other hand, claim that their attacks are progressing, and that the Russians have been driven back out of several places. It is thought possible here that the American report refers to a battle that is taking place further to the south.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FORESHADOW A VICTORY

Announcements from Headquarters of Allied Armies Tell of Satisfying Progress — Pay Tribute to Gallant Belgian Soldiers—French in Violent Battle.

London, Oct. 22, 12.04 a. m.—The official press bureau issued the following statement at midnight:

"Throughout yesterday the enemy made a vigorous attack against the Allies' front, but were beaten back, suffering considerable losses. The Belgian army in particular distinguished itself by its spirited and brave defence of its position."

"In regard to the last part of the above announcement by the war office, the press bureau has received from an authentic source the following description of the Belgian army's work, which will be read with pride both by the many Belgians who have had to flee from their native land, and by those Allies amongst whom they are now finding temporary rest and shelter."

"For the last four days the Belgian army have been in the trenches, holding a line of some thirty kilometers (19 1/2 miles) with the greatest determination against heavy odds. On several occasions they have made brave and successful counter-attacks against the German forces attacking the position they hold, and have shown the soldier-like qualities that have distinguished the Belgian army during the long period in which they have been fighting against superior forces of the enemy in their country."

RUSSIAN.

Petrograd, Oct. 21.—The Russian official statement issued tonight says:

"The German troops, which had occupied the roads leading to Warsaw, in the region near the River Piltzka, have been repulsed and are now in full retreat, leaving their wounded on the battlefield."

"The Germans have abandoned the positions they had fortified in advance."

"The Russian troops are energetically advancing along the whole front."

"The enemy is still occupying the left bank of the Vistula, south of the Piltzka and as far as Sandomir."

"The Russians who had been gallantly holding for eight days the region of Kozienice, under most unfavorable conditions and heavy artillery fire, achieved considerable success on October 20 and their position on the left bank of the Vistula is now secured."

"The attempts by the Austrians to cross the River San below Przemysl have been checked and the Russians are assuming the offensive there."

"In the region south of Przemysl are found the remains of all the Austrian corps defeated in Galicia. Here the Russian troops are energetically checking the advance of numerous bodies of the enemy."

"There is no essential change in East Prussia. We are at present in touch with the slopes of the Carpathians."

—SERVIAN.

Nish, via London, Oct. 21, 10.20 p. m.—The following official announcement has been issued in Belgrade:

"On the night of October 17-18, attacks by the enemy were repulsed near the Loinitza customs house and the principal positions on the Drina river, to the south of the town. On the same night the enemy bombarded Banovica from the Beljina Heights, and also Topchidelsko, the Bardo bridges across the Save river and the two Singanilla islands. None of these operations met with success."

"On October 18 fighting took place along the whole front occupied by our troops in Bosnia, and all the attacks made upon them were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy."

"On the same day the enemy directed an attack against our right wing in the direction of Montchevo and against Erminova. Both these attempts were repulsed, as well as one against the Servians near Belgrade on the left bank of the Save. On the remainder of the front there is nothing of importance to report."

FRENCH.

Paris, Oct. 21, 11 p. m.—The official statement issued by the French war office tonight reports a violent battle on the left wing, with the Allied forces holding their ground everywhere.

"On our left wing from the North Sea as far as La Bassée, on the several fronts from Nieuport to Dixmude, from Ypres to Menin and from Warneton to La Bassée, violent battles have been fought during the whole day."

"According to the latest advices the Allied forces were holding their ground everywhere."

"There is nothing to report regarding the centre of the right wing."

"Russia. The German army which had advanced on Warsaw was forced yesterday to beat a precipitate retreat, the enemy abandoning the positions which he had established for defence. The Russians are in pursuit and have captured a number of prisoners."

GERMAN.

Berlin, Oct. 21, via London, 6.10 p. m.—An official announcement given out by the German military headquarters today, says:

"Severe fighting continued on the Yser canal. The enemy's artillery was supported from the sea northwest of Nieuport."

