

GERMAN OFFICERS ON THE FIRING LINE



RETREAT OF GERMANS WAS STEADY UNTIL THEY MADE STAND ON AISNE

London.—An account of the operations of the British army in France and the French armies in immediate touch with it during the period from September 10 to 13, written by an officer attached to Field Marshal Sir John French's staff, has been issued by the official press bureau. The account follows:

Since Thursday, September 10, the British army, in co-operation with the French, made steady progress in its endeavor to drive back the enemy. The country across which it had to force its way and over which it will have to fight in the near future is undulating and covered with patches of thick wood.

Within the area which faced the British before the advance commenced, right up to Laon, the chief feature of tactical importance is that there are six rivers running across the direction of the advance, at all of which it was possible the Germans might make a stand. These are, in order from the south, the Marne, Ourcq, Vesle, Aisne, Allette and Oise.

Real Resistance at the Aisne. The enemy held the lines of the Marne, which was crossed by our forces on September 9, as a purely rear guard operation. Our passage of the Ourcq, which here runs almost due east and west, was not contested. The Vesle was only lightly held, while resistance along the Aisne, both against the French and British, has been and still is of a determined character.

On Friday, September 11, little opposition was met along any part of our front and the direction of the advance was for the purpose of co-operating with our allies turned slightly to the northeast. The day was passed in rushing forward and gathering in various hostile detachments. By nightfall our forces had reached a line north of the Ourcq, extending from Oulchy-Le-Chateau to Longpont.

General Advance of French. On this day there was also a general advance of the French along their whole line which ended in a substantial success, in one portion of the Seld Duke Albrecht of Wurtemberg's army being driven back across the Saulx, and elsewhere the whole of the corps artillery of a German corps being captured. Several German colors also were taken.

It was only on this day that the full extent of the victory gained by the allies on September 8 was appreciated by them and the moral effect of this success has been enormous.

An order dated September 6 and 7 issued by the commander of the German Seventh corps was picked up. It stated that the great object of the war was about to be attained, since the French were going to accept battle, and that upon the result of this battle would depend the issue of the war and the honor of the German armies.

Germany Make Heroic Effort. It seems probable that the Germans not only expected to find that the British army was beyond the power of assuming the offensive for some time, but counted on the French having been driven back on to the line of the Seine, and that, though surprised to find the latter moving forward against them after they had crossed the Marne, they were in no wise deterred from making a great effort.

On Saturday, September 12, the enemy were found to be occupying a formidable position opposite us on the north of the line at Soissons. They had both sides of the river and an entrenched line on the hills to the north of the eight road bridges and two railway bridges crossing the Aisne, within our section of the front. Seven of the former and both of the latter had been demolished.

Foes in Artillery Duel. Working from the west to the east, our Third army corps gained some high ground south of the Aisne, overlooking the Aisne valley, to the east of Soissons.

Here a long range artillery duel between our guns and those of the French on our left and the enemy's artillery on the hills continued during the greater part of the day and did not cease until nearly midnight. The enemy had a large number of heavy howitzers in well concealed positions.

The movement of this army corps was effected in co-operation with the French sixth army, on our left, which gained the southern half of the town during the night.

The Second army corps did not cross the Aisne. The First army corps got over the river Vesle, to the south of the Aisne, after the crossing had been secured by the First cavalry division. It then reached a line south of Aisne practically without fighting.

Battle of Braisne. At Braisne the first cavalry division met with considerable opposition from infantry and machine guns holding the town and guarding the bridge. With the aid of some of our infantry, it gained possession of the town about midday, driving the enemy to the north. Some hundred prisoners were captured around Braisne, where the Germans has thrown a large amount of field gun ammunition into the river, where it was visible under two feet of water.

On our right the French reached the line of the river Vesle. On this day began an action along the Aisne which is not yet finished, and which

may be merely of a rear guard nature on a large scale, or may be the commencement of a battle of a more serious nature.

It rained heavily on Saturday afternoon and all through the night, which severely handicapped transport.

On Sunday, September 13, extremely strong resistance was encountered along the whole of our front, which was some fifteen miles in length. The action still consisted for the most part of long range gun fire, that of the Germans being to a great extent from their heavy howitzers, which were firing from cleverly concealed positions.

By nightfall portions of all three corps were across the river, the cavalry returning to the south side. By this night, or early next morning, three pontoon bridges had been built and our troops also managed to get across the river by means of the bridge, carrying the canal over the river.

On our left the French pressed on, but were prevented by artillery fire from building a pontoon bridge at Soissons. A large number of infantry, however, crossed in single file the top girder of the railway bridge left standing.

Germans Quick to Surrender. During the last three or four days many isolated parties of Germans have been discovered hiding in numerous woods a long way behind our line. As a rule they seemed glad to surrender, and the condition of some of them may be gathered from the following incident:

An officer proceeding along the road in charge of a number of led horses received information that there were some of the enemy in the neighborhood. He gave the order to charge, whereupon three German officers and 106 men surrendered.

