

ENTRENCHED ARMIES CARRY ON ARTILLERY DUEL; BATTLE DEVELOPES INTO SEIGE OPERATIONS

Fighting Along Aisne Less Violent and Confined to Attacks and Counter Attacks by Infantry --- Heavy Downpour of Rain Continues to Add to the Hardships --- Neither Side Able to Claim Appreciable Advantage --- German Right Wing Forced to Give Way a Little, but Allies Unable to Outflank It --- Strong Reinforcements for Von Kluck --- Germans Making Almost Superhuman Efforts to Recapture Rheims.

London, Sept. 21, 9.55 p. m.—The unparalleled struggle on the River Aisne, which commenced about a week ago Saturday, has developed into siege operations. The two armies, strongly entrenched, are carrying on an artillery duel, while the infantry make attacks and counter attacks, which are in the nature of sorties from a besieged fortress.

Occasionally one or the other gains a little ground, but it is so little that the opposing forces remain in their trenches or take up positions in new entrenchments, immediately behind those from which they are driven.

It is now becoming the conviction of the military men that nothing but outflanking movements can have any serious effects on either army. The Germans have, according to their own official report, been strongly reinforced both on their right, where Gen. Von Kluck is making such a stubborn stand in almost impregnable positions on the hills north of Aisne, and in the centre, where the Germans are making almost superhuman efforts to recapture Rheims. It is probably the desire to recapture this town at all costs, because of its importance as the key to important communications for attack or retreat, that has led the Germans to continue the bombardment which has resulted in the destruction of the famous cathedral.

This bombardment has been of the most severe kind, and is being directed from Brimont, which the French recaptured but lost again, and from other hills around the town, and is of deadly character. The French have brought up additional heavy artillery in an attempt to drive the Germans out of these hills, for until this is done the situation in the town must be difficult.

On the allies left the French report claims another advance on the right bank of the River Oise, as far as the heights of Lassigny, west of Noyon, which has been the centre of heavy fighting for a week past.

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EVERY OFFICER AND MAN AT VALCARTIER WILL GO WITH FIRST CONTINGENT

Canada Will Send 31,200 Men, Ten Thousand More Than War Office Asked—Decision Reached at Conference Yesterday—Firing Line of 22,500, Remainder to Act as Reserve—Second Contingent if Necessary—Nineteen Battalions of Infantry—Great Joy in Camp When Announcement is Made.

Valcartier Camp, Que., Sept. 21.—Canada will send nearly ten thousand more men on the first contingent than was asked by the British war office. This announcement was made by Col. Sam Hughes tonight, and the decision was the result of a conference between Sir Robert Borden, the minister of militia, Hon. Geo. E. Foster and Hon. Robert Rogers at the camp today.

It means that 31,200 officers and men and 7,000 horses will be transported to England, instead of a division of 22,500 men, which was the original plan of the government. It also means that every officer in training here will be taken abroad, which has caused great rejoicing among those who expected to be rejected. Every man in camp who is physically fit for active service will comprise the first contingent.

Canada Will Provide Second Contingent if Needed.

A second contingent will be quickly mobilized, if necessary. The first contingent will consist of nineteen battalions of infantry, including the Princess Patricia Regiment. This latter regiment will go as part of the first contingent. The original intention was to send only twelve battalions. There will be three squadrons of Strathcona Horse, three squadrons of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, and the artillery of about four thousand men, and many twelve, eighteen and sixty-pound guns.

Sir Robert Borden shook hands with every officer in camp this morning. He addressed the officers of each brigade, telling them that it had been decided to send every officer and man to England. This indeed was a splendid surprise to the officers, many of whom thought that they could not go, owing to the surplus. It is quite possible that many will be unattached, and may be used by English territorial regiments. Canada will also contribute about 300 machine guns. Already 150 have been given by wealthy Canadians, and it is expected that many more will be forthcoming in the very near future.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught inspected the two cavalry regiments, the Strathcona Horse and Royal Canadian Dragoon this morning, and the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry at Levis in the afternoon.