"The fighting west of Lille continues. Our troops, taking the offensive, repulsed the enemy at several points."

"In the eastern theatre of the war no decision yet has been reached."

OVER SIX HUNDRED PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN DOMINION

About Four Hundred Austrian—Many German Reservists Called Home Before Formal Declaration of Hostilities — Held at Detention Places Throughout Country.

Ottawa, Oct. 21.—There are 603 German and Austrian prisoners of war in Canada, according to the latest reports which have been received by the government from the various places of detention throughout the country. About 400 of these are Austrians and the rest Germans. All of them are reservists who were arrested while endeavoring to make their way to Europe to fight against the Allies. More than double this number have been arrested since the war began but many of them have become naturalized British subjects and have been allowed their freedom.

The fact that there are more Austrian prisoners of war than German is due to the fact that many German reservists had been notified weeks before the outbreak of war that they were wanted and had left Canada long before the formal declaration of hostilities.

The places of detention are Halifax, St. John, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Saint Ste. Marie, Winnipeg, Regina, Lethbridge, Nanaimo and Victoria. There are 206 prisoners at Fort Henry, Kingston, which is more than at any other point, 106 at Halifax, fifty-eight at Toronto, three or four at the immigration quarters in

Belgian Forces Winning Admiration of all Europe by Gallant Fight—With Allied French and British They Have Repulsed Repeated Attacks and Finally Drove Enemy Back for Five Miles—Report that Ostend is Being Shelled from the Sea—British in Desperate Hand-to-hand Fighting Around Lille—French Closely Engaged All Along the Line and Claim Success for their Arms—General Situation Favorable.

CANADIANS TO HAVE BRITISH ARMY CANTEEN

General Alderson's Announcement Greeted by Cheers by Soldiers on Salisbury Plain — Preparing for Review.

London, Oct. 21.—The fact that the Canadian expeditionary force is now under English command, and will be accorded all traditional rights and liberties of the Old Country Tommy, was made clear by Colonel Alderson's promise to the troops this afternoon to abolish the dry canteen regulation which was fact cannot be ignored. Addressing the troops after the review at Buxton and West Down camps, General Alderson stated that certain difficulties had been overcome, with the result that within a few days the usual British canteens would be opened in the various camps.

The announcement indicated it was one thing to make the new commander popular with the Canadians.

While the efforts of the Canadian Minister of Militia to avert troubles by adopting a drastic temperance policy have been appreciated on many sides, the fact cannot be ignored that the long period of enforced abstinence in camp at Valcartier, followed by a tedious sea voyage, tended to a good deal of reaction when the troops arrived in England, examples of which were painfully evident soon after landing. At present the village saloons on the outskirts of the camp are being guarded by pickets.

The chief event among today's activities in the camps at Salisbury Plain was an informal review by General Alderson of the Second and Highland Brigades. In full marching order the men marched in the afternoon from West Down camp to Buxton camp, three miles away. Although maintaining habitual reserve, it was gathered from British officers that General Alderson was fairly well pleased with the first in-march-out of the Canadians.

The troops are anxious for Canadian papers. Today a number of the men obtained three days leave of absence from their quarters at Buxton camp. The troops are anxious for Canadian papers. Today a number of the men obtained three days leave of absence from their quarters at Buxton camp. The troops are anxious for Canadian papers. Today a number of the men obtained three days leave of absence from their quarters at Buxton camp.

The members of the Canadian force today received more evidence of English hospitality, when sixty-one residents, in private houses at Salisbury offered the daily use of their baths for the troops.

GERMAN STEAMER SUNK.

Rio Janeiro, Oct. 21.—The German steamer Santa Catharina, from New York for Rio Janeiro, etc., before reported seized as a war prize, is now reported sunk off Parcel Dos Abrolhos, a reef about 475 miles northeast of this port, having fire in her bunkers.

Montreal, and five in England. There is one lone German in a box car at Saint Ste. Marie, as there is no other accommodation for him at present at that point. At Toronto the Stables Barracks is being got ready to accommodate a number. All the Toronto prisoners are Austrians.

