show that the French and British troops are fighting waist deep in water, the rains having flooded their trenches.

The following announcements were made by the official information bureau this afternoon:

"There is no change in the situation (in France). The weather is bad. Counter attacks delivered yesterday afternoon and during the night were easily repulsed, with loss to the enemy.

"The Cathedral of Rheims has been destroyed by German gunfire."

BATTLE IS ONE OF FIERCEST.

One of the fiercest battles of all times, which has been raging across Northern France for a week past, with first a slight advantage on one side and then on the other, remains undecided. The two great armies, which have been fighting for a month with few, if any, intermissions, have dug themselves into intrenchments on rivers and mountain ranges on a front reaching from the Oise to the Meuse and thence southeastward along the Franco-German frontier.

Artillery duels such as never have been seen before are being carried on with the hope of compelling the evacuation of the strongly held positions, with occasional successes to the opposing sides, while the infantry, in the face of a galling fire, have charged right up to the guns, only to make their opponents give way slightly or to be repulsed, with great losses.

The British apparently have learned something from the Japanese attacks on Port Arthur. They make a rush forward, and when the fire becomes too heavy for them to make a further advance they again dig trenches for themselves and remain there until another opportunity offers for them to gain a few more yards.

FRENCH REINFORCING ARTILLERY.

The Germans have had most of their artillery at work, but the French are bringing up more and bigger guns. This kind of fighting, with both sides in strong positions, may go on for days yet, but sooner or later one side must find the continual fall of shells and the disconcerting infantry attacks too much for them, and, leaving a strong rearguard, will draw back for a breathing spell.

With all the hard, long fighting behind them the Germans are again making attacks toward Verdun, while the Allies are making frontal attacks on the German right and are once more attempting to outflank it.

The German cavalry have been showing considerable daring and have been trying to cut the communications of the Allies between the Oise and the coast.

French reports bring confirmation of the rumors that the Saxon army, under General von Hausen, has been reorganized. The report used the phrase "broken up," but this is taken to mean that it has been reorganized and the parts distributed among the other armies. Its cavalry, for instance, has been sent east.

Bordeaux, Sept. 20.—"The great battle being fought between the Oise and the Aisne is following a normal course slowly but surely," says "Le Temps" in a military review. The article continues:

"Although it has somewhat the aspect of a siege, the retreating movement of the two German wings is spreading to the centre and we are advancing not only east but west of Argonne. The situation as a whole is such as gives us the fullest confidence in the issue of this fierce combat, which is likely to last several days longer."

BATTLE, A WEEK OLD, GOES ON WITH FURY

From the Battle Front (via Paris), Sept. 20.—The bulk of the allied armies remained to-day in the trenches waiting while their artillery exchanged a furious cannonading with the strongly placed German batteries.

Some brilliant feats at arms were performed at various points on the lines, extending along the Oise, the Aisne and the Woevre. The seasoned Algerian troops made a gallant capture of another German flag.

These incidents, however, are important only for their influence in encouraging the allied troops and do not affect the result of the great battle, which has already lasted a week.

Military experts here are of the opinion that the longer the battle endures the better it will be for the allied armies, who will thus be able to pass strong forces of fresh troops to places where they are needed along the front.

At the western end of the battle line Rheims has been the object of the greatest attention from the Germans, who time after time have unsuccessfully attempted to break through the Allies' lines after subjecting the town to an intense bombardment. It is the Germans' intention, it is understood, to capture Rheims, which is an important railroad junction, the possession of which would give them command of another road to the north. They have made an especial mark of the magnificent cathedral, which has been in flames since yesterday.

The Allies in the meantime have made for themselves a strong position on the right bank of the Aisne, where they occupy all the heights. The Germans have taken advantage of the sites of the forts which were intended for the defence of Rheims, but which were abandoned by the Allies when the invaders made a rapid dash southward from Belgium.

A heavy hailstorm, with a cold wind, added to-day to the hardships of the intrenched troops, who are entirely without tents, but it did not affect their spirits, which are high.

All the commissariat departments of the Allies are working splendidly, the men are well fed and clothed and are contented.

The German army when it evacuated Chalons left one of its chief surgeons and a corps of nurses in charge of a hospital filled with German and French wounded. The French medical officers found the hospital so well managed and the French wounded so well treated that the German surgeon was left in charge.