The Royal party and cabinet ministers returned to Ottawa tonight.

FRENCH PRIEST A MARTYR FOR HIS COUNTRY

(Special to The Standard through International News Service)

Valenciennes, Sept. 21.—The Abbe Delebeque, formerly a professor at the college of Our Lady at Dunkirk who was arrested and arranged as a spy was summarily executed here today. He was returning on a bicycle to his parish at Hain after being present at a memorial service for his fallen comrades a month ago. He was arrested by Uhlans and had no incriminating documents in his possession but was the bearer of a number of letters from French soldiers in Dunkirk to their families. He was tried at midnight by a court-martial composed of officers who condemned him to be shot at daybreak as a spy. Confined to the care of a German military chaplain he passed the night in prayer in a waiting room at the station. Having confessed and been fortified with the rites of the church he was taken at five o'clock in the morning by motor car to the place of execution at the foot of Dampierre Column on the outskirts of Valenciennes. The Abbe throughout showed the noblest fortitude and gave his captors a letter to his mother and after telling some of those present that he offered his life for his country knelt in prayer and a moment after fell lifeless pierced by a dozen bullets. The military government subsequently issued a proclamation stating that the unfortunate Abbe was the bearer of dispatches from the French government, and these were found on his person.

GERMAN HUMANITY LEAGUE SAYS WELFARE OF TOILERS IN GERMANY DEPENDS ON ALLIES' SUCCESS

New York, Sept. 21.—A special cable to the Tribune from Rotterdam says: "An appeal to the civilized world has been issued by the Humanity League here. It is signed by Karl Bernstein, Emil Gott, Franz Gausen, Jacob Mameloff and Ernest Schuster, and says: 'We reiterate, as we men passionately loving our fatherland, and, although living in exile, serving our country to the utmost of our power, that it is the sacred duty of every man who cares for the welfare of mankind to join hands in arresting the Kaiser and the men around him responsible for the appalling crimes which have disgraced our nation in the eyes of the world. No matter how long the campaign,

and how great the sacrifice it may entail, we know that the true and lasting interests of Germany can only be served by the victory of the allied armies. The Kaiser, having ruined innocent and despoiled Belgium, is now despoiling France, and drenching the land with the blood of his victims. It must therefore be plain to all honest men, without distinction of race or creed or party, that there can be no settlement of the existing disputes, no lasting peace or security for the rights of man, and no protection of democracy from brigandage and death, until the imperial domination of Prussia within Germany is crushed, disarmed and swept away for ever.'"

RAID OF GERMAN CRUISER IN BAY OF BENGAL COST BRITISH SHIPOWNERS 3-4 MILLION STERLING

(Special to the London Daily Telegraph and St. John's Standard)

Calcutta, Sept. 16 (delayed by censor)—An official announcement has been made that the German light cruiser Emden made a flying raid into Bay Bengal in the course of which she did considerable damage to shipping. Between Sept. 10 and 14 she captured and sank the following vessels, the Killin, and Traboch carrying coal, the Indus and Lovat empty, and the Diplomat carrying a general cargo. Coal was taken from all the steamers also the crews. The Kabinga fully loaded with a general cargo for America was also captured on Sept. 12, two days later, all the captured crews were transferred to the Kabinga. A British warship is now pursuing the Emden which is attempting to escape in a southerly direction. According to the crews of the sunken merchantmen who arrived here today the Indus was the first vessel taken. The crew was removed, and ten shots were fired into her before she keeled over. This was on the eleventh. About midnight the Killin was captured and was sunk at nine a.m. The Diplomat was taken on Sunday, the 13th. This vessel was bound for London and had on board one passenger, a port official of Calcutta. The Germans placed a mine forward but the explosion still left the vessel afloat. The enemy then fired a shell at close quarters.

