FRENCH DESCRIBES BRITONS IN ACTION

General Writes Account of Operations in France Up to Friday.

CRUELTY TALES EXAGGERATED

Account of Earlier Battle Given by German Soldier in Letter to His Wife is Incorporated in the Report.

LONDON, Sept. 23.—The following descriptive account of the operations of the British army in northeastern France last week, written by General Sir John French, has been issued by the war office:

"Where our men are holding the forward edges of the high ground on the north side, they are strongly entrenched. They are well fed and in spite of the wet weather of the last week are cheerful and confident.

"The bombardment by both sides has been very heavy, and on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday was practically continuous. Nevertheless, in spite of the general din caused by the reports of the immense number of heavy guns in action along our front Wednesday, the arrival of the French force acting against the German right flank was at once announced on the east of our front some miles away by the continuous roar of the quick firing artillery with which the attack was opened.

"So far as the British are concerned, the greater part of this week has been passed in bombardment, in gaining ground by degrees and in beating back severe counter attacks with heavy slaughter. Our casualties have been severe, but it is probable that those of the enemy are heavier.

Autumn Feeling in Air.

"The rain has caused a great drop in the temperature and there is more than a distant feeling of autumn in the air, especially in the early morning.

"On our right and left the French have been fighting fiercely and have also been gradually gaining ground. One village already during this battle has been captured and recaptured twice by each side and at the time of writing remains in the hands of the Germans.

"The fighting has been at close quarters and of the most desperate nature and the streets of the village are filled with the dead of both sides.

"The Germans are a formidable enemy, well trained, long prepared and brave. Their soldiers are carrying on the contest with skill and valor. Nevertheless they are fighting to win any way, regardless of all the rules of fair play, and there is evidence that they do not hesitate at anything in order to gain victory.

Letter of German Soldier.

"A large number of the tales of misbehaviors are exaggeration and some of the stringent precautions they have taken to guard themselves against the inhabitants of the areas traversed are possibly justifiable measures of war. But at the same time it has been definitely established that they have committed atrocities on many occasions, and they have been guilty of brutal conduct.

"So many letters and statements of our wounded soldiers have been published in our newspapers, the following epistle of a German soldier of the Seventy-fourth infantry regiment, Tenth corps, to his wife, also may be of interest:

" 'My Dear Wife: I have just been living through days that defy imagination. I should never have thought that men could stand it. Not a second has passed but my life has been in danger, and yet not a hair of my head has been hurt.

" 'It was horrible; it was ghastly, but I have been saved for you and for our happiness, and I take heart again, although I am still terribly unnerved. God grant that I may see you again soon and that this horror may soon be over.

" 'None of us can do any more; human strength is at an end. I will try to tell you about it. On the 5th of September the enemy were reported to be taking up a position near St. Prix, southeast of Paris. The Tenth corps, which had made an astonishingly rapid advance, was attacked on Sunday. Steep slopes led up to the heights, which were held in considerable force. With our weak detachments of the Seventy-fourth and Ninety-first regiments we reached the crest and came under a terrible artillery fire, that mowed us down. However, we entered St. Prix. Hardly had we done so than we were met with shell fire and a violent fusillade from the enemy's infantry.

The Third Colonel.

" 'Our colonel was badly wounded. He is the third we have had. Fourteen men were killed around me. We got away in a lull, without being hit.

" 'The 7th, 8th and 9th of September we were constantly under shell and shrapnel fire and suffered terrible losses. I was in a house which was hit several times. The fear of death, of agony which is in every man's heart, and naturally so, is a terrible feeling. How often I have thought of you, my darling, and what I suffered in that terrifying battle which extended along a front of many miles near Montmirail, you cannot possibly imagine.

" 'Our heavy artillery was being used for the siege of Maubeuge. We wanted it badly, as the enemy had theirs in force and kept up a furious bombardment. For four days I was under artillery fire. It was like hell, but a thousand times worse.

Order to Retreat.

" 'On the night of the 9th, the order was given to retreat, as it would have been madness to attempt to hold our position with our few men, as we should have risked a terrible defeat the next day.

BUYER OF CHINA AND GLASS FOR BURGESS-NASH COMPANY.

MISS M. I. GUILFOIL.

Miss Guilfoil has been appointed buyer and manager by Burgess-Nash company for their china, glass and artware section, which is now located on the fourth floor. Miss Guilfoil came here from B. B.Fowler company Glen Falls, N. Y., where for the last five years she was buyer for the china and kindred lines and is an expert in her line.

The first and third armies had not been able to attack with us, as we had advanced too rapidly. Our morale was absolutely broken; in spite of unheard sacrifices, we had achieved nothing.

