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GERMANS BATTLE DESPITE LOSSES

Teutonic Forces Are Battling To Escape Russian Death Trap Set For Them

KAISER GOES TO POLAND

Comparative Quiet On Western Frontier—Sir John French Says The Germans Show Weakening

Germany is fighting hard, despite heavy losses sustained on the Russian frontier, where, according to Petrograd advices, they walked right into a death trap laid for them by the czar's forces.

The situation has been considered so grave by the Berlin war office that the kaiser himself has hastened to join his troops on the Polish border.

On the western front there has been comparative quiet for several days, though in a letter from Sir John French, the English field marshal in charge of the British forces on the continent, the Teutons are beginning to weaken. Another German attack on the allied lines in an effort to push through to the sea coast, has been repulsed. President Poincaré has joined the French forces at Verdun.

Turkish troops are persistent in their attacks on the Suez canal, though their forces in Caucasus are said to have been decisively defeated by the Russians. The Sultan has issued a general call to arms throughout the entire Ottoman empire proclaiming the crisis a holy war.

The Russians are claiming many victories over both the Germans and Austrians and declare that when the veil is lifted from the scene of the present campaign, the world will hear the details of the most telling blow to Germany's finest troops that has been inflicted since Napoleon's day.

Austrian officials in Vienna admit that the Slav troops now occupy Czernowitz, capital of the province of Bukovina. A big naval battle is now going on in the Baltic between the Teutonic and Slav cruisers, the details of which are promised later.

Severe fighting is reported going on in northwestern Serbia and the Montenegrins are claiming decisive victories over the Austrians.

The Roumanian parliament has convened at Bucharest and will possibly make some territorial concessions to Bulgaria regarding the boundary dispute which arose after the second Balkan war last year.

Such action, it is believed by the allies, will bring Bulgaria into line against the Austro-German entente, and provide a relief to the Servians and a further annoyance to Turkey.

The United States government has taken under consideration the appeal of the South American republics to exclude battleships of the warring nations from Pan-American waters. Secretary of State Bryan has told the Latin American diplomats that he will take up the matter with President Wilson.

The president called an important conference of ambassadors of the belligerent European nations at the white house where he addressed them expressing his strong disapproval of the methods of aerial bomb throwing on unfortified cities in which might be living residents of neutral countries.

The campaign on the Franco-Belgian frontier, commonly regarded as the main battlefield of the war, has assumed a new phase. Everything is quiet and only the slightest skirmishes are being reported. Germany has seemingly relinquished the offensive. The kaiser has made a flying trip to Kiel.

Decisive victories for the Russian army over the German forces in the latter's attacks on the Polish border and attempts to reach Warsaw, together with the explosion of the British warship, Bulwark, off the English coast, mark the leading developments of the week in the European war.

Repulsed at every turn, the Germans were forced to abandon their project to capture the Polish capital, and in turn were compelled to hastily retreat in order to guard the roads to Danzig and Berlin, which are again imperiled.

Germany Weakening Says French

London.—Summing up the situation, Field Marshal Sir John French says: "As I close this dispatch, signs are in evidence that we are possibly in the last stages of the battle from Ypres to Armentieres. For several days the artillery fire of the enemy has slackened and his infantry attacks practically have ceased. In remarking upon the general military situation of the allies it does not seem to be clearly understood that the operations in which we have been engaged, embrace all central Europe."

THE CUSTODIAN



London.—Latest official Russian announcements still claim advantage in the fighting in northern Poland, but deprecate exaggerated reports of their successes.

Germany declares officially that the Russian attacks have been repulsed and that German counter-attacks have been successful.

The German emperor has joined Field Marshal von Hindenburg in the east to offer his advice and to encourage his troops.

Enormous losses have been inflicted on the Germans, according to the Russian statement, but no mention is made of the capture of German divisions, so freely claimed by the Petrograd correspondent of London and Paris newspapers.

Some days must elapse before this battle, which promises to prove the most decisive of the war, is concluded. So far, all that is definitely known is that the German advance has been stopped. Some of the German troops have been partly or wholly surrounded, but they still are fighting stubbornly to break their way through the Russian lines, apparently to the northward, where they hope to join reinforcements from Thorn.

In the battle before Cracow the Russians claim decisive success. During the last week they took 30,000 prisoners in that region, which is taken in Petrograd to mean that Cracow will not bar the Russian advance in Silesia from the south, but that with the Austrian army beaten, it will mask the fortress.

Quiet On West Front

In the west, the Germans, although making an occasional infantry attack, seem content at present to bombard the allied positions with somewhat lighter guns than they have been using. This may mean either that they are sending troops and artillery to the east or that they are preparing a new attack against the allies.

