

New Attack Opened By Franco-American Forces.

Battle Raging Over a Front of 40 Miles. 5000 Prisoners and Twelve Towns Taken. British Invade Bulgaria From Macedonia. Fourth Turkish Army in Perilous Position.

WAR REVIEW.

Twelve towns and more than 5000 German prisoners have been taken by American troops fighting in conjunction with the French in a new offensive begun with the break of day on Thursday in the region extending from the northwest at Verdun to within 15 miles of the cathedral city of Rheims. The Americans advanced to a depth of seven miles, overcoming the stubborn resistance of the enemy. Pennsylvania, Kansas and Missouri troops were among the fighting forces which in less than a day won territory of great importance to the enemy and further depleted his army through men captured or killed or wounded. The gage of battle has been thrown down on a 40-mile front, extending from the Sulpice River in Champagne, 15 miles east of Rheims, eastward through the Argonne forest to the Meuse River, northwest of Verdun. In the first stages of the battle the Allied lines were pushed forward for material gains to that portion immediately northwest of Verdun held by the Americans, to a depth of from five to six miles, and that of the French to the west nearly four miles at certain places. Under the terrible bombardment preceding the commencement of the battle, the Germans hurriedly quit numerous positions and into these the Americans and French went unimpeded. At last accounts the Allied attack was progressing favorably. Many French villages and German strong points have been captured. British troops have invaded Bulgaria from the north of Lake Doiran in Macedonia, marking another epoch in the history of the war, aside from the moral effect of the penetration of the mountainous country of King Ferdinand, the manoeuvre is likely to prove of great strategic value once the Strmitza River valley, leading towards the Sofia-Serbia railway is reached. In the meantime, days of adversity continue with the Teutonic forces in Southern Serbia and Palestine, and the British and French are keeping up their manoeuvres which are gradually bringing the important town of St. Quentin into their hands. In Serbia, the Serbians, Italians, Greeks and British are still threatening the enemy forces with disaster by reason of their rapid advance and the state of confusion in which the Bulgarian and German armies have been thrown by the shock of the offensive. Likewise, the Turks in Palestine are being sadly harassed by the forces of the British General Allenby and the tribesmen of the King of the Hedjaz. A most

surrounding east of the 30° 45' N. and the Turks are frantically endeavoring to extricate themselves from the converging Allied forces. From the east and south the British are driving the Ottoman northward, and coming south to meet the enemy and to crush him between the two Allied lines are the Arabs. Seemingly with all the crossings of the Jordan now in Allied hands, the Turkish Fourth Army has little chance of escape. Taken in conjunction with the Allied offensive which has materially bent back the German front in Flanders, Arras and Picardy and along the Aisne, the new drive of Marshal Foch in the south will bear important fruit if it meets with success. Driving northward the entire western battlefield would be shaken, and of necessity be compelled to readjust itself. Lateral railway lines of great importance to the German positions between Leon and Verdun lie directly in the path of the advancing Franco-American forces. Voussiers, an important railway junction on the main line from Leon to Metz, is but 12 miles north of Servon

which already is in the hands of the French. The American troops, through the capture of Gerocourt, N.W. of Verdun, are in the Meuse valley, which leads northward to Sedan, and a little further west at Varennes have won the Aire valley, which winds in a northwesterly direction to Voussiers. A successful advance along these two valleys for any appreciable distance would be disastrous to the German lines from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier. Northwest of Verdun, Montfaucon, a German strong point of great resisting power, is said to be in American hands, as likewise are several other villages between the Meuse and the Aire. Around St. Quentin both the British and French armies have made further advances against the Germans and repulsed a heavy counter attack in Flanders, also near Arras the British have advanced their front.

TRENCHES AND PRISONERS CAPTURED.

LONDON, Sept. 26. The British divisions have captured in the last few days a German system of trenches and strong points northwest of St. Quentin with 1,500 prisoners, according to the war office tonight. There were only minor encounters to-day. The text of the statement reads: Except for encounters between raiding parties and patrols in different parts of the front in the course of which we captured a few prisoners, there is nothing of special interest to report. In the past few days the first and sixth divisions of the ninth corps under command of Lieut. General Sir W. P. Braithwaite, captured by hard fighting, but at small cost, an intricate system of trenches.

ALLIED ADVANCE CONTINUES.

SALONIKA, Sept. 26. The Allied advance into Bulgaria continues and British and Greek units are forcing their way over the Chisla mountain range on the Bulgarian border, northeast of Doiran, says a British official statement issued here. North of Lake Doiran the Greeks are nearing the crest of the mountains. The Drama Obasi has been reached by the British. The statement reads: Our cavalry and infantry continue to advance into Bulgaria. The Anglo-Greeks are advancing over the steep Belachista range. The Greeks are approaching the crest of the mountains north of Lake Doiran. Our troops have reached Drama Obasi.