At Senlis immediately on his arrival a proclamation was issued by the commander of a division. The main points were that all arms were to be handed in at the town hall at once; that all civilians found with arms would be shot at once; no person was to be in the street after dark; no lights were to be maintained in the houses or the streets; the doors of all houses were to be left open and the inhabitants were not to collect in groups. Any obstruction of the German troops or the threatening of them immediately would be punishable by death.

At Villers Cotterets, the mayor appears to have behaved judiciously and though supplies far in excess of the capabilities of the place were demanded, the town was not seriously damaged.

The Germans evacuated the place on September 11 in such haste that they left behind a large amount of the bread requisitioned.

It was stated by the inhabitants that the enemy had destroyed and abandoned 15 motor lorries, seven guns and ammunition wagons.

Reims was occupied by the enemy on September 3. It was occupied by the French after considerable fighting on September 13.

CORRESPONDENT TELLS OF THE BURNING OF TERMONDE

By T. M. KETTLE, International News Service. Termonde.—Here is the story of the wrecking of Termonde, told by a dozen different inhabitants and confirmed from dozens of other reliable sources.

Following the German entry into the city the commander demanded a levy of 2,000,000 francs. The money was not in the public treasury, and the burgomaster was not there to save his town as Braun saved Ghent.

General Sommerfeld had a chair brought from the inn into the center of the grand palace. He sat down on it, crossed his legs and said:

"It is our duty to burn this town." The inhabitants were allowed two hours to clear out and then the soldiers went to work.

Use Portable Calissons. Their apparatus consisted of a small portable pressure calisson filled with benzine and fitted with a spray. Other witnesses said that there also were great calissons on wheels. With this they sprinkled the floors and ground stories of the houses and set fire to the buildings. Others used a sort of phosphorus paste with which they smeared the object to be destroyed. They completed their work by flinging hand grenades and prepared fuses into the infant flames.

Remembering Louvain, General Sommerfeld had evidently given directions that the public and monumental buildings were to be spared. Thus the museum and the city hall both remain standing, but right between them his petroleurs destroyed a hotel.

Pillaged Everything. General Sommerfeld's soldiers stole, pillaged and drank everything on which they could lay their hands. Witnesses on this point are many and unshakable. Their moderation must impress anybody who talks to them.

A citizen of Termonde, who himself had been held as hostage, said to me while standing amid the ruins of his town:

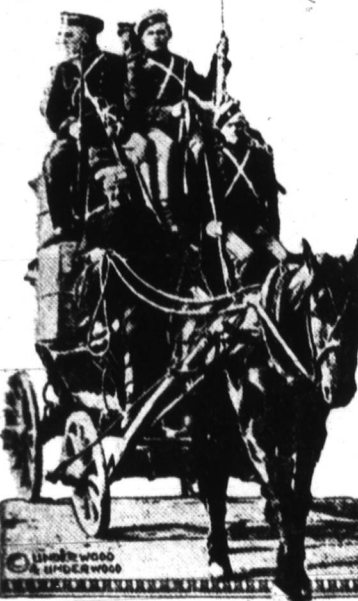
"Monsieur, there is human nature among the Germans. I saw many officers in tears. A German lieutenant came and shook me by the hand, crying, 'It is not our fault.'"

SUFFRAGISTS WHO HAVE INVADDED THE WESTERN STATES



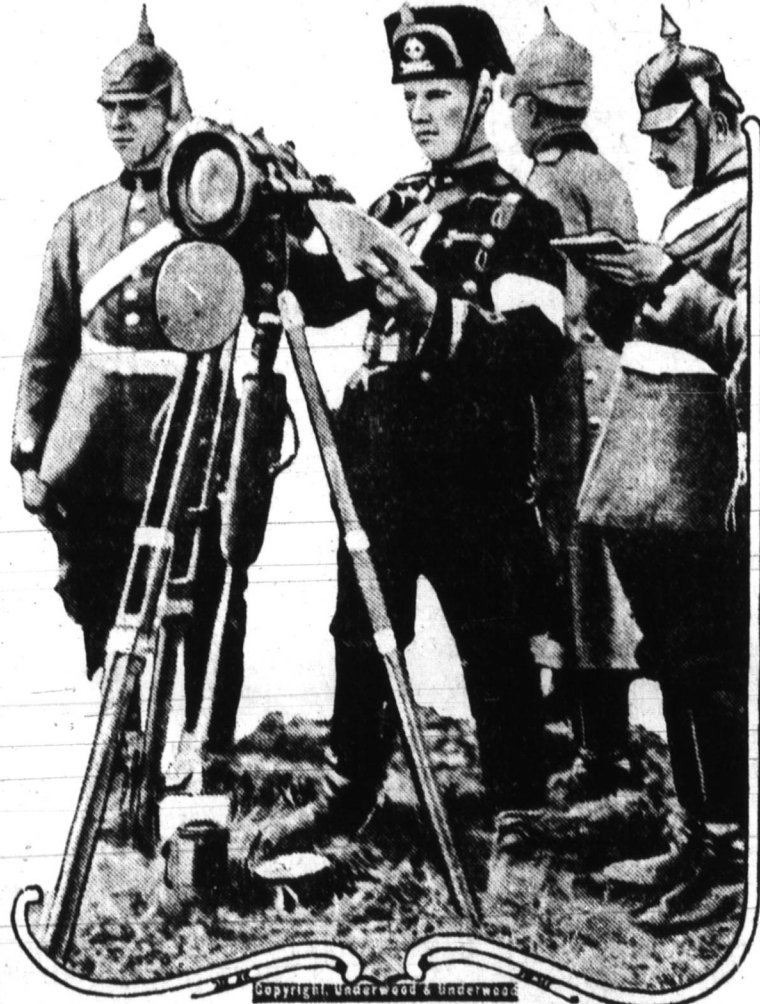
Left to right are: Miss Rose Winslow, Miss Lucy Burns, Miss Doris Stevens, Miss Ruth Noyes, Miss Anna McCue, Miss Jane Pincus and Mrs. Jessie Hardy Stubbs. These women are the "war squad" of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage who have left Washington to work in the equal suffrage states. They will appeal to their voting sisters to withhold their support from the Democrats, because of the attitude of the present administration toward equal suffrage. Misses Winslow and Burns are to establish headquarters in San Francisco, Misses Stevens and Noyes in Denver, Miss McCue in Seattle, Miss Pincus in Phoenix, Arizona, and Mrs. Stubbs in Portland, Oregon.

