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CENTRE OF INTEREST IS SHIFTED--ARMY OF PRINCE IS IN PERIL

Recapture of Rheims by the French is of Moral but Not Strategic Value--General Review of the War Outlook To-day-

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 16, 10.20 a.m.—The centre of interest in the western theatre of war, has shifted from the right wing of the German army under General Von Kluck to the left wing, where the relief of Troyon by the French is regarded in London as leading the army of the German crown prince, Frederick William, in what would appear to be a dangerous situation.

As had been predicted in England, the French have retaken Rheims, but this step is of greater moral than strategical value, for the line to the northeast of this town provides a better defensive position for the German forces than does the front marked by Rheims itself.

According to advices received here from Berlin, the demand for news in Germany, where the people would appear to be growing impatient, has been soothed to a certain extent by the reassuring statement from the general staff with the exception, however, of the German left wing. This part of the line, judging from despatches made public in London, would appear not only to have withdrawn from the investment of Verdun, but by permitting the relief of Troyon, which is 12 miles

(Continued on Page Four.)

SURRENDER OF AUSTRIANS CAUGHT IN BOG, REPORTED IMMINENT--A HEAVY LOSS

Flanking Army of 100,000 Cossacks Ready to Effect Execution—Russia Proposes to Withdraw From East Prussia for Strategy.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Telegraphing from Rome, the correspondent of The Daily Express says: "The surrender of the Austrian army led by Generals Dankl and Von Auffenberg, is imminent. The heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Charles Francis, is with General Dankl's army, which is entirely cut off from communication.

"Five German army corps marching to the relief of the Austrians, have been checked at Grodek by the third Russian corps. General Dankl's army is caught on the morass west of the River San. Further west a flanking army of 100,000 Cossacks is awaiting it. Its artillery has been lost and its cavalry is in the bog. "The last hope of the Austrians is to concentrate between the triangular fortress works of Przemysl, Cracow and Jaroslaw. They can accomplish this, if at all, only by tremendous losses."

RUSSIAN STRATEGY

LONDON, Sept. 16.—A Petrograd despatch to The Post says: "It is only now that the opportunity presents itself to exhibit in due proportions the self-sacrificing strategy of Russia at the very opening of the war for the purpose of lightening the task of her allies.

"The immediate necessity was to prevent the destruction of the French armies by rapid diversion. This Russia accomplished magnificently. Her raid in East Prussia right up to Koenigsberg, the ancient coronation city of Prussian royalty, at once relieved the pressure upon France by compelling Germany to withdraw her best troops from France and replace them with reserves. This movement is still in progress. The service Russia performed

were costly to herself, but priceless to her allies.

"The orders given to General Rennenkampf, the dashing cavalry leader, who commanded the raid into East Prussia, were such as to prove conclusively Russia's loyal self-sacrifice in the common cause. There were but scanty chances that Russia could succeed in reaching suitable territory for a decisive battle. Nevertheless, Russia nearly accomplished this, for she got within one of Eylau and Friedland. Rennenkampf's first orders were to take his forces as far as possible into Prussia without regard to losses.

"It should be put on record now when changed circumstances are compelling Russia to return to a strategic scheme more advantageous to the development of her resources, that she has already withdrawn a considerable force from East Prussia, and no surprise will be felt here if Russia withdraws entirely within her own frontiers."

SERVIANS SUCCESSFUL

ROME, via Paris, Sept. 16.—The Corriere D'Italia's Rieka, Montenegro, correspondent, sends a description of his paper of the Austrian invasions of the Sanjak of Novi-baraz the occupation of Tashijia, 57 miles northeast of Novi-baraz, whence, he says, a sudden Serbian and Montenegrin offensive caused the Austrians to retreat after sanguinary encounters, pursued by Slavs, who attacked with extraordinary violence.

"The Montenegrins, in a bayonet charge," the correspondent says, "captured an Austrian battery, and pursued the Austrians to the River Drina, where many Austrians were drowned. Meanwhile Servians from Bosnia attacked the Austrians in the rear, causing enormous casualties."