GERMAN GUNS BEST, ALSO FRENCH GUNNERS

By G. DRU.

[Special Correspondent of New York Tribune and "London Standard."]

Paris, Sept. 19 (delayed by censor).—The battle of the Aisne is still undecided. It has been going on for a whole week. The total number of forces engaged approximates two million, and the length of the fighting line is more than 140 miles. The losses of the Germans have again been enormous, while those of the Allies hardly seem proportionate to the immensity of the titanic struggle, thanks to their superior tactics and methods of conserving human war material instead of wasting it lavishly after the way of the Potsdam war lords.

The balance of gains and losses is at this moment (Saturday) slightly in favor of the Franco-British forces, who have advanced on their own left without giving ground in the centre or on the right. Moreover, the colossal losses of the Germans count in their favor. On the whole, there is every reason to be satisfied with the immediate outlook.

This has been a battle even greater than that of the Marne. The fighting has been fast and furious. These two vast armies have been hurling themselves upon one another with amazing courage and unprecedented determination. There have been attacks and counter-attacks, dashing charges, strategic retreats, rushes of cavalry, irresistible onslaughts of infantry, artillery contests the like of which have never been witnessed. On this battle alone a book of huge dimensions could be written, and still there would be untold tales of valor and skill and gallant deeds.

The Germans have a number of their heavy howitzers placed in the most advantageous positions, capable of shelling the lines of the Allies at a distance of seven or eight miles. Their range is considerably longer than that of the British or French artillery, consequently there is no way of replying to them until the latter approach within a much shorter distance of them. The possession and use of these heavy guns have been of great value to the enemy, but the French artillery is tremendously effective. The quick-firing field guns decimate ranks of the enemy, and their aim is so good and the efficiency of the gunners so remarkable that the French superiority in field artillery is unquestioned.

Day and night this battle has been waged. The Germans made some of their fiercest counter-attacks in the darkness, but without any degree of success, and, in some instances, with disastrous consequences to themselves.

The audacious frontal attacks by the British and French on strongly intrenched positions have been magnificent exhibitions of gallantry and coolness under the most difficult conceivable conditions of offensive warfare. For there is plenty of fight left in the German forces, and they are making a stubborn stand in their efforts to avoid being driven back to Germany.

There must be many soldiers in the allied armies who had not more than one hour's sleep at night since the battle began. The Germans harry them systematically during the hours of darkness, and even if no other result is achieved the exhaustion produced by this continual interruption of repose is useful to the enemy. The present apparent lull is no doubt due to the extreme fatigue of the allied forces.

The heavy rains have entirely changed some of the conditions of operations by making the roads partially impassable, thus impeding operations against the Germans in fields, meadows and forests. The length of the German lines of communication renders bad weather more unfavorable to them than to the Allies.

The organization of the allied army's commissariat is excellent. Excellent, too, is the perfect machinery for bringing ammunition to the front. In all details of war organization the efficiency of the British and French forces has been striking.

LONG BATTLE A DUEL FOR BEST POSITIONS

Crash of Artillery Followed by Infantry Attacks and Counter Attacks as Each Side Fences to Gain Some Advantage.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