AMMUNITION FOR RUSSIANS



Cart load of ammunition for the Russian troops, guarded by a squad of soldiers.

HELIOGRAPHER OF THE CROWN PRINCE



Heliographer of the famous "Death's Head" regiment, commanded by the German crown prince, sending dispatches to the troops on the battlefield.

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR AT BRUGES



These captured Germans, it will be noted, are wearing wooden sabots. This is explained by the fact that the Kaiser's soldiers found the regular army shoes uncomfortable or useless and appropriated the footwear of the Belgians.

BLESSING THE REFUGEES



When the inhabitants of Malines and its suburbs were fleeing in terror from the advancing Germans this priest stood in a cart and gave them his blessing, besides helping them to remove their belongings.

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REMEDIES FOR POTASH SHORTAGE

By Prof. H. A. Huston.

Various suggestions have been made in regard to the steps to be taken by farmers in reference to the shortage of Potash in their fertilizers, caused by the greatly reduced shipments of Potash from Germany since the first of August. Most of the Fertilizer Companies have endeavored to make the Potash on hand go as far as possible by selling for the present brands of complete fertilizers containing only 2 or 3 per cent of Potash and withholding from sale brands containing larger amounts.

The suggestion that some or all of the Potash be replaced by phosphoric acid is absurd, for every schoolboy knows that one plant food cannot take the place of another. There are some indirect fertilizers, such as lime, gypsum and salt that can release a limited amount of Potash from some soils that contain hydrated silicates of Alumina and Potash. But if these soils have already been treated with lime or have received repeated dressings of the usual forms of fertilizer containing soluble phosphate with its accompanying gypsum, then the Potash in the hydrated silicates has to a large extent already been replaced and the use of more lime or gypsum or salt could not be expected to release such additional Potash. Ground limestone or oyster shells act too slowly to be used as Potash releasers.

The residue of soda left in the soil by nitrate of soda is more effective in releasing Potash than is gypsum and hence goods, in which the nitrogen is largely in the form of nitrate of soda, may have a special value in the present emergency.

It is often stated that decaying organic matter releases Potash from the soil, but there seems to be no direct evidence of this. On the contrary, Dr. S. Peacock states in the American Fertilizer of Sept. 5, 1914, "Several thoroughly competent researchers have shown that decaying organic matter has little effect on converting inert mineral plant food in the soil into available form."

In any soil the amount of Potash capable of being released by these indirect means is a very small fraction of the total Potash in the soil, most of which exists in a form about as soluble as window glass. There is no known profitable method for rendering this inert Potash of the soil available fast enough to provide for profitable crops. Whatever temporary expedients we may employ in the present emergency, we must keep in mind that the Potash thus removed from the semi-available soil reserves must later be replaced if we are to maintain the soil's productivity.

There is danger in the statement that farmers have been using an excess of Potash. Crops use on the average about two and one-half times as much Potash as phosphoric acid, while the average fertilizer sold contains only half as much Potash as phosphoric acid; yet no one claims that we are using too much phosphoric acid. The Potash remaining from previous fertilization is practically nothing except in the limited areas where a ton or more of fertilizer has been used per acre on truck crops. Very rarely is half as much Potash applied to the wheat, oats, corn or cotton crop as the crop removes.

The Potash mines are so numerous and the stocks on hand so large that supplies can be promptly sent forward, as soon as European conditions permit freight shipments to be resumed.

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