HIGHLANDERS AND GERMANS IN HAND TO HAND FIGHT

In the fighting between the British and the German right wing in the forests between Compiegne and Chantilly one of the fiercest hand to hand encounters took place at the ancient artificial fish ponds near Ermenonville, in ordinary times one of the most peaceful and secluded spots that could be imagined. The ponds, which are inhabited by venerable carp and only rarely fished by privileged anglers, lie enclosed by groves of tall trees, with a few yards of greensward between the trees and the margin of the water. In the fighting a Highland regiment drove a party of the enemy through the woods and into the fish ponds. The Highlanders followed the Germans into the water and there was fierce hand to hand work with bayonet and rifle. When the fight was over the water was teeming with the dead and wounded. The woods and ponds of Ermenonville have historic associations with the last days of Rousseau, to whom the Marquis de Girardin had given a rural retreat in a little pavilion near the chateau.

Drawn by A. C. Michael.

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