WORK IS NOT DONE UNTIL GERMANY IS BROUGHT TO KNEES

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—The Tribune publishes the following cable from Petrograd:

"The Bourse Gazette says: "In this conflict of nations is plainly seen the hand of an historical nemesis. That awful hand has not yet accomplished the work begun, not by us, but by the blinded ambitions of the Hohenzollerns. Until this work has been done, the restoration of peace is impossible."

A Moscow newspaper says: "To speak of peace is very premature. The present government of Germany with William II at its head captivated by the idea of

military pan-Germanism, offers little for a lasting peace on any terms. We do not expect to find any guarantee for an enduring peace in Germany until the nation has marked out a line of severance between itself and those who violated the tranquility of the world."

These press utterances are mild reproductions of what the public expressions of the news of Germany seeking by roundabout means to start suggestions of peace floating in the air. Russia at least, has entered on this war as the ancient Romans entered upon their long strife with Carthage—delendaest.

BELGIAN COMMISSION WHO ACCUSE GERMANS OF ATROCITIES.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: COUNT DE LECLERCQ, PAUL HYMANS, HENRY CARTON DE WIART, LOUIS DE SADELEER, AND EMUL VAN DER VELDE. Above is a group photograph, taken on board the steamship Cedric, of the Belgian Commission sent by King Albert to protest to President Wilson against alleged German atrocities in Belgium. The commission is made up of Henry Carton de Wiart, Minister of Justice of Belgium, who is its chief; Louis de Sadeleer, a Minister of State and leader of the government party; Paul Hymans, leader of the liberal (opposition) party, and also a Minister of State; Emile Vandervelde, a Minister of State and the leader of the socialist party, and the Count de Leclercq, who besides being a member of the commission is secretary to the Belgian Prime Minister. He is a son of the late Count Lichtervelde, who was Belgian Minister to the United States from 1897 to 1901.

Second Great Battle in Northern Part of France is Now Raging Fiercely

[BY SPECIAL WIRE TO THE COURIER]

LONDON, Sept. 16, 1.55 p.m.—The second great battle in northern France since the southward army of the German invaders met its check is now apparently in progress to the northward of the River Aisne. The opposing lines are arrayed from the Argonne Hills through Rehel to Chateau-Porcien and near the practice camp of Sissonne, where the program of the French summer manoeuvres contemplated cavalry training on a large scale for this very date.

Whether the Germans propose a fight to a finish at this position or a merely to cover their retreat to the River Meuse is not yet clear, but the German commanders are showing the same skill in retreat and the same skill in keeping their forces intact as the Allies showed a fortnight ago. The German rush into and out of France thus far has brought no decisive result, and until a pitched battle on a huge scale is fought and won neither side is in a position to claim that it has secured more than the opening move in the war game.

The Allies for the moment have retrieved their perilous position and have turned the tables on the invaders, but the next move is with the Germans, whose armies are still in being and in great force on a ground more or less selected by themselves.

The debacle—for it seems nothing less—in the Austrian armies means that Germany will have more and more to rely mainly upon herself; hence there will be a greater interdependence of events in the eastern and western field of operations.

What new forces Germany can put into the campaign in the western area must henceforth depend in a great measure upon how far she can neglect the Russian movement on Breslau, the capital of the Prussian province of Silesia, 100 miles southwest of Berlin.

Reports to-day say that Emperor William himself has gone to East Prussia to take chief command of the German armies opposing the Russian invaders. He may have gone there, but little credence is attached to the assertion that he proposes to take the active command out of the hands of a fighting general of the calibre of Von Hindenburg.

There is the usual diversity of stories to-day regarding the Austro-Serbian operations. The Austrian general staff claims to have driven the Serbs out of the province of Banat and from the eastern district of Slavonia.

The Servians, however, heretofore have shown a marked capacity for reappearing in the same or better positions after these defeats. They now claim they are bombarding the Hungarian town of Orsova.

