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GERMANS CLAIM TWO BIG VICTORIES OVER THE FRENCH NAMUR CAPTURED BY THE GERMAN ARMY ALLIED TROOPS FORCED TO RETREAT BEFORE ENEMY

OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT OF ALLIES WAS REPULSED BY THE GERMANS AFTER MOST SANGUINARY CONFLICT

The French Forces Assumed the Aggressive With 80,000 Men and Their African Troops Carried Away by Their Eagerness Advanced Too Far and Were Repulsed by a Counter Attack of the Prussian Guard—Allies Are Now Everywhere on the Defensive

ALL THE ALLIES' DEFENCES INTACT IN PRESENCE OF A WEAKENED ENEMY

Allied Troops Are Intact, Allied Soldiers Are in Good Condition, Morally and Physically and the Allied Artillery Continually Demonstrated its Superiority Over That of the Enemy

SUMMARY OF THE GREAT BATTLE

The English Army on our left was attacked by the Germans but behaved admirably, holding its ground with traditional steadfastness.

Our troops are intact, our cavalry has in no way suffered, our artillery has affirmed its superiority, our officers and soldiers are in the best of condition, morally, physically.

The French army will remain for a time on the defensive but at the right moment, to be decided upon by the Commander-in-Chief, it will resume a vigorous offensive.

Our losses are heavy; it would be premature to enumerate them. It would be equally so to enumerate those of the Germans who suffered so heavily that they were obliged to abandon their counter attacks and establish themselves in a fresh position.

Our operations have enabled the Russians to come into action and to penetrate to the heart of West Prussia.

Paris, Aug. 25.—The French War Office has issued the following announcement: "The French and English, their plan of attack having failed owing to unforeseen difficulties, have retired on their covering positions West of the Meuse.

The English army on our left was attacked by the Germans but behaved admirably, holding its ground with traditional steadfastness.

The French assumed the aggressive with two army corps and an African brigade in the front line, carried away by their eagerness were received by a murderous fire. They did not give an inch, but, counter attacked by the Prussian guard, were obliged to retire, only however after inflicting enormous losses.

Prussian Guard Suffered Heavily

The Prussian guard especially suffered heavily. East of the Meuse our troops advanced across an extremely difficult country and made a vigorous attack when they emerged from the woods but were obliged to fall back.

After a stiff fight South of the River Semois, on order of General Joffre, our troops and the British troops were withdrawn to the covering positions.

Our troops are intact, our cavalry has in no way suffered, our artillery has affirmed its superiority, our officers and soldiers are in the best of condition, morally, physically.

As a result of orders which have been issued, the aspect of the struggle will change for a few days.

Will Be Temporarily On the Defensive

The French army will remain for a time on the defensive but at the right moment, to be decided upon by the Commander-in-Chief, it will resume a vigorous offensive.

Our losses are heavy; it would be premature to enumerate them. It would be equally so to enumerate those of the Germans who suffered so heavily that they were obliged to abandon their counter attacks and establish themselves in a fresh position.

In Lorraine we delivered four attacks yesterday from our positions North of Nancy; we have the full use of our railroads and we retain command of the seas.

TOKIO HEARS NEWS OF A NAVAL BATTLE

British and German Warships Said to have Fought Engagement

Tokio, Aug. 25.—The British, Russian and French Embassies are flying the Japanese flag as symbols of the alliance.

Vice Admiral Kato has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the first squadron.

Contradictory reports are in circulation of a battle between British and German warships, but there has been no confirmation of this news.

Schr. Arnold is loading fish at Burin for Dporto.

ITALY'S PREMIER SAYS HIS COUNTRY WILL BE NEUTRAL

London, Aug. 25.—A despatch from Rome says the Italian Premier assured a committee of deputies that no mobilization was imminent in Italy and that if it did occur later, it would not mean any abandonment of Italian neutrality.

Our operations have enabled the Russians to come into action and to penetrate to the heart of West Prussia.

It is to be regretted that the offensive operations planned failed to achieve their purpose as a result of difficulties impossible to foresee. It would have shortened the war but our defences remain intact in the presence of an already weakened enemy.

Every Frenchman will deplore the temporary abandonment of positions in Alsace-Lorraine which we had occupied and certain parts of the national territory will suffer from the events of which they will be the theatre.

Ordeal Inevitable, But Temporary

The ordeal is inevitable but temporary, and thus detachments of German cavalry belong to an entrenched division, operating on our extreme right, have penetrated to Roubaix, six miles North of Lille, and Tourcoing district which are defended only by the territorial reservists.

All our valiant people will know how to find courage to support this trial with unflinching faith in the final success which is not to be doubted.