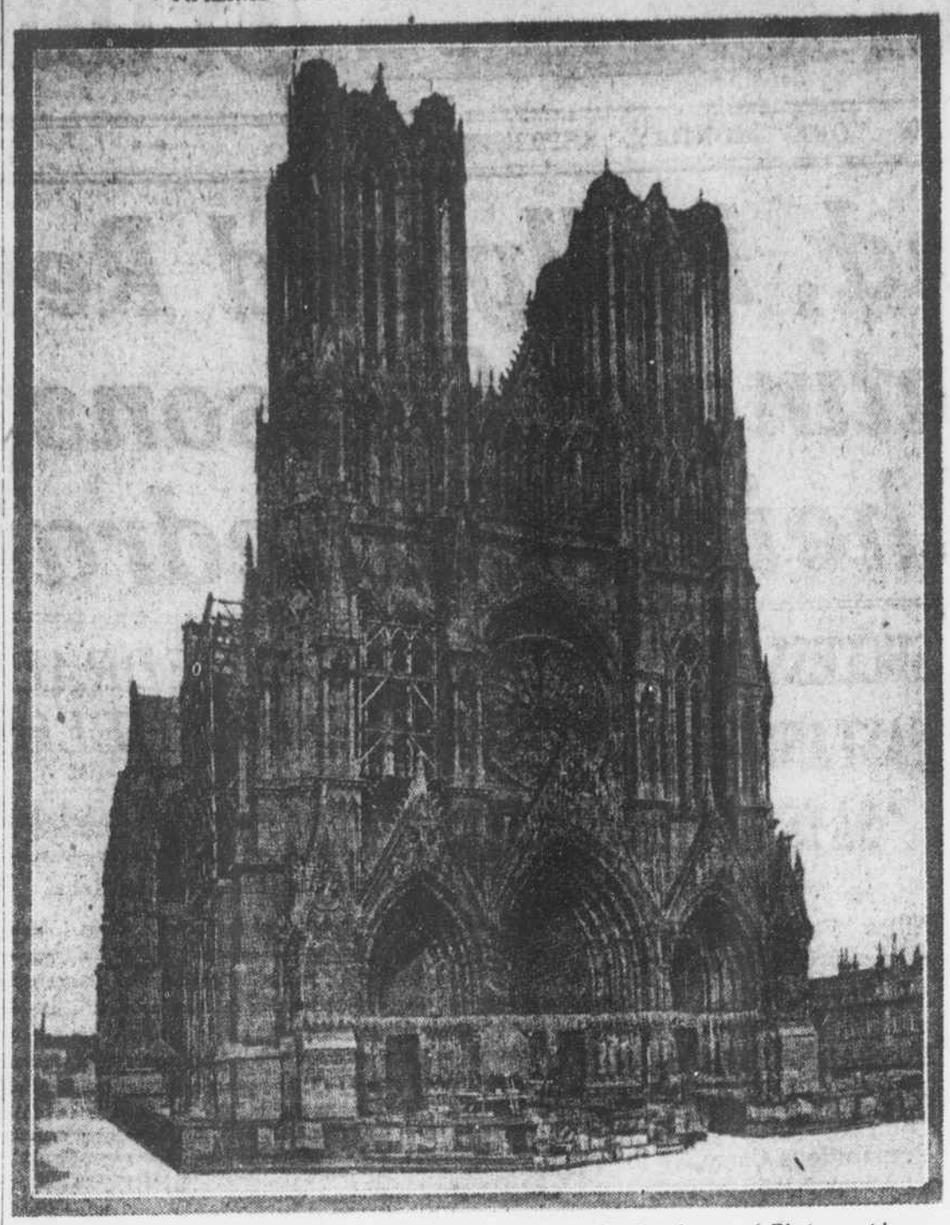
London, Sept. 20.—A correspondent of "The Daily News," telegraphing yesterday from Boulogne, says for the present the news remains the same. The continuation of the battle for positions is savagely contested, the Germans fighting for time for the full use of their reintorcements, and for the escape then of the left wing in the Argonne region. The Allies are fighting to break the line on the east and to hold it on the west. Stories are heard only of what is happening along the south front of the German army.

From Amiens the northern troops have fallen back upon a strong series of positions, which make an acute angle with those of the south front along the Aisne, following the line of the Oise south from the junction with the Aisne. They hold the line of highlands on either bank north to Noyon, thence west of the river to Saint-Quentin, covering the railway lines by Chauny-la-Fère, etc., with Laon as the centre, and thence north to Cambrai.

It will be seen that their communications are exposed to attack from the west, as the distances are too great for continuous protection in force. Such protection, however, has been able to reach the line in two places near Marcoing without interruption. The country is more or less covered by cavalry and motor detachments, whose action is necessarily local. These in turn are hunted down. They are reported by French and English motor cars to be fitted with mitrailleuses. The game is exciting and is succeeding in its object of condensing the German disposed bodies, but it is subordinate to the more serious pressure that may be of greater effect on the results of the battle going on further south.