FRANKFORT BOMBED.

LONDON, Sept. 26. British airplanes yesterday dropped bombs on the German city of Frankfort, according to an official statement issued this evening by the war office. Five enemy machines were shot down. Four British airplanes are missing.

ENEMY EXPECTED ATTACK.

PARIS, Sept. 26. The new Allied offensive in the Champagne was begun three years almost to a day after the first offensive of the French at the same front on Sept. 25, 1915. The French fourth army is conducting the attack in conjunction with the American forces, and the front extends to the east and west of the Argonne forest. The fourth army, says La Liberté, has held this sector since the first battle of the Marne. The enemy expected the attack and had even been taught to look forward to the effort. He foresaw that the troops in this sector had been given special nourishment. The struggle, therefore, will be of a different character to those described in recent reports which showed the Allies almost galloping to victory.

SITUATION IN ROUMANIA.

ROME, Sept. 26. The situation in Roumania, according to information received here, has become alarming for the Central Powers. The Roumanian peasants made enthusiastic by the victories of the Entente countries are beginning to resist openly the German and Austro-Hungarian military. Local revolts have occurred at a number of places and the Roumanian Government has sent agents to Berlin and Vienna to obtain a mitigation of the Austro-Hungarian rule. The Roumanian Government is reported to have pointed out that if its request is rejected it will be unable to guarantee the maintenance of order or avoid the eventualities of sanguinary crisis.

BERLIN OFFICIAL.

BERLIN, Sept. 26. The attacks by the Franco-American troops launched on a wide front this morning in Champagne and between the Argonne forest and the Meuse River has not succeeded in breaking the German front, according to the German official communication issued this evening. The battle began after artillery preparation lasting 11 hours and fighting continues. The text of the statement follows: In Champagne and between the Argonne and the Mase, French-American attacks have commenced on a wide front after eleven hours of artillery preparation. An enemy break through have been frustrated. The fight for our position continues.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED.

LONDON, Sept. 26. Brief reports of the speech made by Adolph Groeber, one of the German clerical leaders, at the session yesterday, were in a despatch from Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph Co. here. Groeber sharply criticized the Imperial Government and said evidently there was disunion between the civil authorities and the military. He declared that resistance in subordinate circles to the plan of the Government must be stopped, and that military rule in the frontier states must be ended. Herr Groeber demanded that the secret order of the military authorities prohibiting public speech on the Reichstag peace resolution be rescinded.

TURKEY SQUEALING FOR PEACE.

LAUSANNE, Switz, Sept. 26. Public irritation in Constantinople has become great, according to a despatch from the Turkish capital to the Lausanne Gazette. Rumors are again spreading that the Ottoman Government will seek a separate peace. The Sultan himself, the message says, would aver separate peace if he could obtain favorable conditions from the Entente Powers.

ISSUES DECREE.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 26. The Russian Bolshevik Government has issued a decree rescinding its reign of terror, according to the Mir of Moscow. The question was discussed at a meeting of the central committees of the Soviet, the newspapers says, and when Premier Lenin expressed an earnest desire to return to orderly methods of government, a majority of those present supported him.

VELES CAPTURED.

LONDON, Sept. 26. Veles, 25 miles southeast of Uskub, in Macedonia, has been captured by the Serbians.

NEW ATTACK LAUNCHED.

LONDON, Sept. 26. French and American troops launched an attack this morning against the German positions on a front of 40 miles, between Sulpice and the river Meuse. The Germans voluntarily abandoned their forward positions. There was not much artillery or infantry resistance.

CONTINUING SATISFACTORILY.

PARIS, Sept. 26. The Franco-American attack on both sides of the Argonne is continuing satisfactorily, according to the War Office announcement to-night. French troops have made an advance of nearly four miles at certain points west of the Argonne.

ADVANCED FROM 5 TO 6 MILES.

PARIS, Sept. 26. American troops attacked to the west of the Verdun region in co-operation with the French this morning.

The Germans, anticipating the attack, seemingly had withdrawn a portion of their forces. According to the latest unofficial reports reaching Paris, the American advance is progressing well and is now from five to six miles from the point of departure. Among the places captured are Gerocourt, Cuisy, Montfaucon, Cheppy and Varennes, all nor of Verdun.

STRAINING EVERY ENERGY TO REACH USKUB.