That the enterprise that failed in Flanders will not be repeated for the present seems probable, as the allies have been allowed to capture some points of vantage around Ypres, previously considered necessary to the German plans. There has been a minor and insignificant attack near Arras.

Submarines Moored At Kiel

Kiel, Germany.—A pair of gray submarines lie at the dock where the American Sonderklasse yachts were moored during their last visit to Kiel. Warships anchored in the Fjord wear war paint and have their torpedoes netted. A Red Cross flag flies from the Imperial Yacht club.

Kaiser To Russian Front

Berlin.—It has been announced at military headquarters that Emperor William has gone to the eastern front.

Roumanian Parliament Meets

Bucharest.—The Roumanian parliament has convened and the future course of action of this kingdom probably will be decided. It is said Roumania is prepared to cede to Bulgaria some of the territory which she obtained after the second Balkan war at the expense of her neighbor. This may mean that Bulgaria is about to take her stand with the allies and in return be permitted to straighten out her boundaries and take more of the country now inhabited by her nationals.

Poincaré Reviews Troops

Verdun.—President Poincaré, Premier Viviani and the speakers of the senate and chamber of deputies visited the troops along the firing line in the Argonne. Later they visited the military works near Verdun and the ruins of Clermont, where only the hospital of Aine Marie remains standing. Among the seriously wounded patients in this hospital is Deputy Andre Maffiot.

Austrians Admit Resistance

Vienna.—An official announcement issued here says: On the southern front the enemy is offering stubborn resistance and is endeavoring to delay the advance by bayonet counter-attacks. On the eastern bank of the Kolubra our troops again have gained. Our troops, advancing beyond Valjevo and to the south, have reached the heights east of the Ljlik river and the line from Suvotor to Uzice.

Holland Refuses Aid

The Hague.—The Dutch government has declined all American offers of financial aid for Belgian refugees in Holland. The government says it feels it will be incompatible with the country's honor to allow charitable organizations of another nation to assist in this mercy work. Of the million Belgians refugees who fled into Holland at the beginning of the war, 300,000 penniless ones remain. They are now being gathered together in specially constructed camps. For this purpose a budget of \$1,500,000 has been passed.

Russians Claim Victory

London.—Unofficial reports repeat previous claims of a great Russian victory. Petrograd has not officially stamped them true. Berlin, in its latest report, simply says fighting in Poland has assumed the proportions of a continuous battle. It gives no geographical position of this fighting and may refer to the operations westward from Warsaw or to those in the vicinity of Czenstochowa and still farther south along the Galician frontier. In this latter district and in Galicia, according to latest reports of the Russian commander-in-chief, the Muscovite forces have had numerous successes. Captures of men and munitions are recorded on the Czenstochowa-Cracow line, along the Szreniawa river in Poland; in Galicia on the Raba and Vistula rivers and before the town of Bochnia, which was stormed.

Berlin's latest official report announced victories in western Galicia and progress in the Carpathians for the Teuton allies.

A period of inactivity obtains along the entrenched lines in Belgium and France. Only here and there has there been fighting and this merely was cannonades and a few light infantry combats.

British Steamer Sunk

Havre.—The British steamer Melachite has been sunk by a German submarine near Cape La Heve, which is about three miles from Havre. The Melachite, a steamer of about two thousand tons, belonging to the Cunard company, was bound from Liverpool to Havre. She was stopped by the submarine and the crew was given ten minutes to get into the boats. After this was done the submarine sank the Melachite and then closed her own hatches and dove down beneath the sea.

RUSSIANS SPLIT THE GERMAN ARMY

GENERAL VON HINDENBURG'S FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN THREE DISTINCT BATTLES.

REPORT NOTHING DECISIVE

Great Numbers of the Germans Are Rushed to Poland.—Teutons Underestimated Size of Enemy.

London.—Another week of battle between Russians and the German Allies in Poland has passed without news of a decisive result. The British official statement says there is nothing of importance to report from Poland, while the Russian Government rests on its warning against over-optimism.

The facts as gleaned from correspondents' dispatches, appear to be that the semi-independent engagements are progressing between Thorn on the north and Cracow on the south in which both combatants have achieved local successes, without a distinct victory for either.

Some British military experts believe Field Marshal von Hindenburg's forces have been split into three units, one of which is almost enveloped, while the Russians have driven a wedge between the German army and its Austrian ally in the region of Cracow. They declare the Germans have consistently underestimated the qualities of their Muscovite opponents and have opposed them with a body composed almost wholly of second-line troops, but now are rushing heavy reinforcements from the western line, to avert a Polish Sedan. They express the opinion that the issue depends on whether these arrive in time.

Berlin reports the failure of the Russian attack on the fortifications east of Darkehmen, in East Prussia with heavy losses, while unofficial messages from Petrograd describe an important Russian gain and the capture of 10 miles of trenches north-east of Lodz.