The war indemnities claimed by the German troops in towns traversed in Belgium and France reaches a total of \$144,300,000. Only a very small percentage of this sum, however, has been paid.

EXPERT OPINION IS THAT BRITAIN MUST KEEP ON RE-INFORCING HER ARMY

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—A cable to The Tribune from London says: Spencer Wilkinson, noted military expert and historian, writes in The Morning Post as follows:

"Up to the moment of writing the signs are not those of a decisive victory. The German army has retired, keeping a broad front. The French army in its pursuit has to spread itself rather than concentrate. The effort to pursue is considerable and cannot be indefinitely prolonged. The Germans may shortly be able to make a stand, and, if that should happen there will be a fresh wrestle. Not until one side or the other is thrown back in disorder will the word 'victory' be quite in place. Yet until that foment comes neither side can relax its exertions."

"The British Government, therefore must not for a moment suspend its efforts to strengthen and reinforce Sir John French. There are enough regulars and special reserves at home to keep the expeditionary forces at full strength till Christmas. The Indian troops must shortly be expected. Then there is the territorial force, which, if it has been practicing with bullets and targets, individually and in field firing since it was mobilized ought to shoot better than the German troops. A large part of it has volunteered for service abroad. "If the government counts the territorial after instead of before the new regulars, it will be making two terrible mistakes—that of not appreciating its best men and that of not understanding the value of time in war."

FORTIFYING BRUSSELS.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—An Amsterdam despatch to The Reuter Telegram Company says that a local paper learns from Ghent that the Germans are further strengthening and fortifying Brussels. They have placed

ed mitrailleuses on the boulevard Du Jardine Botanique and in front of the north and south stations. At Etterbeek, near Brussels, it is reported that fighting took place between Prussian and Bavarian soldiers, thirty of whom were killed.

Big Battle Of Defence By Germans

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

PARIS, Sept. 16.—3.18 p. m.—According to official announcement made this afternoon, the German army is fighting a defensive battle along its front from Noyon to a point north of Verdun.

Noyon is 55 miles northeast of Paris, and 14 miles from Compeigne. The battle line as given in the foregoing despatch lies in a straight line running almost due east and west. From Noyon to a point north of Verdun is about 110 miles.

ANNOUNCED AT EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—An official despatch to-day to the French embassy from Bordeaux, says: "On our left wing yesterday the Germans resisted north of the River Aisne on a line formed by the forests of Laigne and Craonne."

"At the centre their line of resistance yesterday was north of Rheims and the camp of Chaons towards Vienne (town at western border of Argonne). The hostile force south of the Argonne have accentuated their movement, retreating between the Argonne and the River Meuse."

CANNON ROAR.

SOISSONS, France, Tuesday, Sept. 15 by way of Paris, Sept. 15.

(Continued on page four.)

ROUT OF AUSTRANS COMPLETE--COLOSSAL LOSS IS SUSTAINED

Report Issued at Petrograd Tells of Overwhelming Nature of the Russian Victory--Miles of Transports Are Taken.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

PETROGRAD, Sept. 16.—The following summary of the recent fighting in Galicia from the Russian point of view, has been made public in Petrograd through semi-official channels:

"Russian troops are pursuing the Austrians with energy, and the defeat of the enemy continues. Certain Austrian army corps have been virtually annihilated. Russian forces have passed the River San."

The eastern Russian advance guard is approaching Przemysl. The rapidity with which military operations are being conducted makes it impossible to determine accurately the losses of the enemy, but it may be said that they are becoming colossal. According to such information, as has come to hand the Austrians have lost in the neighborhood of 250,000 men in killed and wounded, this in addition to 100,000 prisoners; 400 pieces of ordnance, and a number of standards. In all directions the roads are crowded with artillery transport wagons and arms and ammunition, which have been abandoned in

mass during the precipitate retreat of the enemy.

On the River Vistula Russian troops have taken possession of an accumulation of material for bridge building and they destroyed several steamers, one of which was armoured.

