

FRENCH DISLodge ENEMY FROM THE HERMANN LINE

Germans Retreat Five Miles, the Infantry Being Covered in Withdrawal by Machine Gunners.

Paris, Oct. 27.—This evening Gen. Debeney's army, after three days and nights of uninterrupted fighting, dislodged the enemy from the Hermann line, pursuing him to the next line, five miles northward. The Germans know what is at stake and are fighting as they did in 1914. Their machine gunners are covering their infantry in retreat to-day and are dying at their posts rather than surrender.

Discussion of the armistice proposals has had no appreciable effect upon military operations on the French front, which are being prosecuted with a vigor that has not slackened since the offensive began on August 8. The enemy's resistance also has not weakened, obliging the three French armies operating between the Oise and the Aisne to continue their intense sustained effort for more than three months.

The defence the Germans are making does not appear like the last stand of an army in desperate straits since

they are able to force the French to wage winter fighting on successive lines of strongly fortified positions.

Again, to-day, the German lines appeared to be flinching at certain points, notably in front of the 1st army, Gen. Debeney's men having taken Courmoulin and La Perle, crossed the Peron and advanced toward the north-east. There is nothing to indicate, however, that this is not one more of the well organized and successive retirements of the enemy to another position prepared in advance.

Gen. Mangin's troops crossed the Serre east of Assis-sur-Serre without much opposition and penetrated the German trenches north of the river. On the other hand the army of Gen. Guillaumat, on the front eastward toward the Aisne, is encountering the strongest resistance from both the artillery and the infantry. The enemy counter-attacked vigorously south of Macquigny Farm this morning, but was repulsed.

BRITISH CAPTURE OVER 9,000 PRISONERS AND 150 GUNS IN 2 DAYS

Third and Fourth Armies Meet With Stiff Resistance—Several Additional Towns Occupied.

A despatch from London says: Nine thousand Germans have been made prisoners and 150 guns have been captured by the British in their attacks against the Germans, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued on Friday night.

South of Valenciennes the attack took the British forward more than two miles, thereby virtually eliminating the sharp ascent which bulged into their territory with its point resting near Verdun. The assault, which was pressed vigorously in this sector on Thursday, was renewed on Friday morning at 3 o'clock. At the same time Gen. Horne's army drove forward north of Valenciennes.

South of Valenciennes the British have reached the entire railway line on the front between Le Quesnoy and Maing.

They captured Les Tulleries, east of Colmesme, early, and after stiff fighting in which the Germans suffered heavy losses, reached Le Quesnoy.

There was very stiff fighting on both sides of Les Tulleries, toward La

Coupe gorge, and over the high ground to the north-west.

Mormal Forest is invested with German and machine guns, but the British artillery is searching it with high explosives and gas shells.

The enemy continues to fight stubbornly against the 3rd and 4th armies, but as the British drive him from his prepared defences, they follow him up so closely he gets little chance to rally.

After the Germans had been driven from Ghisignies, the British gained a footing on a little ridge north of the town. Some sunken roads near Beau-dignies and Ruesnes gave considerable trouble, but after the British had gained the high ground south-west of Ruesnes they were able to dominate the roads with their artillery fire.

The chateau at Maing proved a veritable fortress, but the town remains in the hands of the British despite German counter-attacks. As a result of these gains the British now are well established on the Valenciennes side of the Scheldt River.

GERMANS FIRE ON SICK CIVILIANS

Pour Gas Shells Into District Where Influenza Is Prevalent.

A despatch from the British Army in France says: One of the most serious distressing problems the British army has been compelled to meet is that of caring for and disposing of the large civilian population left in the wake of the German army, which is retreating from the region between the Oise and Tournai. More particularly is this true of the district over which we have been advancing since Wednesday morning.

The situation is especially serious at St. Amand, where there are more than 1,500 French people suffering from Spanish influenza and cannot be moved. On Wednesday night the town was bombarded by gas shells and a large number of the inhabitants were gassed in the cellars where they were being cared for.

In one narrow British sector 42,000 civilians must be fed, housed and at least partly clothed. Denial for the moment is really dependent on the British people. All these people are completely destitute and the Germans left them with just enough clothing to cover themselves—certainly insufficient for the cold, raw weather which is prevalent at this season.

