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 Courjumelles and La Ferte, 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 Maequigny 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 salient which bulged into their territory with its point resting near Vendegies. The assault, which was pressed vigorously in this sector on Thursday, was renewed on Friday morning at 5 o'clock. At the same time Gen. Horne's army drove forward north of Valenciennes.

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

They captured Les Tuileries, east of Colesmes, 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 Tuileries, toward La Coupe-gorge, and over the high ground to the north-west.

Mormal Forest is invested with Germans 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 Ghissignies, the British gained a footing on a little ridge north of the town. Some sunken roads near Beaudignies 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 Schelde 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 seriously 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. Denain 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 American Armies 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 Bultrey, the Bois-de-Houhpy and the Bois-de-Belleu are within the American lines, as also is a part of the Bois-de-Wavrille and Plyon-de-Traye.

The advance was made after brief artillery preparation. The enemy's response was principally with machine guns, but during the fighting he shelled the back areas and threw a few gas 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

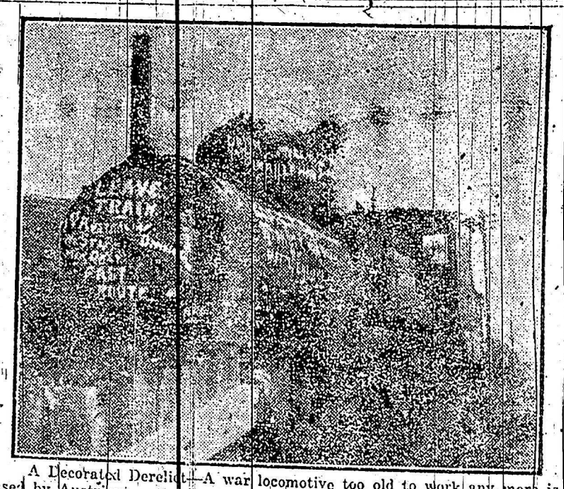
But Fresh Hun Divisions and New Field Fortifications Fail to Stop French Advance Toward Guise.

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 Herrman 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 Hunding 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

Breadstuffs

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., 86½c; No. 3 C.W., 82½c; extra No. 1 feed, 82½c; No. 1 feed, 80½c.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, kiln dried, nominal. No. 4 yellow, kiln dried, nomnial.

Ontario oats, new crop—No. 2 white, 75 to 78c; No. 3 white, 74 to 77c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 winter, per car lot, $2.11, to $2.19; No. 3, $2.07 to $2.13; No. 2 Spring, $2.06 to $2.14; No. 3 Spring, $2.02 to $2.10, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freights.

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.

Hay—No. 1, $22 to $23 per ton; mixed, $20.00 to $21.50 per ton, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, $10.00 to $10.50 track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Butter—Dairy, tubs and rolls, 38 to 39c; prints, 40 to 41c.

Eggs—New laid, 52 to 55c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens 30 to 32c; roosters, 25c; fowl, 27 to 30c; ducklings, 27 to 30c; turkey, 31 to 34c; squab, doz. $4.50; geese, 25c.

Live poultry—roosters, 18 to 20c; fowl, 20 to 24c; ducklings, lb., 22c; turkeys, 27 to 30c; spring chickens, 26 to 28c; geese, 20c.

Wholesalers are selling to the retail trade at the following prices:—

Cheese—New, Ingersoll, 26½ to 27c; twins, 26¾ to 27¼c; old, large, 28 to 28½c; twin, 28½ to 29c.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choicest, 46 to 48c; creamery prints, 53 to 55c; creamery solids, 52 to 53c.

Margarine—34 to 35c.

Eggs—No. 1 storage, 51 to 52c; selected storage, 53 to 54c; new laid, in cartons, 62 to 63c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 33 to 40c; roosters, 25c; fowl, 33 to 38c; turkeys, 38 to 40c; ducklings, lb., 35c. Squabs, doz. $5.50; geese, 30c.

Beans—Canadian, hand-picked, bus. $7; imp., hand-picked, Burma or Indian, $6; Japan, $7; Limas, 18 to 18½c.

Honey, new crop—Strained, 60-lb. tins, 26c; 10-lb. tins, 27c; 5-lb. tins, 28c. Combs—Doz., $3.75 to $4.50.

