

KAISER RUSHES TROOPS TO FIGHT FRENCH IN ALSACE

GREAT BATTLE IS UNDER WAY, PARIS HEARS

Line of Conflict Said to Extend From Muelhausen to Brussels.

KAISER RUSHES AID TO ALSATIAN TOWN

French War Office Describes Successful Storming of the Vosges.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, AUGUST 22. Gen. Lacroix in an article in the Temps says: "The first great battle has perhaps already begun. It extends from Muelhausen to Brussels. Our offensive between Metz and Sarrebourg has been temporarily suspended. The Germans apparently wish to employ their favorite wide enveloping movement, but that need not disquiet us."

M. Maury, Minister of the Interior, after the daily meeting of the Council of National Defence to-day, is quoted as saying: "A great battle has begun. That is all I can say." Another report is that a great army of German and Austrian troops is marching to recapture Muelhausen, in Alsace. The Germans made an attempt to cut off the French forces from their base at Belfort, but failed, although at one time they were near success.

FRENCH DRIVEN BACK. LONDON, AUG. 22.—It is reported here that the French forces east of the Vosges have been driven back in disorder after fighting which shattered their advance lines and after tremendous losses on both sides.

The Germans outnumbered the French. The French resisted the charge of the German cavalry, supported by artillery, for some time, but finally were compelled to fall back, abandoning their position.

GERMANS KILL OWN MEN.

Mistaking Troops for Frenchmen, Cannon Fire All Night. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, AUG. 22.—A Tribune correspondent at the front telegraphs that the German retreat from Muelhausen was made under the fire of the French artillery and became a tragedy, since the Germans were unable to discover the location of the French batteries. He continues: "The French forts on the Rhine, seeing a body of German troops approaching in the night, mistook them for French and commenced firing on them. The mistake was not discovered until dawn. The German cannon had thundered all night long, making havoc among their own men."

"The people of the region evacuated by the Germans came out to welcome the French troops carrying French flags and crying, 'To the Rhine!'"

NOT A SEVERE SETBACK.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, AUG. 22.—Optimism is shown in an article in the Petit Parisien, written by Col. Leonce Rousset, who says: "The situation is good. The slight setback in Lorraine is unimportant. On the whole the German staff's plan of invasion may be said to have failed. They sought to crush us with a lightning blow, but it is we who will carry the war into the enemy's territory."

SAYS WOUNDED ARE SHOT.

French Officer Tells of His Own Experience in Field. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, AUG. 22.—The Matin prints an

FRENCH DESCRIBE STORMING OF THE VOSGES STRONGHOLDS

PARIS, AUGUST 22. In a communique issued at 11 o'clock to-night the War Office says: "In the Vosges the situation is unchanged. In Lorraine the German offensive, which was a reply to our attack and which continued throughout yesterday, was arrested to-day."

"There has been no attack against the outside belts of forts at Nancy. Engagements took place on the heights north of Lunéville. We gathered the impression that these engagements showed softness on the part of the German attack. "Our successful operations over the summits of the Vosges into Alsace were determined by an order, given to our armies at their mobilization, to maintain between them and the frontier a protection zone eight kilometers wide. In the bases up to Briey and Longwy, where the frontier is jagged, the maintenance of this zone offered no inconveniences from a military viewpoint, but along the Vosges, where the frontier follows the summits exactly, the maintenance of the zone gave the Germans an immediate advantage. They ran up to the summits and installed themselves solidly, obliging us to retake them."

Reduced by Fort's Fire. "We began at the south, where it is easiest on account of the lay of the ground and the proximity of our forts. The mountain known as Le Ballon d'Alsace was first occupied. The enemy's stronghold was reduced by fire from the fort at our service. At that side of the mountain the land slopes toward France are gradual, whereas on the Alsatian side they are very steep. The operation was easy and gave us the mastery of Bussang Pass."

"Next we tried the Hohneck and Schlucht mountains under similar conditions and the result was identical. "Further north, in the central section of the Vosges, the difficulties were infinitely more serious. Our object was to seize Bonhomme and Sainte Marie aux Mines passes to assure our right the protection necessary for progression to-

ward Saales, and opening finally to Strassburg.

"The difficulties came from the steepness of the slopes on the French side and from the narrowness and wooded conditions of the summits, which made it difficult for the artillery to support the infantry."

"The Germans were strongly installed along the summits. We had to move up from along the bases of the mountains over felled trees, barbed wire mazes and trenches. We had the same difficulty in holding the ground as in taking it on account of the heavy artillery behind the field fortifications, constructed by the enemy in the valleys on the Alsatian slope. We could not establish our artillery on the narrow summits and thus had much trouble in getting our troops down to the plain under fire from the German field works."