Advices from Holland report that railway traffic, newspapers and posts in the Brussels region are entirely suspended it is presumed for the purpose of suppressing news of a movement of German troops to the eastward.

The only development of the day in the western theater was the renewal of the British bombardment of the German base at Zeebrugge.

England was surprised at the announcement that King George had left on a visit to the British headquarters in France, where he is certain of an enthusiastic reception from the soldiers.

This was the fortieth birthday anniversary of Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, and the papers, except a few antagonistic to him, pay a tribute to his remarkable career. The seventieth birthday anniversary of Queen Mother Alexandra would be celebrated soon.

Dutch papers say the Germans have imposed an indemnity of \$7,000,000 monthly on Belgium for the duration of the war for the maintenance of the troops, and, in addition, \$75,000,000 as a war levy for neutrality violations.

French Repulse Enemy's Attacks.

Paris.—The following official statement was issued by the French: "A few details about what has occurred on the front from November 21 to November 27 inclusive: "The general situation has not materially changed. The enemy has worn himself out in partial attacks without result. Our counter-attacks have inflicted on him heavy losses and have brought us some gains.

"From the sea to the Lys the enemy's attacks have been intermittent. On the twenty-third, twenty-fourth and the twenty-fifth the German artillery in general has remained silent. "On the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth we gained a foothold on the left bank of the Yser, south of Dixmude. In spite of the enemy's fire, our troops held the ground without difficulty.

"Further to the south a French army corps advanced 200 meters all along in front and has held its ground. The German shells sometimes do not burst properly. Our infantry, in comparison with the infantry of the enemy, are spirited. They captured on the twenty-fifth before Festobert, three machine guns, a light Howitzer, 160 men and three officers.

"On the twenty-second our heavy guns near Lebassee silenced the fire from the German batteries. On the twenty-fourth in the same region the result was the same. On the 25th we destroyed two machine guns.

STUDY OF WORLD DEMAND OF COTTON

SECRETARY McADOO INSTITUTES MEASURES TO LEARN THE ACTUAL NEEDS.

U. S. CONSULS ARE TO SERVE

American Representatives in All Parts of the World to Aid in Making the Estimate.

Washington.—The world's need for cotton at the present time and the estimated demand for next year is to be the subject of an investigation by state department officials. The treasury department announced that Secretary McAdoo had requested Secretary Bryan to secure all possible information on this subject.

United States consuls have been instructed to make careful investigation.

The reports from the consuls will be compiled here each month and probably will be made public for the use of cotton producers. The treasury statement says:

"Secretary McAdoo has requested Secretary Bryan to make an inquiry, through American consuls in all parts of the world regarding the actual demand for cotton at this time and the calculated demand for 1915. "Accurate information regarding cotton consumption will be valuable as it will give an intelligent idea as to the demand and will permit the formation of correct judgment as to the economic value of cotton. The secretary of state and the secretary of commerce are co-operating with the secretary of the treasury to get reliable information of this character and the figures when received will be published. Reports by the consuls will be made beginning the first of December and on the first of each month following:

"In prosecuting this inquiry, Secretary Bryan has instructed all consuls by cable to make a careful investigation and report, beginning the first of December, and monthly thereafter, of statistics relating to the stocks of raw cotton and cotton goods in mills and warehouses compared with the same period last year; the present rate of cotton manufacture a month, together with the number of spindles engaged and the number of persons employed; and information showing the comparative stocks of cotton goods and comparative estimate of the purchases of cotton goods for delivery during 1915. The consuls in Egypt, India, China and Russia have been instructed to report the most reliable estimates of the cotton yield for 1914."

UNCLE SAM NEEDS MORE MEN.

Navy Requires 240 Officers and 4,600 Men.

Washington.—The need of 240 additional officers and about 4,600 men to equip American warships was explained to the house naval affairs committee by Rear Admiral Blue, chief of the navigation bureau of the navy department.

Referring to the fact that the navy department was still purchasing hydrographic charts from the British government, the admiral said the United States was issuing more and more charts each year, and that ultimately charting by the United States would be as complete as that of any other nation.

Rear Admiral Stanford, chief of the bureau of yards and docks, recommended a \$3,000,000 estimate for a new drydock at Norfolk, Va. He also urged the necessity of appropriations for additional fuel oil storage tanks at Norfolk and other stations. All ships of the navy under construction will use fuel oil and it is estimated that this year 30,000,000 gallons will be used.

Bought Two Papers.

Boston.—Charles Cunner Bird of Walpole, Progressive candidate for governor in 1912 and 1913, announced he had purchased The Boston Daily Advertiser and the Boston Evening Record. His son, Francis W. Bird, of New York, will be publisher.

Warned Against Going to Vera Cruz.