U.S. TROOPS GAIN ABOUT HALF-MILE

Take Several Woods in Local Attack—Artillery Active.

A despatch from the British Army northwest of Verdun says: In a local attack east of the Meuse the Americans on Thursday advanced about one kilometre on a three kilometre front, and the Bois Bultruy, the Bois-de-Houchy and the Bois-de-Belleu are within the American lines, as also is a part of the Bois-de-Waville and Ployon-de-Traye.

The advance was made after brief artillery preparation. The enemy's response was principally with machine guns, but during the fighting he shellied the back areas and threw a few 6-inch shells into Verdun.

The artillery on both sides was active over the entire American front on Thursday. The Germans were unusually nervous owing to the activity of the Americans on both sides of the Meuse.

WOMEN ELIGIBLE TO SIT IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

A despatch from London says: The House of Commons has adopted a resolution in favor of women sitting in Parliament. The resolution was passed by a majority of 249.

GERMANS OFFER RESISTANCE TO FRENCH IN SERRE AND OISE VALLEYS

But Fresh Hun Divisions and New Field Fortifications Fail to Stop French Advance Toward Guise.

A despatch from the French Army in France says: Gen. Debeney's attack between Mont D'Origny and the valley of the Serre is meeting with very stout resistance. The battle was raging again fiercely on Friday morning, around Villers-le-Sec, which was occupied by the French troops.

The Germans have brought up three fresh divisions to this sector in the past few days and appear determined to dispute possession of every foot of ground. They are particularly favored by the character of the terrain which is very broken, furnishing strong natural obstacles which the enemy has utilized to the utmost by adding field fortifications upon which they have been working the past four weeks.

The position Gen. Debeney's men are attacking from Ribecourt, south-east to the valley of the Serre, is called

the Hermann position by the Germans. Considerable of its general characteristics has been learned from captured orders and the reports of aviators. This is not supposed to have the same strength as the Hindenburg line, but is sufficiently strong to permit of a stout defence. Behind this line, again, there is an extension of the Hindenburg position in front of Guise, to which the Germans no doubt will retire when the present battle is finished.

In spite of the formidable obstacles encountered and almost constant service in the fighting line for the past three months, the forces of General Debeney continue to forge ahead, and will soon have driven the enemy back upon the old battlefield of the retreat from Charleroi to make a stand around Guise, where the French held them up for a short time during their march to the Marne.



A Decorated Derelict—A war locomotive too old to work any more is used by Austrians as an instrument for their wit and humor.

LEADING MARKETS

Broadstuffs
Toronto, Oct. 29.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern \$2.24½; No. 2 Northern \$2.21½; No. 3 Northern \$2.17½; No. 4 wheat, \$2.11½; in store Fort William, not including tax. Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W. \$6¼; No. 3 C.W. \$2¼; extra No. 1 feed, \$2¼; No. 1 feed, \$2¼. American corn—No. 3 yellow, kiln dried, nominal. No. 4 yellow, kiln dried, nominal.

Ontario oats, new crop—No. 2 white, 75 to 78¢; No. 3 white, 74 to 77¢, according to freight outside. Ontario wheat—No. 2 winter, per car lot, \$2.11 to \$2.19; do, No. 3, \$2.07 to \$2.15; No. 2 Spring, \$2.06 to \$2.14; No. 3 Spring, \$2.02 to \$2.10, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freight.

Peas—No. 2, nominal. Barley—Malting, new crop, \$1 to \$1.05. Rye—No. 2, nominal. Manitoba flour—Old crop, war quality, \$11.65, Toronto. Ontario flour—War quality, old crop, \$10.75, in bags; Montreal and Toronto, prompt shipment. Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, \$37.25 per ton; shorts, \$42.25 per ton; mixed, \$20.00 to \$21.50 per ton, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale
Butter—Dairy, tubs and rolls, 88 to 92¢; prints, 40 to 41¢. Eggs—New laid, 52 to 55¢. Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 80 to 82¢; roasters, 25¢; fowl, 27 to 30¢; ducks, 27 to 30¢; turkeys, 31 to 34¢; squabs, doz. \$4.50; geese, 25¢. Live poultry—roosters, 18 to 20¢; fowl, 20 to 24¢; ducklings, 1b, 22¢; turkeys, 27 to 30¢; spring chickens, 26 to 28¢; geese, 20¢.