The long continued battle is in the nature of artillery duels, a fencing for positions, followed by infantry attacks and counter attacks on either side. So far the Allies have gained an advantage on the west, but at great cost. Three counter attacks by the Germans in the night were repulsed with heavy losses. In the long business of wearing down the Allies have the advantage both of convenience of support and freshness and number of troops, but for a decisive issue in view of the strength of the German position, they may have to hope for the entry of some new factor upon the scene. Strong winds have dried up the [illegible], to a large extent and the movement of men and guns is again easier.

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL DESTROYED BY SHELLS.



Famous Gothic edifice is reported as ruined by the German bombardment of Rheims, with many other of the city's historic buildings. The church was regarded as one of the finest extant examples of early French Gothic architecture. While partly destroyed by a mob in the French Revolution, the cathedral dates from early in the thirteenth century.

GERMANS WRECK RHEIMS CATHEDRAL

Continued from page 1

veneration these grandiose edifices. We will respect them as our fathers did in 1870."

The destruction of the Cathedral of Rheims has aroused a greater storm of popular indignation than any act yet charged against the Germans. Sunday promenaders in the parks and squares of Bordeaux talked of nothing else. In drawing rooms where congregate Senators, Deputies, officials and writers who are temporarily exiled from Paris, nothing was discussed but the question of what satisfaction could be exacted from Germany after the war.

All the newspapers to-day printed strongly worded editorials condemning "this crime against civilization, art, tradition and faith."

"Le Temps," most moderate of all the newspapers, in its attack, says:

"The Germans revenge themselves for their defeat by turning their heavy artillery on the Cathedral of Rheims."

Premier Viviani to-day appointed a committee, headed by A. Mollard, former Minister to Luxemburg, to proceed to the territory recently occupied by the Germans to obtain all possible authentic evidence regarding recent atrocities committed by the invaders. The government already has received a formidable number of reports from local authorities charging that outrages have been perpetrated by the Germans.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Sept. 20.—"The Daily Chronicle's" Paris correspondent telegraphed the following to-day:

"Last night the official bulletin contained the following sentence: 'The Germans, who, despite extremely violent attacks, have not been able to win the least ground before Rheims, have been bombarding the cathedral throughout the day.'

"This afternoon's official note adds: 'The Germans persist, without military reasons, in firing on the Rheims Cathedral, which is in flames.'

"This news will be received not only throughout France but throughout the educated world with a thrill of disgusted indignation. The Cathedral of Rheims is one of the first glories of European architecture, its wonderful west façade dating from the thirteenth century, with its three deeply recessed portals, containing more than five hundred statues of scriptural personages and kings of France, and its great rose window being described as the most beautiful structure produced in the middle ages.

"This church, which has almost completely escaped the hands of the enterprising restorer, contains much splendid woodwork, valuable tapestries, reliquaries and church plate, and several pictures besides its superb old windows. It is the Cathedral of the Capetian and the later kings, an unequalled shrine of faith, culture and the history of the French people. With but little, and pardonable, exaggeration a Paris editor calls it 'The Acropolis of France.'

"The glory of Rheims began fourteen centuries ago, after the vandals and Huns had left it. No war indemnity can give back what these modern Huns have ruined to-day, but in history this outrage and the destruction of Louvain will mark them through times to come as indelibly as the memory of their precursors of that ancient time is marked in our school history books."

The destruction of the Cathedral of Rheims is the greatest loss from an historical and artistic sense of the present war. Begun on the site of an earlier church erected by Robert de Courcy in 1212, and continued at intervals down to the fifteenth century it has been described as "the most perfect in grandeur and grace of Gothic style in existence."

The west front, which was begun about 1241-'42, is said to be the most beautiful structure produced during the Middle Ages, with its deeply recessed triple portal and the wonderful rose window that surmounts it. This window, more than forty feet in diameter, was reported in cable dispatches yesterday as having been destroyed by a shell.

It was in the Cathedral of Rheims that the successive Kings of France, from Philip II to Charles X, were crowned, and it was there that the Maid of Orleans, after her victorious career, stood, banner in hand, before the great altar and saw the coronation of Charles VII, which marked the fulfilment of her vision. After kneeling before the monarch whom she had placed on the throne "she begged the gentle king to allow her to return to her flocks."

The elaborate richness of the sculpture, its stained glass and statuary are not surpassed in any existing structure. In the north transept, over the sacristy, is a clock said to have been the oldest moving piece of horology in existence. Among the priceless cathedral treasures were some wonderful church plate of the early centuries, reliquaries containing a thorn of the holy crown, the skull of Saint Remy and countless tapestries, some dating from the fifteenth century.