Washington.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, informed the state department of the receipt of a report from Charge Mohler of the British embassy in Mexico City, saying that good order prevailed there. Charge Mohler said General Zapata was not in the city, but was represented by one of his officers. He reported that there had been no executions. Consul Canada asked the state department to warn Americans and other foreigners against going to Vera Cruz at this time.

GREENSBORO GETS NEXT CONFERENCE

METHODIST PROTESTANT ASSIGN PASTORS AND ADJOURN ANNUAL MEETING.

FOR BEST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rev. J. A. Burgess Selected to Preach Ordination Sermon Next Year and Rev. H. F. Powell Conference.

Asheville.—Greensboro was selected as the place of holding the next meeting by the members of the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference at their final session and pastors were assigned to their charges for the coming year, the reports of the stationing committee being adopted on the conference floor as follows:

Alamance, J. A. Ledbetter; Anderson, W. A. Lamar, supply; Asheboro, C. L. Whitaker; Asheville, Cuthbert W. Bates; Buncombe, T. E. Martin, supply; Burlington, George L. Curry; Cleveland, W. C. Lassiter; Charlotte, D. A. Braswell; Creswell, J. H. Abernathy, supply; Concord, J. R. Hutton; Davidson, J. W. Hulin, supply; Denton, G. L. Reynolds; Falston, J. H. Moton; Fairview, J. W. Self; Flat Rock, W. F. Kennett; Forsyth, A. O. Lindley; Gaston, W. H. Meese; Greenville, D. T. Surratt; Granville, N. G. Bethea; Graham and Haw River, O. B. Williams; Greensboro, R. M. Andrews; Guilford, S. N. Needham; Halifax, R. A. Swaringer; Haw River, W. T. Ashburn; Henderson, J. D. Williams; High Point, A. G. Dixon; LaGrange, J. W. Allred, supply; Lebanon, R. C. Stubbins; Lincoln, B. M. Loy; Littleton, C. J. Edwards; Lenoir, H. D. Garmon, supply; Mohave, W. E. Swain; Mecklenburg, H. B. Waldrop; Mocksville, T. A. Williams; Mount Hermon, C. H. Whitaker; Mount Pleasant, Robert Troxler; Oak Ridge, L. W. Gerring; Orange, J. A. Burgess; Pageland, J. W. Quick, supply; Pensacola, W. D. Surratt; Piedmont, A. D. Singleton; Pinnacle and Mount Zion, Ed Suits; Randleman, J. B. O'Brien; Randolph, W. M. Pike; Reidsville, E. G. Lowdermilk; Richland, D. A. Highfill; Roanoke, T. E. Davis; Rockingham, J. F. Allred, supply; Saxapahaw, George W. Holmes; Shelby, J. D. Morris; Society, J. H. Bowman; Stanley, W. D. Reed; St. Paul, G. F. Millaway; Spring Church, T. F. McCullough; Tabernacle, T. M. Johnson; Thomasville, J. E. Pritchard; Uwharrie, J. B. Cogdon; Vance, A. L. Hunter; West Forsyth, C. H. Austin; Waynot, J. R. Stowe; Winston, S. W. Taylor; Welch Memorial, High Point, D. R. Williams; Yadkin College, H. L. Powell; Yarboro, W. A. Lamar, supply.

The handsome banner which is awarded to the Sunday school having the best attendance record at each annual conference, was presented to the Clerk's Chapel Sunday school of Buncombe County.

Statesville Wants Town Nurse.

Statesville.—The Civic League of Statesville has launched a movement for a visiting nurse for the town, a trained nurse who shall give her time to, visiting among the unfortunate families of the town, giving advice as to sanitation and the care of the sick and nursing such patients as absolutely require a skilled nurse. Mrs. Charles Anderson, who presented the matter to the league, has made extensive investigations during the past few months and finds that the towns now employing nurses consider them indispensable.

Mrs. R. S. McElwee told the league of the excellent results secured through the efforts of the nurse employed in her former home town, Goldsboro.

Kinston Sells 14,319,000 Lbs. Tobacco.

Kinston.—The planters of this section of North Carolina had a great deal to be thankful for, despite the unfortunate cotton situation. Many of them have shared in the blessing of a remarkable crop of tobacco, of which 14,319,000 pounds had been sold here. Travelling men say that if collections were as good in towns as in the rural parts of the bright leaf belt, there would be no sign of depression here.

North Carolina Sends Check, \$1,500.

New York.—August Belmont, treasurer of the National Committee of Mercy, received a check for \$1,500 from J. M. Rankin, treasurer of the North Carolina Committee of Mercy. This money was raised by a committee appointed by Governor Craig to help feed starving women and children made destitute by the war in Europe. The National committee is sending this week, \$20,000 worth of foodstuffs to Belgium, \$1,500 to suffering Belgians in London, and \$1,000 to buy shoes for children in France.