An eye witness who saw the shooting says it was astonishingly erratic and caused considerable laughter. The first shot aimed at the Diplomat's waterline went across that vessel amidships. Six shells were fired before the merchantman showed signs of sinking. A mine was also placed in the Killin but again the shells were necessary to complete destruction. Twelve shells were sent into the Lovat which took two hours to sink. The Traboch also gave a lot of trouble. The Kabinga was spared simply to convey the crews of the other vessels to Calcutta. The Emden's action has resulted in a direct loss to British owners and underwriters of three quarters of a million sterling.

HAD RUSSIA KNOWLEDGE OF AUSTRIAN PLANS?

Vienna, Sept. 21, 3 p. m.—via Paris.—To be sure growing in official quarters here that the Austrian reserves in Galicia were, to a large extent, brought about by exact knowledge held by the Russian war office of Austria's mobilization and campaign plans, which had been secured through an elaborate system of espionage. The military authorities, it is claimed, two years ago discovered that Col. Alfred Redl, chief of the general staff of the Eighth Austrian army corps, had betrayed information of vital importance to Russia, and although it is thought probable the Austrian general staff later made changes in their plans, the military experts are of the belief that the modifications would not have greatly affected the general basis of the campaign, as worked out by Col. Redl was found guilty of being a traitor, and on the advice of brother officers committed suicide.

GERMAN TALK OF PEACE IS INSINCERE OF 70 ABOARD

Liverpool, Sept. 21, via London, Sept. 21, 11.15 p. m.—In a speech here tonight Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, referring to the talk of peace by the German ambassador to the United States, Count Von Bernstorff, said: "His vague talk of peace is as sincere as the information of which he is the source. Peace with the German people might be arranged in good time, but there would be no peace with Prussian militarism, short of the grave."

England, said the First Lord, did not seek to subjugate Germany, or Austria, or their people, however, complete her victory might be over them, but there would be no peace to them after the war was that they should be set free to live and let live fairly and justly.

BRITISH CRUISERS TO SWEEP THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OF ENEMY?

New York, Sept. 21.—There was a persistent report in shipping quarters today that six of the fleet of British cruisers who have been patrolling

North Atlantic waters have been ordered to steam south at full speed, to clear the South Atlantic of German cruisers, recently active there.

It was said they would make an effort to capture the Karlsruhe and the North German liner Kronprinz Wilhelm. The report was given added credence when it became known that mail received at the British consulate here for delivery to the British cruisers had been forwarded to Rio Janeiro.

Two cruisers, the Lancaster and the Suffolk, were outside the harbor to-day.

NEW COMET VISIBLE OVER CAPE TOWN

Cape Town, Sept. 21.—A bright comet, which was discovered by the Cape Observatory last Friday night, is now visible to the naked eye. It is near the star Achernar.

BITKA, ALASKA, SEPT. 21.—THE UNITED STATES CRUISER BUFFALO PICKED UP AN "S. O. S." CALL TODAY FROM THE UNITED STATES REVENUE CUTTER TAHOMA, WHICH IS FAST ON A REEF, AND IN SERIOUS DANGER, NINETY MILES WEST OF KISKA ISLAND, OF THE ALUTIAN CHAIN. THE TAHOMA HAS NINE OFFICERS AND SIXTY-THREE MEN ABOARD.

The distress call from the Tahoma was heard by the Japanese liner Tacoma Maru, and the steamer Senator, and both started to her aid. They should reach here soon, as the Japanese vessel left Seattle, September 15, bound for Hong Kong, and passed near Kiska Island, and the Senator, bound from Nome, left Seattle, Sept. 12. The Tahoma sailed from Seattle May first, and has been cruising in the Behring Sea.

Terrible Loss on Both Sides in Efforts to Gain Ground Seems to Have Decided Armies to Try New Movement — French Report Progress in Territory Between Rheims and Argonne Forest — Daring Bayonet Charge of Turcos Crowned with Success — Distain Murderous Fire of Enemy's Guns and Capture Four Field Pieces — Cold Steel Plays Important Part in Yesterday's Engagements.