"I cannot understand how our army, after fighting three great battles and being terribly weakened was sent against a position which the enemy had prepared for three weeks, but naturally I knew nothing of the intentions of our chiefs; they say nothing has been lost.

Just Strategic Retreat.

"In a word we retired towards Cormontreuil and Rheims by forced marches by day and night. We hear that three armies are going to get into line, entrench and rest and then start afresh our victorious march on Paris. It was not a defeat, only a strategic retreat. I have confidence in our chiefs that everything will be successful.

"Our first battalion, which has fought with unparalleled bravery is reduced from 1,200 to 194 men. These numbers speak for themselves.

"Among the minor happenings of interest is the following:

"During a counter attack by the German fifty-third regiment on portions of the Northampton and Queen's regiments on Thursday, the 17th, a force of some 400 of the enemy were allowed to approach right up to the trench occupied by a platoon of the former regiment, owing to the fact that they had held up

Heavy Fighting Near Amiens.

LONDON, Sept. 13.—The Amiens correspondent of the Times telegraphs that heavy fighting is in progress not many miles southeast of Amiens. He says:

"It is the beginning of a decisive phase of the battle of the Aisne. On the issue of this fighting depends the continued occupation of French soil by the German invaders or of their retreat to strongly entrenched positions which have been prepared for them on the Sambre.

"Since the Germans evacuated Amiens a week ago the town has become an important center for French military operations. Though the Amiens district is well served with railways, it is the highways that count now, as the railway bridges for the most part have been blown up and not yet repaired.

"On Thursday, last, French reinforcements, under command of General D'Amade entered Amiens from the west and after a short stay resumed their march, proceeding along one of the eastern roads to a destination which can only be conjectured.

"The enemy occupied Douay yesterday morning and seized the railway station at Souain, on the line connecting Douai with Valenciennes. It appears, therefore, that the Germans are alive to the necessity of protecting their line of communication to Mons, where I hear headquarters of the army has been established. Thus the German line has been extended north from Cambrai, which has been occupied in force.

"On Saturday and Sunday there was great military activity in Amiens. The nervous tension was extraordinary in expectation of some important development along the fighting line. When we awoke this morning the streets were strangely empty and very few soldiers were left in the town, the majority having hurried away to their posts to the southeast. We learned that a great battle had begun in that direction and it was rumored that the German troops had advanced as far as Mont Didier. Every road out of Amiens was barred by pickets, no vehicles being allowed to pass without military authority."

Allies Slowly Gaining.

The correspondent of the Times at Bordeaux has this to say of the big battle that is being waged in France:

"The battle from the Aisne to the Woevre progresses slowly, but methodically in favor of the allies. Both sides have been engaged the last few days in sending reinforcements and assembling new forces on the firing line. As the reinforcements reached the front the activity of both armies in the Woevre district on the right of the allies' position increases.

"The prediction of the staff of both sides for decisive action on the allies' left must not divert attention from the allies' right, which in the present battle constitutes an all important bulwark.

"The operations in Woevre have been more or less at a standstill for some days as the guns were stuck fast in the clay and innumerable riverlets overflowed large tracts of country. The armies are again moving and the Germans are desperately attempting to break the strong natural defenses of the Meuse heights in order to paralyze the allies' plan in the center.

"The plains of the Woevre, the scene of the present effort, were made for a battle and the Meuse heights, with their steep escarpment and strengthened by forts form a barrier of prodiguous strength. The northern Woevre lakes lie among green forests and a range of steep hills, crowned with forest, rises amid this country.

"The enemy is making desperate efforts to dislodge the Fnch force from this natural fortress, which commands an immense sweep of country. In the distance are the heights of Pont-A-Mousson and Metz and the old battlefields of Gravelotte and St. Privas. The enemy attacked, without success, the right along the Meuse on the heights from Tresanux to Hericourt.

ALLIES ADVANCE IN WEST, CHECK ATTACK IN EAST

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mans along the River Sambre for use in the event they are compelled to retreat.

Meaning of German Retreat.

The question which military men here are discussing today is whether the Germans have definitely assumed the defensive on the west or whether the German general staff regards the retirement from Paris as a temporary retreat, to be followed by an attempt at retrieving the lost ground between Perrone and St. Quentin.

The forces under General von Kluck, the commander of the right wing, evacuated Perrone Friday, since which time desperate fighting has taken place for the possession of the town. The British are reported as having withstood German attacks with great cost on both sides.

There has been no change in the last two or three days in the battle line along the main front.

Germans Attack Fort Troyon.

On the allies' right between the Argonne and Metz, the Germans have delivered an attack over sloping ground in an attempt to crush the fort of Troyon, south of Verdun and thus break the chain of forts between Verdun and Toul.