The desperate efforts of German troops to save the Austrian army from utter rout should be recorded. The active participation of German army corps in the fighting has been revealed at several different places along the Austrian front as far as Tournai. The Russians captured 93 pieces of long range German artillery, in addition to some 5,000 German prisoners at this point. At other places on the front several dozen large German guns, many of which had been prevented by lack of time from taking part in the fighting, fell into their hands.

In conclusion this announcement of Russian successes declares that the success seen by Germany did not save the Austrians and that the heavy defeat inflicted upon the Germans has contributed to the brilliancy of the Russian victories.

SWISS REJOICING AT ONWARD MARCH OF THE ALLIED FORCES

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—A London Standard despatch from Basel, Switzerland published in The Tribune says:

"The Swiss press comments very freely on the defeat of the German army in France and displays very conspicuously its profound sympathy for Great Britain and France. The Gazette de Lucerne, states that the German army lost all the fruits of its

German aviators, it says, instead of indulging in spectacular bomb throwing over Paris should have examined the lines of the French British arm, full of fresh forces and burning with zeal to attack the invaders. Warm tributes are paid to the part taken by the British in defeating the Germans. Germany in the future is on the defensive everywhere, says another Swiss newspaper.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS ISSUED AT PARIS

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

PARIS, Sept. 16.—The following official communication was made public here to-day:

"During the days of the 14th and the 15th of September, the rear guards of the enemy, with which our pursuit forces were in contact, were reinforced from the main body of the German army.

"The enemy is again engaging in a defensive battle along their entire front, on which certain of their positions show strong organization. This front is bounded by the region of Noyon, the plains to the north of Vic-sur-Aisne and Soissons, Laon, the heights to the north and to the west of Rheims, and a line which runs thence to the north of Ville-sur-Tourbe, to the west of the Argonne region, and which is continued thence beyond the Argonne by another line which passes north of Varennes, a point that has been evacuated by the enemy and reaches the River Meuse in the neighborhood of the forest of Forges, which is north of Verdun.

"During the pursuit of the enemy executed by our troops after the battle of the Marne, the Germans abandoned numerous prisoners to our hands. To these men there has been added a large multitude of stragglers who had hidden in the forests. "No exact accounting of these prisoners, or of the war material captured by us so far has been possible. It is for this reason that the Minister of War who does not want to give out figures, which might be considered fantastic, refrains from announcing the details of these captures."

GREAT WORK BY AUSTRALIAN FLEET REPORTED

One Cruiser Covered Over 11,000 Miles Chiefly in the Tropics.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 16.—8.34 a. m.—A despatch to The Times from Sydney, dated Tuesday, says that Rear Admiral Sir George Patey, commander of the Australian fleet reports that the German losses at Herberhshe, in the Bismarck archipelago, were 20 to 30 killed and 17 German officers and non-commissioned officers made prisoners.

Considering the dense bush, the trenches and the marked ranges, says the report, our casualties were slight. The Australian fleet left Sydney immediately following the outbreak of war, ac-

ording to the despatch and co-operated with the China squadron.

It searched for the enemy's cruisers, put out of action the enemy's wireless stations in the Pacific, covered the New Zealand expeditionary force to Samoa and the Australian expedition to Herberhshe and patrolled the trade route. The cruiser Melbourne, it is stated covered over 11,000 miles mostly in the tropics.

TIN CANS IN DEMAND

TORONTO, Sept. 16.—One of the local effects of the war has been to enormously increase the demand for tin cans. Local can factories are working night and day to meet the demand for cans for fruit, beef, etc. It is said one firm had to refuse an order for one million corn beef tins to complete a contract for the British government which a beef canner held. There is a heavy duty on cans from the United States.

TO COURT MARTIAL HIM

PARIS, Sept. 16.—11.15 a.m.—In a despatch from Petrograd, the correspondent of the Havas Agency says that Lieutenant Preisker, the former German commander at Kalisz, Russian Poland, who recently was taken prisoner, has been brought before a court martial to answer for the atrocities alleged to have been committed when 11 German troops entered that town.