On the Battlefront, Sept. 21, via way of Paris 5.30 p. m.—The western wing of the German line has been thrust back about seven miles during the last forty-eight hours, as a sequel to continuous fighting day and night.

Both armies, despite almost superhuman fatigue, show the utmost determination not to yield an inch of ground without a terrible struggle, but the fresher the troops at the disposal of the allied commanders, has gradually forced the Germans to recede.

The Turcos are adding daily to their record of daring achievements. Late last night, in a costly bayonet onslaught, they broke through the German lines without firing more than a few shots, and recaptured and brought back four field guns which the French troops had abandoned the previous day. They seemed to distain the murderous rifle and machine gun fire poured into them under cover.

Cold steel again played a considerable part today in the battle of the enormous hosts fighting along the Aisne, the Oise and Woivre. The most remarkable point about the encounters is that the troops scarcely see each other before they actually come hand-to-hand.

RECKLESSNESS OF EARLY STAGES OF FIGHT GIVES WAY TO CAUTION.

The recklessness displayed at the beginning of the hostilities, with the resultant carnage through the machine guns, has almost disappeared, and every movement of the attacking and defending troops is carried out with the utmost caution, until the moment of actual contact.

The Germans have suffered most in these engagements for the French troops from Africa and the British infantry are adepts with the bayonet, and they wait warily in the trenches until their adversaries are so close that a quick dash brings them together.

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EAGER TO FACE ENEMY CANADA'S CONTINGENT A CREDIT TO THE DOMINION

Special Staff Correspondence of The Standard.

Valcartier Camp, Quebec, Sept. 21.—Fit and happy with their only worry the fear that fighting will be over before they get to the battle front describes the men assembled in the greatest military camp Canada has ever known, working and waiting for the day when they march out to board the transports which will carry them to Europe. When that will be is known only to the official heads of the Canadian military department and they are not taking the public into their confidence. There is, however, an impression that the great review of Sunday marked the last Sunday these men, or most of them, will spend in Canada for some time.

There are five huge steamers lying at the wharves in Quebec. This cannot be hidden by the officials, for the steamers are there to be seen; it is said they are to be used as transports and it is also said that ten more are in waiting some miles below the city or will arrive in the next few days. These will be used to convey the Canadian contingents to the Old Continent, but where they will go after that is but conjecture. In fact most of the plans for the contingent are but conjecture. The prevailing impression, however, is that the troops will be taken from Canada direct to Southampton and then to Aldershot for additional training. Then it is said they will be divided some going to Malta, some to Gibraltar, some to Carlo, and some to Dublin to relieve regular troops stationed at these points. After a period of hard train-

ing at these stations they in turn may be sent to the front and their places taken by others.

In a military camp, or in any other similar organization where large numbers of men are assembled and all under strict discipline there is an occasional item which escapes the vigilance of the officials and which is circulated as camp gossip. It was through this medium that a staff representative of The Standard learned that among the units likely to go to the front first are the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, some field artillery, one brigade of infantry, possibly the Highland Brigade, and the proportionate equipment of departmental corps. This is not official and is given merely for what it is worth, but it represents the opinion most general in camp.

St. John Men a Credit to the City.

The Standard representative during the past twenty-four hours has seen many of the St. John officers and men. A healthier, happier lot it would be difficult to imagine. Relatives left at home who may have feared that the boys would not take to the camp life, may rest assured that if appearances can be depended upon it agrees with them immensely. They are well and fit, and have shown marked proficiency in camp. This is especially true of the St. John sections of the Army Medical Corps and the Signalling Corps, both of which are regarded as the crack sections of their branch of the service in camp. The battalion to which the New Brunswick infantry are attached is also one of the best, while the artillery men and army service corps are rounding into shape splendidly. (Continued on page 5)