Wholesalers are selling to the retail trade at the following prices:
Cheese—New, large, 26½ to 27¢; twins, 26½ to 27¢; old, large, 28 to 29½¢; twin, 28¼ to 29¢. Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 46 to 48¢; creamery, prints, 58 to 55¢; creamery solids, 52 to 53¢. Margarine—34 to 35¢. Eggs—No. 1 storage, 51 to 52¢; selected storage, 50 to 54¢; new laid, in cartons, 62 to 63¢. Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 80 to 82¢; roasters, 25¢; fowl, 27 to 30¢; ducks, 27 to 30¢; turkeys, 31 to 34¢; squabs, doz. \$4.50; geese, 25¢. Beans—Canadian, hand-picked, bus. \$7; imp., hand-picked, Burma or Indian, 56¢; Japan; 57¢; Lima, 18 to 18½¢. Honey, new crop—Strained, 60lb. tins, 26¢; 10-lb. tins, 27¢; 5lb. tins, 28¢. Combs—Dox, 37.75 to \$4.60.

Provisions—Wholesale
Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 37 to 38¢; do, heavy, 30 to 32¢; cooked, 52 to 54¢; rolls, 32 to 33¢; breakfast bacon, 41 to 45¢; backs, plain, 46 to 47¢; boneless, 50 to 52¢. Cured meats—Long, ear bacon, 30 to 31¢; clear bellies, 29 to 30¢. Lard—Pure, tierces, 31 to 31½¢; tubs, 31½ to 32¢; rolls, 31½ to 32½¢; prints, 33 to 34¢. Compound, tierces, 33 to 34¢.

BRITISH DRIVING ENEMY FROM VALENCIENNES BY FLANKING MOVEMENT

7,000 Prisoners and 100 Guns Captured—Haig Reports Enemy Resistance Overcome on Whole Battlefield.

A despatch from London says: Apparently the British are not desirous of taking Valenciennes by fighting the Germans in the streets of the town, but plan to outflank it.

West of Valenciennes Wednesday the British line skirted the western fringe of the town. The British were in St. Vaast and Faubourg de Lille. But the Scheldt Canal, which is broad, lies between the British and the town proper. All the bridges over the canal have been wrecked and the railway line which parallels the canal is stiff with machine guns.

Further south, however, the British are across the Scheldt at several places between the valley of the Harpies River and Thilant, and it should only be a question of time until Valenciennes becomes untenable for the enemy.

The Germans have broken down the banks and opened the sluice gates north-east and north-west of the city and have flooded vast stretches of the country in an effort to delay the British advance. The marshy lowlands on the east side of the canal, opposite the Raimies Forest, resemble a great

STEAMER PRINCESS SOPHIA WENT DOWN IN STORM ON PACIFIC COAST

Three Hundred and Forty-Six Lives Lost Off Reef in Lynn Canal—Not a Single Survivor.

White Horse, Y.T., Oct. 27.—A despatch received from the Dominion Telegraphs from Juneau late this evening says that 150 bodies of victims of the Sophia wreck had been recovered by tonight.

Victoria, B.C., Oct. 27.—Pounded by mountainous waves and driven before a wind of terrible severity, the C.P.R. steamer Princess Sophia slid from the comparative safety of Vanderbilt Reef, in Lynn Canal, midway between Skagway and Juneau, early Friday evening, and carried 346 persons, passengers and crew, men, women and children, to their death in the raging northern waters. There were no survivors. It was the worst marine tragedy in the history of the Pacific coast.

The Sophia left Skagway Wednesday evening last for Vancouver, with a passenger list made up largely of Dawson people and Alaskans from interior points, eager to get "out-side" for the winter. Four hours out she ran into a blinding snowstorm, in which, it is supposed, she got out of her course slightly and piled up on the reef, where she rested for more than 40 hours in what was thought to be a position of no danger. Lighthouse tenders and gasoline boats responded

to the wireless call for assistance, and the Princess Amy also was despatched from Vancouver to take over the passengers.

Even though the seas were running too high to permit of the transference of the passengers on board on Friday, no alarm was felt. Capt. F. L. Locke of Victoria, a veteran seaman of the northern coast, on the night of the disaster had wirelessed his office here that the ship was hard and fast on the reef with her bottom badly damaged, but she was not taking water, and the passengers were normal. It is evident that he believed the Sophia was planted so firmly on the rocks as to be secured from the severity of the storm which continued to rage.