Provisions—Wholesale

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 37 to 38c; do., heavy, 30 to 32c; cooked, 52 to 54c; rolls, 32 to 33c; breakfast bacon, 41 to 46c; backs, plain, 46 to 47c; boneless, 50 to 52c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 30 to 31c; clear bellies, 29 to 30c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 31 to 31½c; tubs, 31½ to 32c; pails, 31¾ to 32¼c; prints, 33 to 33½c. Compound, tierces, 25½ to 26c; tubs, 26 to 26½c; pails, 26¼ to 26¾c; prints, 27½ to 28c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, Oct. 29.—Oats, extra No. 1 feed, 96 to 97c. Flour, new standard grade, $11.50 to $11.65. Rolled oats, bags, 90 lbs. $5.20 to $5.30. Bran, $37.25. Shorts, $42.25. Middlings, $68 to $70. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $24 to $25. Cheese, finest easterns, 25½ to 26c. Butter, choicest creamery, 49 to 50c. Eggs, selected, 54c; No. 1 stock, 49c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, $1.80. Dressed hogs, abattoir killed, $25.50 to $26. Lard, pure, wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 31½ to 32c.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Oct. 29.—Extra choice heavy steers, $14.00 to $14.75; choice heavy steers, $13.25 to $13.75; butchers' cattle, choice, $11.25 to $11.75; do., good, $10.00 to $10.25; do. medium, $8.75 to $9.25; do., common, $7.75 to $8.25; butchers' bulls, choice, $10.00 to $10.50; do. medium bulls, $9.50 to $9.75; do. rough bulls $7.25 to $8.25; butchers' cows, choice, $10.00 to $10.25; do. good, $9.00 to $9.50; do. medium, $7.50 to $8.00; do. common, $6.50 to $7.00; stockers, $8.00 to $10.50; feeders, $10.00 to $11.00; canners and cutters, $5.75 to $6.25; milkers, good to choice, $90.00 to $75.00; springers, $90.00 to $145.00; $145.00; do. com. and med., $65.00 to light ewes, $13.00 to $14.00; yearlings, $15.00 to $15.50; spring lambs, $15.50 to $16.00; calves, good to choice, $14.00 to $17.75; hogs, fed and watered, $18.25; do., weighed off cars, $18.50.

Montreal, Oct. 29.—Good steers, $10 to $10.50; medium, $8; choice butcher bulls, $9 to $10; good, $6.50 to $7; cows, from $8.50 to $9.50; medium cows at $6 to $8; milkfed calves were $12 to $14; grassfed, $6 to $8; sheep, $9 to $12.50; lambs, $14.50 to $16; choice select hogs, $18.50 to $15 for inferior, rough and heavies.

MESOPOTAMIAN ARMY AGAIN MAKES PROGRESS

A despatch from London says: An official communication dealing with the operations in Mesopotamia, issued by the War Office Friday night, says:

"On October 18 we were in contact with Turkish forces holding a strong position astride the Tigris, near Fatah, where the river flows through the Jebel Hamrin country. On October 23 the enemy retired northward under cover of darkness, pursued by us.

"Our forces on the main road to Mosul by way of Kerak drove the Turkish cavalry out from Tauk and advanced to within four miles of Kerkuk."

BRUGES NOW SEAT OF BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

A despatch from Havre says: The whole of the Province of Western Flanders and part of Eastern Flanders and Hainaut having been recovered from the Germans, the Belgian Government has decided to establish its administrative departments in Bruges.

BRITISH DRIVING ENEMY FROM VALENCIENNES BY FLANKING MOVEMENT

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

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 Thiant, 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 country in an effort to delay the British advance. The marshy lowlands on the east-side of the canal, opposite the Raismes Forest, resemble a great lake. It is not probable that the city can be approached from the south-west because of similar flooded conditions.

The British, however, have fought their way into the city from the west and there have been sharp encounters in the streets between patrols.

Valenciennes still contains many civilians. An officer of the Canadian detachment fighting in the city said on Thursday: "I entered the town with a platoon and saw an old woman scattering up a street carrying a bucket. At about the same time a machine gun opened on us from a second-storey window. I was wounded and several of my men were also hit. We retired for a moment, but the last we saw of the old French-woman she was going right along as if nothing was happening."

The British troops have overcome the enemy along the whole front between the Sambre Canal and the Scheldt and their advance is being continued, Field Marshal Haig reports from headquarters.

Since Wednesday morning the British have taken 7,000 prisoners and more than 100 guns.

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 Telegraph from Juneau late this evening says that 150 bodies of victims of the Sophia wreck had been recovered by nightfall.

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 Ada was despatched from Vancouver to take off the passengers.

Even though the seas were running too high to permit of the transference of the passengers aboard on Friday, no alarm was felt. Capt. F. L. Locke of Victoria, a seaman of the northern coast, on the night of the disaster made his office here that he was hard and fast on the reef, water broke badly damaged, but that not taking water, and he was relaxed. It is evident that the Sophia was firmly on the rocks as the severity of the storm from the east continued to rage.

The passenger list was issued from Skagway Saturday night showed that 285 passengers left the Sophia, of whom 131 were men and 18 children. The crew comprised 61 persons, including 38 women, Miss H. Brown, a stewardess. Accounting for these figures there were 329 persons, 290 men, 38 women and 1 child. The passenger list was incomplete only; and it was not known 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 there 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.

