

MOST SAVAGE BATTLE OF WAR

Germans in Masses Rush to Death in Effort to Break Russian Front.

A despatch from Petrograd says: The bulletins transmitted by the generals commanding the regions of most violent fighting contain news more pleasing to the Russian people than has been received since the German allies threw the weight of their strength to the battle fronts of Eastern Europe. The Russians have seized both banks of the head waters of the River Inster, in East Prussia, a success which enables them to deliver a flank attack on Insterburg from the north, while the forces that have passed straight west; the army which drove the Austrians from the Dukla Pass in the Carpathians has reached the River Laborca, in Northern Hungary; while the Germans west of Warsaw have been repulsed after the most savage fighting.

The Russian armies took the offensive directly west of Warsaw, at the junction of the Vistula and the Bzura, crossing the latter river and dislodging Germans from a bridge-head at Dakhov. It appears apparent that the Russians have assumed the initiative in this quarter as a direct result of the severe reverses inflicted on the Germans in the Bohemia region, when a three-day battle reached its climax.

Upon a front of seven miles, with Borjomi and Goumine as centres of attack, the Germans concentrated seven divisions and hurled more than 105,000 of their finest infantry against the Russian line. They delivered attack after attack, reverting to methods which characterized their earlier operations in Belgium and France, and deploying great masses of men over open ground, carelessly apparently of the terrible cost in killed and wounded if the way to Warsaw could be opened. A detail which illustrates the violence of the effort is the official statement that some of the German divisions of 15,000 men charged the Russian line on a front only a verst (two-thirds of a mile) wide. In these scenes the German infantry advanced in close-pressed masses, attacking at the double quick shoulder to shoulder.

The battles were preceded by terrible artillery fire, in which the Germans employed 100 batteries of mortars and field guns, probably six hundred cuirassiers in all. There seems to be no doubt that Marshal von Hindenburg had ordered General Mackensen to break through the Russian line at any cost. Such fighting had never before been witnessed on the eastern front.

Complete preparedness and the

strength of the Russian infantry

defeated the German plans. Warmed

by the example of Napoleon

in his campaign of 1812, the Ger

mans were repelled by the

German army invading Prussia

in 1870, and by the French

army in 1871, the Germans

were repelled by the

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