The passenger list was cabled from Skagway Saturday night, and shows that 285 passengers sailed on the Sophia, of whom 230 were men, 37 women and 18 children. The crew comprised 61 persons, including one woman, Miss H. Browning of Vancouver, a stewardess. According to these figures there were 346 persons aboard, 290 men, 38 women and 18 children. The passenger list gave the names only, and it was impossible to identify all of them.

BRITISH TAKE CITY OF ALEPPO

Important Syrian Town Falls Without Serious Opposition.

London, Oct. 27.—The important city of Aleppo was occupied by British cavalry and armored cars Saturday morning, says a British official statement issued to-day in regard to operations in Syria. The text reads: "Our advanced cavalry and armored cars occupied Aleppo on the morning of October 26 after overcoming slight opposition."

A few miles north of Aleppo is an important junction with the Constantinople to Bagdad railway. This may have been occupied by now. In that event the Turks to the east will be cut off from all communication and the task of the British army advancing in Mesopotamia will be lightened. It would also have a most important bearing on the situation in Persian and the Caucasus.

The Turks, at the beginning of last week, were defending Aleppo with 12,000 men, but these retired to the north. No news has yet been received that the railway junction, six miles beyond Aleppo, has been captured, but it is not believed that the Turks will attempt to defend it, and the fall of the railway junction will mean that a vital artery of the enemy communications has been cut.

The fall of Aleppo is expected to be a decisive factor in determining Turkey to sue for peace.

BURGOMASTER OF BRUSSELS RELEASED BY GERMANS

A despatch from the Hague says: The Vaterland, in its issue of Thursday, says it is reported that the political prisoners held by the Germans at Turnhout, Belgium, northeast of Antwerp, including Burgomaster Adolphe Max of Brussels, have been released.

Burgomaster Max was arrested in Brussels in September, 1914, for his "irreconcilable attitude," according to an announcement made by the German Military Governor of Belgium. In 1917 it was said that the Burgomaster was seriously ill in a prison at Celle, Prussia, and that King Alfonso was intervening in his behalf.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT GAINS MADE BY THE AMERICANS

A despatch from the American Army Northwest of Verdun says: From a day of extraordinarily severe fighting the Americans emerged on Friday slightly in advance of the positions they held Thursday night. The gains made are slight, but are regarded as extremely important, especially on the left where higher ground dominating much of the surrounding terrain has been gained.

ITALIANS LAUNCH NEW OFFENSIVE CAPTURING 3,000 PRISONERS

British Capture German Garrisons on the Piave River and French Take Mountain Position on the Asiago Plateau.

A despatch from London says: Italian troops have begun an offensive between the Piave and the Brenta. In the Monte Grappa sector Thursday they advanced across the Orto River and captured Monte Prassolan and Monte Pertica.

In the Piave River the Italians have captured the islands of Grave Papadopoli and Maggiora. The weather on the front is unfavorable.

French troops are aiding the Italians in their new offensive. According to reports reaching London, on Friday the attacks of the allies are

NO GERMANS IN VALENCIENNES

Chief Stronghold of 2nd Enemy Line Invested by British.

Paris, Oct. 27.—The fall of Valenciennes is imminent, if it has not already occurred, the Petit Parisien says. Patrols report that there are no Germans in the city. "The chief stronghold of the second German line is gone, its centre invested. It is the object of direct assaults and local outflanking movements which will soon smash it," the paper continues. "The operations of Gen. Debeney's army north of Guise and those of Gen. Mangin in the direction of Marie constitute an increasing danger. The Escault line may be considered as lost; the Sambre line will be taken shortly. We can foresee that the enemy will retreat to the Meuse."

The Matin says that all information tends to show that the Germans cannot long resist the allied offensive. "The German army has no material, lacks munitions, has not sufficient reserves to continue a long battle, and has no tanks with which to attack. The spirit in the enemy rear is at a low level, while the spirit at the front is bad. This has been proven by army orders which have fallen into our hands. We would be false to our ideals if we failed to take advantage of the situation."