NO GERMANS IN VALENCIENNES

Chief Stronghold of Enemy Line Invested.

Paris, Oct. 27.—[illegible] ciennes is imminent [illegible] ready occurred, the [illegible] says. Patrols report [illegible] Germans in the city [illegible] stronghold of the [illegible] is gone, its centre [illegible] object of direct assault [illegible] flanking movement [illegible] smash it," the paper [illegible] operations of Gen. [illegible] north of Guise and [illegible] gin in the direction [illegible] tute an increasing [illegible] line may be considered [illegible] Sambre line will be [illegible] can foresee that the [illegible] treat to the Meuse [illegible]

The Matin says [illegible] tends to show that [illegible] not long resist [illegible] "The German [illegible] lack munitions [illegible] serves to continue [illegible] has no tanks [illegible] The spirit in the [illegible] low level, while the [illegible] is bad. This may be [illegible] orders which have [illegible] hands. We would be [illegible] ideals if we failed [illegible] of the situation."

INFLUENZA RAGES IN BRITISH CITIES

255 Persons Died in Five Days

London, Oct. 27.—[illegible] creasing throughout [illegible] and Ireland. Two hundred [illegible] five persons have been [illegible] lin since last Monday. [illegible] are sprinkling the streets [illegible] fectants. Two priests [illegible] the victims have died.

One hundred and [illegible] have occurred at Leeds [illegible] week. All public [illegible] cancelled and the [illegible] ed the people to stay [illegible] of amusement. One [illegible] are reported at Newcastle [illegible] mills are short-handed [illegible] have been closed.

OTTOMANS ARE EVACUATING PERSIAN CITY

A despatch from Washington [illegible] The Turkish force occupying [illegible] Persia, is about to evacuate [illegible] according to a report received [illegible] 22, from Teheran, which reached [illegible] State Department [illegible] Turks already are withdrawing [illegible] forces along the roads leading [illegible] Tabriz.

ITALIANS LAUNCH NEW OFFENSIVE CAPTURING 3,000 PRISONERS

British Capture German Garrisons on the Piave River and 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 Ornic River and captured Monte Prassolan and Monte Pertica.

In the Piave River the Italians have captured the islands of Grave Papadopoli and Maggiore. 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 meeting with considerable success despite the unfavorable weather conditions. About 3,000 prisoners have been taken since the new battle was launched.

On the Piave front the Italians have gained a footing on some islands in the river and captured enemy garrisons of 400 men. The Italians have made progress between the Brenta and the Piave, overcoming stiffening resistance, repulsed counter-attacks and captured 400 prisoners.

On the Asiago Plateau the French have taken Monte Sisemol, increasing their number of prisoners [illegible]

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND ITS PEOPLE

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

At the [illegible] estate [illegible] 141,000 [illegible] A [illegible] estate [illegible] Women [illegible] Calcutta [illegible] way. [illegible] Amy [illegible] The [illegible] to Lady [illegible] ford [illegible] home [illegible] Ma[illegible] has [illegible] insig[illegible] The [illegible] ten, [illegible] thed [illegible] The [illegible] adopted [illegible] hour. [illegible] The [illegible] rivets [illegible] yard [illegible]

SHIP [illegible]

[illegible]

FRENCH PAT[illegible] DAN[illegible]

[illegible] Baron [illegible] department [illegible] theatre [illegible] have [illegible] invaded [illegible] Lanka. [illegible] boats and [illegible]

ENTENTE AND [illegible]

[illegible] Speaking [illegible] Lord Robert [illegible] tary for For[illegible] harmony [illegible] States and the [illegible] ernments as [illegible]

GERMANS ARE LEAVING [illegible]

A despatch [illegible] The evacuation [illegible] in full swing [illegible] to The Telegraph [illegible] The last boat [illegible] hastily towed [illegible] the Dutch frontier [illegible] Gent, the despatch [illegible]

German Cities Again Bombed By British Aviators

A despatch from London says: The official statement [illegible] operations of the British Forces says: "On Wednesday we bombed railways at [illegible] Saarbrucken, chemical works [illegible] Mannheim, and railways [illegible] near Mainz, and at [illegible]

The Man[illegible] STANDA[illegible] is [illegible]

[illegible] President [illegible] Zeitung [illegible] answer a [illegible] wait [illegible] Famous Policy [illegible] Hon. [illegible] Welcome. He [illegible] McFadden, S[illegible]

COURT [illegible] Meets every [illegible] at 8 o'clock [illegible] Hall, [illegible] McFadden, Secretary.

SAUGEEN [illegible] Meet in Saugeen [illegible] evening of each month. [illegible] welcome. J. John[illegible] McFadden, Secretary.