"Thus we had to move along the summits toward Urbeis and Saales passes. When this was once accomplished we could bring up our artillery on the flank of the Germans and get after their field works from the rear. That operation, which was very energetically conducted, cost us heavily. The artillery passed Urbeis Pass easily to-day, with our troops in possession of the right of way toward Colmar."

"No further insistence is necessary on the importance of the series of operations which allowed us to descend from the Vosges into the valleys and up to the Alsatian plain. It is noteworthy that the storming of the Vosges at Ballon d'Alsace and Honeck was accomplished with small forces of men from a battalion of chasseurs and a regiment of infantry, who lost only twenty men. The Germans lost 100 men."

"In the centre Vosges we had from a regiment to a brigade. Before we finished at Bonhomme and Ste. Marie aux Mines passes we lost 600 dead and wounded, but the enemy lost five or six times that many. Throughout our troops showed the suppleness needed for mountain work. We captured heavy and field artillery and also one star. We have been fully successful along that whole front."

INTERVIEW WITH A DRAGON LIEUTENANT

who has just arrived in Paris. He said: "I was sent early on August 9 to reconnoitre toward Longuyon, where there had been an engagement on August 7. I found no Germans there. I visited a dozen French wounded in the hospital. One of them said to me: 'If you get wounded pretend to be dead or a German will finish you off. Thinking that this might be the hallucination of a dying man I disregarded the advice. "At 11 o'clock we met a superior number of the enemy and charged them. I fell wounded in the shoulder and my orderly fell at my feet. On recovering consciousness I called for help. A German approached and on seeing that I was an officer summoned his Major, whose name, I afterwards learned, was Schaffenberg. He passed behind me, took my revolver and shot point blank at my stomach. He stole my field glasses and 250 francs (\$50) in gold. "My orderly was also robbed, but escaped being finished off by shamming death. He told me the details afterwards."

LOW FOOD PRICES IN PARIS.

Meat Costs Less Than Since Twenty Years Ago. PARIS, AUG. 22.—Meats are selling in Paris to-day at the lowest prices in twenty years and vegetables are abundant and are sold at comparatively low prices. This cheap living in war time continues in Paris in spite of some merchants who, risking both a boycott by the public and prosecution by the authorities, have raised their prices.

IN HUMAN BUTCHERY AT LIEGE.

German Soldiers, Tangled in Wires, Mowed Down by Heaps. By J. M. JEFFRIES. By THE SUN'S and the London "Daily Mail" War Service. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, AUG. 22.—From a cavalry officer whom I met yesterday at Ghent I obtained some interesting retrospective details of the siege of Liege, in the defence of which his regiment took part. He said that the attack of the Germans on the wire entanglements leading to the fortress was a terrible sight, the butchery was so inhuman. German dead were piled to the height of a railway carriage. They came on in the darkness and when the foremost rank touched the wire, through which a strong electric current ran, they shuddered convulsively and fell. Every now and then the powerful searchlight of the fort was turned on the mass of advancing soldiers and the men leaped and staggered back, blinking as the light swept them. The next instant rifle fire and cannon streaked them in heaps.

Obscure Messages Held Up.

The French Telegraph and Cable Company announced yesterday that it has reason to believe that a number of cable messages are stopped by the censor in England on account of doubtful commercial or trade names being used. The censor announced that he wishes it to be known that commercial expressions must be so qualified that their precise meanings are absolutely plain. The Commercial Cable Company announced that the Tokio cable is restored and today to and from Japan will be added to those incidental to the censorship.

Obscure Messages Held Up.

The French advance line east of the Vosges Mountains has been shattered by a superior force of Germans. The Germans opened the attack with a cavalry charge, supported by artillery. The French, although resisting gallantly, were forced to abandon their position. The French troops have also been driven out of Lorraine by the Germans. A large force composed of Germans and Austrians is said to be nearing Muelhausen, where the French are preparing to give them battle. It is evidently the intention of this large force to cut off the French from their base at Belfort. In the communique reporting these reverses, the War Office mentions Gen. Pau as the French commander who was responsible for the recapture of Muelhausen from the Germans.

FIGHTS IN ALSACE TAKE AWFUL TOLL

Correspondent Describes Campaign in "Preliminary Skirmishes."

PRIEST SHOT AS A SPY

Germans Execute Aged Clergyman Suspected of Being French Agent.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, AUG. 22.—The Evening Standard has a despatch from its Basel correspondent telling of his observations in a tour of Alsace from which he returned Wednesday.