In a chapel attached to the vestry was a rare collection of Roman and mediæval sculpture, including the famous sarcophagus of Jovinus, the Roman Prefect of Rheims, who was converted to Christianity in 366.

The archbishop's palace is a double chapel, dating from about 1230. There the monarchs of France were housed at their coronations, and there Joan of Arc lodged when she came to Rheims to crown Charles VII. The palace adjoins the cathedral, and about a quarter of a mile to the southwest is the Church of Saint-Jacques. Save for its antiquity, dating from the twelfth century, Saint-Jacques possesses little interest, all the valuable church antiquity of Rheims having been collected in the cathedral.

Another church of great antiquity and interest is that of Saint-Remy but no mention of its fate is made thus far. It stands on the extreme eastern edge of the city, and was founded by Clovis and Clotilda on the spot where Clovis was baptized. The walls of the nave of Saint-Remy's date from the tenth century.

The Hotel de Ville, or City Hall, was commenced in 1627, but was not completed until the present century. It contained a fine library, with hundreds of volumes of manuscripts, some antiquities and a good collection of paintings.

Aside from these notable monuments, a thorough shelling or conflagration might destroy many lesser buildings that have made the ancient city a place of enormous historic interest. Some of its old houses date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and here and there still exist remains of the Roman occupation.

BERLIN ANNOUNCES 6,126 CASUALTIES

Berlin, Sept. 20.—A casualty list made up largely of the losses of a few regiments was made public to-day.

Of the 6,126 casualties reported 3,976 of them fall to fifteen battalions of eight regiments. The 131st Regiment reported 1,141 casualties. Six of its officers were killed and 22 wounded. The 132d Infantry reported 32 officers and 561 men killed, wounded or missing. The 10th Grenadiers lost 20 officers and 820 men, and one battalion of the 157th Infantry had 5 officers killed and 5 wounded.

RHEIMS SHELLED BY FOE THREE TIMES

City Has Witnessed Much Severe Fighting Since September 1.

EPERNAY A HIGHWAY FOR HOSTILE ARMIES

Germans Repay Indemnity, but Forget Other Debts—Doctor Bargains with Enemy.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Sept. 20.—"The Daily Chronicle's" correspondent sent from Epernay on Friday the following description of the fighting in the neighborhood of Rheims:

"Rheims is one of the mysteries of the war. Since the flood of Teutonic invasion reached the centre of France we have heard practically nothing of what happened in this great city and its great crescent of fortifications. Are the great historical monuments which make Rheims one of the famous cities of Europe destroyed or seriously injured? It has suffered three separate bombardments—first, on the southward march of the Germans, at the beginning of the month; second, when the French returned, and, third, when the Germans had retired to the forts on the north and intrenched themselves above the Vesle Valley.

"I think the first bombardment must have begun either on September 1 or on the second day, when the French retirement from the town itself began. It was completed on the following day. The French returned at noon on the 11th, and since then they have been engaged in holding their ground and in recovering forts which had been lost.

"In the first bombardment the destruction within Rheims was not large, and this was not surprising, for the forts, which lie in a semicircle from the northwest to the southeast at a distance of about four miles, were then the objective of the German attack. The civil population was forewarned, and most of the houses and practically all the business places were closed. Since the return of the French army and the more desperate developments of the struggle, however, there has been a great deal of damage, chiefly by shell fire.

Shells Struck Cathedral.

"The cathedral, one of the wonders of early Gothic architecture, which lies in the very centre of the city, was struck, one of its two splendid towers being partially destroyed. The still older abbey church of Saint-Remy, an imposing sixteenth century basilica, has also lost one of its Romanesque towers. This building lies on the south side of the town, but the chief destruction has been on the north and northeast, in the fourth and second arrondissements, and around the cathedral. It is estimated that 150 civilians have been killed in the streets or in their homes.

[Dispatches received last night state that the structures above mentioned, and others, were completely destroyed by the German artillery fire.]