INFLUENZA RAGES IN BRITISH ISLES

255 Persons Died in Dublin in Five Days.

London, Oct. 27.—Influenza is increasing throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Two hundred and fifty-five persons have been buried in Dublin since last Monday. The authorities are sprinkling the streets with disinfectants. Two priests who attended the victims have died.

One hundred and fifty-two deaths have occurred at Leicester during the week. All public functions have been cancelled and the Council has requested the people to stay away from places of amusement. One thousand cases are reported at Newry. The spinning mills are short-handed and the schools have been closed.

OTTOMANS ARE EVACUATING PERSIAN CITY OF TABRIZ

A despatch from Washington says: The Turkish force occupying Tabriz, Persia, is about to evacuate the city, according to a report dated October 22, from Teheran, which reached the State Department on Friday. The Turks already are withdrawing their forces along the roads leading out of Tabriz.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

At the sale of Lord Hawke's Gotham estate of 1,172 acres, at Nottingham, £41,000 was realized.

A research department has been established in connection with the Women's Industrial Council. Calbrook Lodge, West Hill, Putney, is to be a convalescent home for American nurses.

The Veterans' Association proposes to buy Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford for £10,000, as a convalescent home.

Major-General Biddle, U. S. Army, has received from the King, the insignia of the honorary K.C.B.

The late Thomas Alderman Haughton, of Old Aresford, Hants, bequeathed £3,850 to his servants.

The Chelmsford Town Council have adopted a scheme for erecting 960 houses for working-class families.

The first British ship built without rivets has been launched from the yard of Messrs. Cammell, Laird's.

SHIP LOSSES SHOW A LARGE DECREASE

A despatch from London says: The British Admiralty announces that British merchant tonnage losses during September totalled 152,000 tons gross; allied and neutral combined, 88,000 and the aggregate constitutes the lowest monthly sinkings since August, 1916, and is below that year's monthly average. The total losses for the three months ended September 30 were 893,000 tons, compared with 964,000 in the previous quarter, and a million and a half tons in the corresponding quarter of last year. The sailings of steamships exceeding five hundred tons gross between the United Kingdom and overseas ports, excluding cross-Channel traffic, was seven and a half million tons in September.

GERMANS SAY THEY WILL RETURN STOLEN ART WORKS

A despatch from London says: Valuable works of art belonging to museums and private owners in the regions of Cambrai, Douai and Valenciennes, now in the hands of the Germans, will be returned undamaged to their owners after the war. This announcement is made in a German Government wireless message received here.

These works of art have, under the orders of the Supreme Army Command, been sent to a place of safety to save them from destruction from bombardment, the message adds.

GERMANY WILL AWAIT THE ARMISTICE CONDITIONS

A despatch from Basel says: The German War Cabinet considered President Wilson's reply at a lengthy session, according to the Frankfurter Zeitung. It was decided not to wait until it is learned what the Entente armistice conditions may be.

Famous Belfry of Bruges Used by Germans as a Garage

A despatch from London says: The famous belfry of Bruges was used by the Germans as a garage and workshop during their occupation of the city. Allied troops on entering the city, according to a despatch received by the Belgian Legation, found the interior walls of the historic structure broken down and chimneys added to meet the needs of the workmen.

FRENCH PATROLS CROSS DANUBE INTO ROMANIA

Paris, Oct. 25.—The War Office report on operations in the Eastern theatre states that French patrols have crossed the Danube River and invaded Roumania near Lom-Palanka, defeated German detachments and taken prisoners.

ENTENTE AND AMERICA UNITED ON WAR AIMS

A despatch from London says: Speaking in the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil, Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that harmony existed between the United States and the other associated Governments as regarded war aims.

GERMANS ARE LEAVING GHENT, BELGIUM

A despatch from Amsterdam says: The evacuation of Ghent, Belgium, is in full swing, according to a despatch to The Telegraph from Savan Gent. The last boats in Ghent are being hastily towed toward Selaete, near the Dutch frontier south of Savan Gent, the despatch adds.

German Cities Again Bombed By British Air Squadrons

A despatch from London says: The official statement dealing with the operations of the Independent Air Force says: "On Wednesday night we bombed railways at Burbach and Saarbrücken, chemical factories at Mannheim, and railways at Coblenz, near Mainz, and at Metz-Sablons."