Referring to the descriptions of the fighting in Alsace as merely "insignificant encounters between advance guards," the correspondent says that if this is true in a military sense and the preliminaries of war produce the terrible results he had seen, the disastrous effects of the entire war will "exceed the possibilities of human comprehension."

At the outset of his trip the correspondent saw old men and boys and women, from young girls to aged grandmothers, working side by side in the fields, unconcernedly gathering the harvest. The first sign of the war that caught the correspondent's attention was the demolished home of a Roman Catholic priest in a village near Ransbach.

The German authorities, the correspondent continues, jumped to the conclusion that the aged priest who devoted himself to religious and literary work, was a French secret agent and that he had been informing the French of German military movements. They said he used carrier pigeons to send his communications to Belfort. The Alsatians in the village said these accusations were untrue.

MME. CAILLAUX SERVES SOUP.

Most American Girls Volunteering as Nurses Rejected. PARIS, AUG. 22.—Mme. Caillaux, recently acquitted of a charge of murder for the killing of Gaston Calmette, editor of the Figaro, has taken charge of a public soup kitchen at Namers, in the Sarthe Department, and is organizing an ambulance corps.

Most of the many American girls who offered to serve as nurses have been rejected, some because they are not sufficiently strong for the work and others because they could not pay their own expenses.

Antoine Mercier, the sculptor, and Harry Clews (Henry Clews, Jr.) the American artist, have given their services to the French-American artists' relief committee. The Red Cross and other relief work is the only diversion of Paris now.

OSTEND REFUGEES IN LONDON.

500 Arrive After Flight Before Advancing Germans. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, AUG. 22.—Four special trains came into Charing Cross Station this evening jammed with 500 panic-stricken Belgians. The majority were women and children. All left Ostend this morning. The passengers brought terrible stories of German atrocities, but all of the tales were hearsay and many of them probably arose from the great panic at Ostend, where it was expected that the Germans would arrive a few hours after the refugees left. The railroad companies put on extra steamers and trains to bring away the frantic people.

L. A. Bromwell, an American business man who is interested in Belgian mills, was among those who arrived from Ostend. He started from Brussels yesterday and reached Ostend last night. He became infected with the general panicky feeling, especially as he had \$15,000 in gold and \$500,000 in negotiable securities in his possession. Late last night the head of his firm, a former Belgian Minister of War, arrived at Ostend and endeavored to calm the panic. He said he believes the Germans will not go to Ostend, where they could be bombarded, but will proceed toward Lille. Mr. Bromwell said he saw no sign of a German advance on Ostend.

The stories told by other passengers were valueless on account of the hysterical condition of the tellers.

1870 WAS CHILD'S PLAY.

"I remember battles in 1870, in five or six of which I myself fought, but there is no comparison between them and the battles to-day. The war forty-four years ago was child's play compared with the present war." In several villages the correspondent found the churches, schools and many cottages filled with the wounded of both sides, who were receiving every attention.

In the stress of fighting, the correspondent adds, "many wounded soldiers are left from three to ten and even twelve hours on the fields or the roads."

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E. LA MONTAGNE'S SONS
New York Chicago New Orleans

The ambulance equipment of modern armies appears to be utterly inadequate. Most of the wounded are picked up by villagers. The correspondent saw a French aeroplane from Belfort reconnoitering over the German positions behind Muelhausen, dropping down to get a closer view and then darting upward again to escape the machine gun and rifle fire. The machine hovered about the German position for an hour, sometimes as low as 1,000 feet, and was under constant fire. It was not struck, however, and its work done, returned toward Belfort.

A BAEDEKER KILLED IN ACTION.

Victim May Be Grandson of Guide-book's Founder. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, AUG. 22.—A despatch to the Times says that Herr Baedeker, publisher of the guide-book, has been killed in action in Belgium. The despatch does not specify the action in which he was killed.

The Baedeker referred to may be Hans Baedeker, a partner in the firm of Karl Baedeker. He was born in 1874 and is a son of Fritz Baedeker, the head of the firm, who is now 70 years of age. Fritz Baedeker succeeded his father, Karl, the founder of the guide-book, who died in 1859. Hans therefore was the grandson of the founder of the firm.

MORATORIUM IN DENMARK.

Three Months Respite From Debts Voted by Parliament. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. COPENHAGEN, AUG. 22.—Official telegrams from Denmark announce that the Danish Parliament has voted a three months moratorium covering all debts except civil law debts and coupons until October 19.

No suit is possible for a debt contracted after August 1 abroad or toward a foreigner.

RUSSIAN DOWAGER'S GIFT.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, AUG. 22.—The Dowager Empress of Russia has given a complete field ambulance unit for the French troops. The gift was made through M. Isvolsky, the Russian Ambassador here.



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