The prisoners were collected by the Dominion police, the mounted police, the militia guards, the customs officers and the immigration officers. They will remain in duration until the war office decides to exchange them or until the end of the war.

Except in the case of the attempt at Sarnia to secure the escape of some prisoners there has not been the slightest trouble according to the reports which have reached headquarters.

Both French and British pay tribute to the valor of the Belgians, who, with the allies, are holding back the German advance along the North sea coast. Incessant fighting has been in progress from the coast line as far south as La Bessee, a distance of about fifty miles, but this line is divided into several fronts, on which separate engagements are being fought. It is this line that the Germans are endeavoring to break in their attempt to reach Dunkirk and other French seaports.

Three British monitors, the Severn, Humber and Mersey, with six-inch and other heavy guns, are shelling the Germans in the vicinity of Ostend, where, it is said, terrible execution has been done, and machine gun detachments have been landed from these vessels and are assisting in the defence of Nieuport.

The British Admiralty which for a day or two withheld the news that the British fleet was participating in the coast operations, now takes occasion to compliment the monitors and bluejackets for their meritorious service.

There has been hard fighting in the Lille region, where the British are in action. The important French town of Lille, is still in the hands of the Germans, and the encounters in this neighborhood have been of a hand-to-hand character, evidently with little advantage to either side.

RELIEF FOR BELGIANS.

At last real action has been taken for the relief of the Belgians, upon whom has fallen the great burden of the suffering from the war.

An American commission headed by Herbert C. Hoover, of California, and composed of Americans resident in London and Brussels, will, by reason of an agreement reached between Belgium, Great Britain and Germany, take under its charge the care of hundreds of thousands of Belgians who are threatened with starvation in their own country. Already a large consignment of food has been purchased and will be shipped to Belgium within a few days. This will be followed by further large consignments to various points where the need is greatest on specially chartered steamers.

OPTIMISTIC RUSSIAN REPORTS.

Optimistic reports from the Russian viewpoint came from Petrograd, where it is officially announced that the German troops have been driven from the roads leading to Warsaw and are in full retreat, having left their wounded on the field of battle.

Similarly the Russians report that the advances of the Austrians in Galicia have been stayed.

Sasebo, the naval port of Japan, reports that the Japanese have destroyed the military equipment and seized large quantities of gold and munitions of war on the German islands recently captured in the South Seas. The Japanese embassy in Rome announces that the Japanese have captured an auxiliary cruiser of the German squadron and that another cruiser sank.

By order of the Russian Emperor the students of the universities and high schools, have been called to the colors. These youths are ordinarily exempt from war service.

FIERCE FIGHTING.

From the Battlefront, via Paris, Oct. 21, 11.36 p. m.—The Belgian army, with the English Channel on its extreme wing, is showing a marvelous fighting spirit, despite its long and hard campaigning, and the bitterness of the loss of Antwerp, and other large cities.

In the terrific open struggle which has been in progress along the frontier for several days, the Belgians, with the Allied French and British have repulsed with the greatest energy incessant German attacks.

Today, like yesterday, the German heavy artillery poured a heavy bombardment on the Allied positions, but the Belgians, undeterred delivered a counter-attack and forced the invaders to retire nearly five miles.

Further down the line on the Lys, the French were closely engaged, with general success. Three French sharpshooters performed a brilliant feat in defending a bridge, the possession of which was of the greatest strategic importance to both armies. The Germans made a cavewy dash in an effort to seize the passage, but the Frenchmen, behind a mill 75 yards away, poured their magazine fire into the Germans until the latter retired, leaving the bridge in the hands of the Allies.

Around Lille, where the British are in action, there has been fierce fighting, particularly in the neighborhood of La Bassée, which threatens the German possession of Lille. Street fighting has been very severe between the long lines of houses connecting the towns of Roubaix and Tourcoing. In a baker shop, one of the German troops was found in an oven, almost suffocated.

Along the centre, the artillery action continued today without great change, but several German trenches were captured.