In telling to the country the whole truth the Government and the military authorities give the strongest proof of their absolute confidence in a victory which depends only on our perseverance and tenacity.

Germans Capture Namur Strongly Fortified City After Two Days Fight

Fall of Stronghold a Matter of Great Disappointment to the Allies

FORTS STRONGER THAN THOSE OF LIEGE

And Were Expected to be a Formidable Obstacle to the Germans

London, Aug. 25.—A summary of the war situation in the London Times states that Namur has fallen. This, in the words of the official communication, necessitates the withdrawal of a portion of the allied troops from the line of the Sambre to their original defensive positions on the French frontier.

Namur is a strongly fortified city at the junction of the Meuse and the Sambre. It was confidently expected to present a formidable obstacle to the German advance.

There is as yet no explanation of its sudden fall.

No doubt the Germans have attacked the allies in this part of Belgium with all their available forces.

The battle is now raging from Mons to Cere and will last several days and it will be necessary to await definite results before any sound conclusion can be reached as to the full effect of this first real engagement.

London, Aug. 25.—Beyond the bare statement that Namur had fallen the official Bureau has issued nothing on the subject.

London, Aug. 25.—Commenting on the fall of Namur before the Germans, The Times says it is one of these inexplicable events which make war a gamble. That Namur should have fallen in two days will require a great deal of explanation. The Times added that military experts say that it is too early to say that the line of the Meuse South of Miseses must be abandoned, but the outlook is not favorable and the developments of the situation in the next few days will be watched with legitimate anxiety.

"The taking of Namur was vital for Germany and it was a fine stroke for the Germans to have rushed the place under the eyes of the allied armies. We still hope and believe that our counter offensive movement in the north is postponed, and not abandoned."

Decidedly Bad

The Chronicle says the news today is decidedly bad, adding that if the allies "Losses have been heavy" we may yet see before long the German war march in earnest upon Paris.

"Namur is a fortress of great strength, which its defenders could possibly have held for several months. We do not imagine that it was taken by a rush, more probably a breach was made elsewhere in the line of allies and imposed on them the alternative of leaving a large force to be invested in Namur or to withdraw it."

Were Outclassed

Altogether, the blunt fact remains that in what was really the

LONDON ANXIOUS TO HEAR EXTENT OF BRITISH LOSS

Thousands of British Have Relatives and Friends at the Front

AND HAVE NO NEWS OF THEIR WELFARE

Yet, in Spite of all, There is a Calm, Quiet Determination to Fight On

London, Aug. 25.—This day of waiting has brought home the realities of war to British people. Never before has the nation been so deeply moved.

Many thousands have relatives or friends in the army. They know the casualties must be great; the death roll will probably be heavier than in the case of any British force since the Crimean War.

The only information concerning events the country has had is contained in brief official bulletins of a vague character and these have not been cheering.

In Serious Mood

Throughout London, people are tonight in a much more serious mood than at any time since they faced war. There are no scenes of gaiety in the theatres and restaurants and the crowded streets are very quiet.

This does not mean that there is any less determination on the part of Britons; only that the people are beginning to realize what this war may cost them.

On every side are heard declarations that the country must be prepared for a long and exhausting struggle, and while few reproaches come from supporters of Lord Roberts' crusade for compulsory military service, not a few admit that they never realized before how small a part the British army counted in a great European struggle.

Felt It Less

Thus far, England has felt the war far less than any European nation engaged, probably less than Holland and Switzerland, but now, waiting for the issue of the battle and for the lists of the killed and wounded, the English people understand all that it means.

Every boat from Belgium comes crowded with impoverished refugees who have fled before the German invasion. An organization is being formed to care for these people and part of the Prince of Wales' relief fund, which amounts to more than \$7,500,000 will be sent to Antwerp for sufferers who have taken refuge there.

Thousands of Belgians have crossed the French border for asylum and the committee will arrange for their relief.

England and France apparently propose to care for their smaller ally who thus far has borne the brunt of the hardships which war entails.

first clash in battle, the French troops occupying a secluded position of singular strength were driven out by the Germans after not more than two days fighting.

"This speaks volumes for the power of German attack."

"England and Russia must stubbornly fight, come what may to France. They will never surrender to Germany, but will stick to her as they stuck to Napoleon until they cut her down."

"As long as we hold the sea, we cannot ourselves be vitally struck."

The enquiry into the loss of the Southern Cross was begun at the Magistrate's office to-day.

FOR OTHER WAR NEWS SEE ALSO PAGE SIX

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\$1.40 to \$4.40

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\$2.90 to 7.90.



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About a dozen Suits we are offering at giving away prices for Boys age 3 to 6 years; usual price \$1.50 to \$3.60. Special Price

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