"The fate of Epernay offers a singular contrast. This pretty, industrial centre of the champagne trade has suffered all the anxieties of the double invasion, and it is only to-day that the good citizens begin to breathe freely, but there has been comparatively little material damage. On September 2 the first French troops came into the town on their retreat from Rheims, cavalry, infantry and heavy artillery. Regiment after regiment followed in procession, and the feelings of those of the inhabitants who remained may be imagined. On the morning of September 4 the redoubtable enemy appeared, and, overtaking the French rearguard in the hilly and thickly wooded district to the south of Epernay, between Pierry and Brugny, opened fire upon it. A running fight followed, without great effect, except that several farms and country houses were destroyed.

"During the same afternoon a larger body of Germans, who had crossed the Marne at Reuil, eight miles west of Epernay, marched on the town by the Paris road. On this occasion the first German cavalry patrols are said to have pretended to be British soldiers. Some leading citizens went out to treat for the safety of the town—no doubt having in mind what a general sack of the world-famous wine cellars would mean. The commandant was brought to the Mayor, and at once demanded supplies of tobacco and champagne for the troops and 40,000 rations. This was an impossible requirement, and a curious bargain was struck. The amount of requisition not included was estimated by Count von Moltke at $882,750, for this amount was demanded in gold and actually was paid over by the Mayor and five municipal councillors, one of them, the editor of 'Le Reveil de la Marne,' who told me the story, who were being held as hostages. A great wine grower, M. Chandon, happened to have a German general billeted upon him, and complained of the unfairness of this exaction.

"On the afternoon of September 9 the retreat of the Germans from Epernay began. The inhabitants were ordered to stay at home, doubtless that they should not witness the extent of the movement. At first great convoys of ammunition came in by all southern roads and went on toward Rheims. All through that night a mixed procession of troops, wounded and supplies continued. On the 10th further regiments passed, singing dolefully. The retreat became more and more like a rout. All vehicles that could be got in town were taken, and still some wounded had been placed on gun carriages, the gunners tramping beside them. They all seemed exhausted and some could be seen hungrily devouring chunks of bread. On Friday morning, September 11, the last detachment crossed the Marne and blew up the road and railway bridges. A piece of stone thrown up by an explosion killed a child of fourteen. In their precipitancy they had forgotten a convoy of three hundred wounded, which remained in the hands of the French for three hours after the Germans had passed the river.

Welcomed French Troops.

"A body of French chasseurs then entered Epernay, and they were speedily followed by cavalry and infantry regiments. The inhabitants cheered them loudly and brought bunches of flowers to show their delight. In a very short time a bridge was thrown over the river and fighting on the road to Rheims began.

"All the dead are now buried, but a protruding leg from one shallow grave made a horrid sight, and in some places pestilential conditions prevail. A good many houses on the route showed holes and rents, due to shell fire, and a few had holes pierced in the walls for the use of riflemen. Several very large farmhouses had been burned down, evidently as punishment or revenge."

St. Thomas Church

"Open Air to Everywhere"

To Visitors.

No matter where you come from you are likely to see "home folks" on Fifth Avenue. Ride up and down on top of a bus. Look at the crowds—and see if you don't spot someone you know.

Fifth Avenue Coach Co.

TRACKS GERMANS IN GREAT RETREAT

Sees How They Fight Till Last Moment and Then Vanish.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Sept. 21.—The Paris correspondent of "The Morning Post" telegraphs:

I have just traversed the great battlefield of the Marne, where the signs of war are more marked even than on the plains further to the north.

On these rolling uplands the German positions were very strong, but they were attacked by the French advancing from Paris as their base and by the British on the west. Great trees along the roads were mowed down by the shell fire. Some with trunks two feet in diameter were severed by the shot. The carnage must have been very heavy.

Many dead are still lying in the trenches. Those already buried are in mounds. There has not yet been time to clean out the little spinneys by the roadside, and one hurries by them. It is in places such as these where comparisons can be made and that the effect of the French 75-millimetre shell can be appreciated. When it gets home it kills inevitably all within its radius. Whether the deaths are caused by gas or by fragments remains for scientists, doctors and historians to say. The bald fact is there, and I have seen the grim evidence of it.

I also visited the emplacements of the German mortar batteries, beautifully constructed, but now littered with unused ammunition. Here again I proved the correctness of the statements that the drawback of the German artillery is that its complicated manipulation necessitates considerable protected space about the gun.