LONDON, Sept. 26. The reports received to-day emphasized the demoralisation of the Bulgarians who are retreating in confusion, leaving behind an enormous amount of material and probably many thousands of prisoners, as the Allied troops strain every energy to get to Uskub and thereby make the victory complete. It is pointed out that the Bulgarian army, estimated to aggregate 300,000 men, is in a very dangerous position, but the victory will not be decisive in the opinion of the military experts until Uskub, the center of all the enemy's communication lines, is captured. If that is accomplished, it is believed the victory will be numbered among the few decisive ones of the war. The renewed resistance of Bulgarian rearguards and the arrival of German reinforcements in Macedonia have not succeeded in stemming the great Allied advance. British cavalry to-day entered Bulgaria opposite Kostrino, thus avoiding the Belachista mountains which it was feared might bar its progress, while the Serbians, French, Greeks and British troops routed the Bulgarians from either side of the great salient which now stretches far into Serbia. The Serbians who are taking the leading part in the liberation of their country, are at the gates of Ishtib, and their cavalry entering the town of Iavor has cut the only remaining road northward, that running from Prilep to Veles, and along which a large body of Bulgarians is reported to be attempting to escape. This probably will lead to an abandonment by the enemy of the Babuna mountains, which are considered virtually impregnable.

EXCELLENT NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 26.—At 9.30 o'clock to-day a French officer of high rank told the correspondent that the news from the principal points of the front attacked was excellent. The French Fourth Army has taken Servon, which has been in German hands since 1914, and Navarinne farm, a strong position, around which there has been much fighting.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR PALESTINE.

PARIS, Sept. 26. (Havas).—Liberated territory in Palestine will be administered under the agreement reached between the British, French and Russian governments in 1916 it is learned here. Great Britain and France will carry out the agreement under which France is charged with the preparation of a scheme of self-government for the people of Palestine. This work will be the object of conversations which will take place shortly.

A FAILURE.

PARIS, Sept. 26. (Havas) — Pierre J. Troelstra, the Dutch Socialist leader who has been in Switzerland has fallen in his effort to create an international Socialist bureau with headquarters at Berne, it is reported here.

ATTACKS ON PAPERS.

RIO JANEIRO, Sept. 26. German newspapers at Portoalegre in the state of Rio Grande early this week so aroused the populace by criticizing Brazilian affairs that attacks were made on the plant of three papers.

NFLD. CASUALTY.

OTTAWA, Sept. 26. Casualties. Infantry, killed in action, D. McNeil, Codroy Valley, Nfld.

REACHED IMPORTANT BASE.

LONDON, Sept. 26. Serbian troops reached the outskirts of Ishtib, an important Bulgarian base Tuesday, says a Serbian official statement, dated Wednesday. Elsewhere east of the Vardar the Serbians have made important gains.

42,000 TURKISH PRISONERS.

PARIS, Sept. 26. The number of Turkish prisoners

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LABOR MIDWAY BETWEEN PRILEP AND VELES.

taken in Palestine now aggregate 42,000, according to the latest advices reaching Paris. A British official statement Wednesday reported 40,000 Turks and 265 guns had been captured.

VICTORY OR PERISH.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 26. We must be victorious if we must not perish politically and economically, Grand Admiral Von Koester, former commander in chief of the German fleet declared in a speech to the German navy league at Nothern a Berlin message reports. After the war, continued the Admiral, our ships in large numbers must traverse the ocean and we must have colonies with strong points of support. We want free trade under the protection of the German fleet. The speaker entreated the sword as a means to victory, declaring as nature needs storms, as God has given, bears teeth and claws, man also needs the sword. In referring to the proposed league of nations Admiral Von Koester, declared that Germany would only have the role of a Cinderella in it.

FIRST BULGARIAN ARMY ISO-LATED.

LONDON, Sept. 26. (Macedonia).—Reports in official quarters here indicate that the Prilip-Veles road has been cut at Iavor isolating the first Bulgarian army from its main line of communication and placing it in a precarious position. The first army is on the Allied left.

BULGARIAN TROOPS EXILED.

PARIS, Sept. 26. Advice received in Serbian diplomatic circles here to-day show that the Bulgarian troops in the region of Lake Ochrida towards the western end of the Macedonian front are virtually encircled by the Italians advancing in the direction of Kichevo, and a Franco-Serbian force moving from Monastir towards Kruchovo. The fall of Kruchovo is expected hourly.

FOURTH TURKISH ARMY FACES ANNIHILATION.

LONDON, Sept. 26. A fourth Turkish army surrounded in the region east of the Jordan and faces annihilation by General Allenby's forces. To-day's advices show the total of prisoners already taken was increased to-day to 40,000. The annihilation of the fourth army now hoped for would complete the clearing of the Turkish forces in Palestine to about 90,000.

GREEK TROOPS IN THE FIGHT.

ATHENS, Greece, Wednesday, September 25.—Greek troops are aiding in the Allied advance in Macedonia on three sectors of the front according to an official statement from the Greek War Office to-day. East of the Vardar the Bulgarians are in flight toward Valandora with the British and Greeks in pursuit.



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