The latest reports from the British expeditionary army describe the general features of the fighting up to September 18 without giving any geographical details. No estimates of the casualties of the allies during the battle of the Aisne, which will be the historic name of the present conflict, have been published.

Only meager reports have been received in London of the Russo-Austrian campaign in Galicia. Jaroslau, sixty miles west of Lemberg, has fallen into Russian hands, according to dispatches from Petrograd, with little fighting, and the railroads leading to Przemysl are controlled by the Russians. Many thousands of Austrian wounded are being taken to Vienna, and according to dispatches from Rome, an epidemic of typhoid and other diseases is feared in Austria.

The Belgians made another sortie from Antwerp yesterday, in pursuance of their policy of marassing the German invaders.

General Botha, premier of the Union of South Africa, has settled the difficulty created by the resignation of General Beyers and will take the field as commander-in-chief of the Transvaal forces against their German neighbors.

RUSS DRIVING TO PRZEMYSL FORT

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the high-water mark of the German invasion.

Russians Occupy Jaroslau.

PETROGRAD, Sept. 22.—(Via London.)—Russian troops have occupied the fortified Austrian position of Jaroslau, according to official announcement made here today. The Russian flag is now flying over the town.

Jaroslau is an important railroad center. A bridge near the town crosses the San and commands the passage of that river. The town is located seventeen miles northwest of Przemysl and on the railroad line between Lemberg and Cracow.

Follow Up Successes.

LONDON, Sept. 22.—The Russians have followed up their successes in Galicia, where a third great battle is about to begin, if it has not already started, by capturing the important fortress of Jaroslau, on the river San, just north of Przemysl, which they are surrounding.

Jaroslau commands the passage of the San river and its possession will greatly assist the Russians in their operations against Przemysl, where a strong Austro-German force is prepared to offer stubborn resistance in the hope at least of detaining the Russian armies which are needed to take the offensive against Germany.

Russians Capture Sixty Thousand Men in Galicia

PARIS, Sept. 23.—(2:30 p. m.)—A Havas agency dispatch from Petrograd says that the Army Journal publishes the following list of Russian captures in Galicia from August 19 to September 14:

"Seven flags, 637 guns, of which thirty-eight bore the initials of Emperor William; forty-four machine guns, 823 cases of ammunition, one general, 475 officers and 68,531 soldiers."

AMSTERDAM, via London, Sept. 23.—(6:20 p. m.)—The correspondent at Maestricht of the Telegram says that during the last few days about 50,000 Germans wounded on French battlefields have passed through Liege on the way to Germany.

Bee readers are too intelligent to overlook the opportunities in the "want ad"

RUSS SHIP SINKS GERMAN CRUISER AND DESTROYERS

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2,200. Of the total 1,133 appear to have been lost.

The survivors are accounted for as follows:

At Harwich, 505; on British ships, 220; at Ymuiden, Holland, 308; at Lowestoft, 34.

May Have Rescued More.

It is possible that Lowestoft fishing trawlers have made further rescues. The trawler which arrived here today saw the three cuisers sink and rescued 350 men who, with the exception of thirty-four, were transferred to warships. The captain of the trawler says that the first cruiser attacked sunk in three minutes, the second in eight minutes and the third as quickly as the first.

Will Deliver Mail at Front Doors Only

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—Housewives and business men in many cities who have been accustomed to receiving their mail from obliging carriers at rear and side doors now must arrange to have postmen call only at front entrances. Instructions to this effect were mailed to postmasters today, to become operative in two months. Many carriers lost much time, it was said, by making circituous routes to rear and side doors.

BELTS AND SOCKS NEEDED MOST BY BRITISH SOLDIERS

LONDON, Sept. 23.—Belts and socks are the prime need of the British expeditionary army, and every woman in the empire was asked today to do her share to supply this demand.

With the approach of winter, 500,000 pairs of socks and an equal number of belts, knitted or woven, should be supplied, according to the war office estimate, to supplement the regular provisions of the government. Queen Mary was notified of this situation and promised to do her part. She then appealed to British women to aid her. Housewives throughout the land, therefore, will be busy knitting from now to November.

Notes from Beatrice.

BEATRICE, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special.)—Ed S. Miller of Lincoln, a member of the firm owning the Nebraska Corn mill, which was recently destroyed by fire in this city, gave out the information Tuesday that the plant would not be rebuilt this year. The mill was one of the finest in the west and the total loss was estimated at nearly $100,000.

Charging that her husband deserted her six months after their marriage, taking with him a sum of money belonging to her, Mary C. Cramer has filed her petition in the district court asking that she be granted a divorce from George David Cramer.

James W. Pell, aged 50, and Rebecca E. Wilson, aged 47, both of Pickrell, were married in this city Tuesday by County Judge Walden.