Forcing the heights of Meaux must have been a terrible task, but they were evidently evacuated in great haste. The blowing up of the abandoned ammunition is an urgent task and is now being undertaken by French engineers. I saw passersby carrying about melinite shells. These deadly missiles were easily distinguished by their yellow band.

The German tactics, in their retreat upon the fortified positions they are now defending upon the Aisne, are visible by the tangible traces left, and they agree with what I have been told. They mask their real retreat in a clever fashion by apparently continuing to defend their positions. Sometimes the guns are abandoned; but no matter how quickly the attackers get up after the last shot has been fired they find the defending force already miles away.

All the bridges in this part of the country have been blown up. The French in this respect seem inclined to grumble at the very drastic way in which the British deal with bridges. The British are not content with a hole in the middle of the bridge; they blow the whole thing clear away.

BELGIANS WIN IN FIGHT NEAR LIEGE

Beat Enemy at Lanaeken and Replace German Flag with Their Own.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Rotterdam, Sept. 20.—An important Belgian raid on the Germans near Liege is reported to have taken place this morning.

A dispatch from Maestricht says that the Red Cross there was asked by telephone to send assistance to Lanaeken and villages to the northwest of Maestricht, on Belgian territory, close to the Dutch frontier. The Red Cross was informed that fighting had taken place and that men had been wounded and a member of the ambulance corps was asked for.

Dr. Brock went out, and on his return confirmed the report of the fighting. He added that the Germans had taken away their wounded and no Belgian needed attention.

The Belgians have pulled down the German flag at Lanaeken and hoisted their own. At 11:30 o'clock this morning the Germans had disappeared.

1,500 WAR PRISONERS REACH PARIS DAILY

Paris, Sept. 20.—After having become accustomed to good news during the days of the German withdrawal, Paris was made a little nervous through the silence of the War Office. Now the capital is reassured by the steady file of prisoners arriving from the scene of action.

Yesterday 1,500 prisoners were brought here. Friday 1,200 arrived, and on the preceding days since the Germans first fell back 1,000 to 1,500 has been the daily average. More than 10,000 prisoners of war are now here.

It is insisted here that there are continued indications that General von Kluck's army is in a critical situation.

British officers from the scene of battle are silent under orders concerning the details of the fighting. Speaking in a general way, however, one of them said:

"The official statements of our successes are very much below the truth. This has been true ever since the retirement of the Germans from the region of the Marne."

The bombardment of the Cathedral of Rheims has raised a strong protest, as it is declared that the action cannot be justified by any necessity of the war.

After the German aviators abandoned their flights over Paris and the invading army turned back at the threshold of the capital, many Parisian found life monotonous. But now they have discovered a new object of interest.

This attraction is at the Pont de l'Alma, where tugboats are being armed and fitted out to patrol the Seine and Oise rivers. Thousands of people crowded the banks of the Seine to watch the sailors put the cannon in position.

The Basel correspondent of "L'Escelsior" states that when the troops of the German Landwehr defiled through Mülhausen they made a painful impression. The soldiers were fatigued and their faces were thin and drawn from the sufferings they had undergone.

Many pieces of cannon were missing and in some cases the pieces were without gunners. The police had ordered the citizens to decorate their houses, but the procession passed through the town amid deathlike silence.

Bordeaux, Sept. 20.—"I have four sons with the army, and I know I shall never see them again. My husband will come back alone; he has no right to die," said Mme. de Castelnau, wife of General Curieres de Castelnau, commander of the second French army, to a friend a few days ago after her son Xavier, a sub-lieutenant, had been killed by his father's side.

To-day news was received that another son, Gerald, a lieutenant in the 7th Infantry, had been killed in action, and a third son is reported wounded.

FRENCH ARMY REVIVES PROUDEST TRADITIONS

By G. DRU.

(Special Correspondent of the New York Tribune and "London Standard.")

Paris, Sept. 19.—In the battle of the Aisne all the French troops are fighting superbly.

Let no man ever again refer to the degeneracy of the French nation, on which the misguided German theorists relied as a factor telling in favor of Germany's final victory.

The French army has risen to the occasion and has maintained the proudest traditions of all its predecessors.