

YEAR SINCE BIG BATTLE.

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crown prince of Bavaria.

September 7.

On the morning of the 7th Maunoury found in front of him, not only the single corps of the preceding day, but 120,000 men; Von Kluck had skilfully accomplished the conversion of his forces and for the moment disengaged his flank and saved the entire German army from disaster.

Several villages were retaken by the Germans and the pressure everywhere was severely felt. The day was saved for the army of Paris by the 2nd Zouaves around Etrepilly, where the most violent attacks were repulsed, at such a cost to the Germans that they found it necessary to burn their dead. The British troops accentuated their advance, punishing severely the cavalry divisions of the Prussian Guard by remarkable charges of the 9th Lancers and the 18th Hussars.

Franchet l'Esperey took at the point of the bayonet Vieux Maisons and Pierrebey on Von Kluck's left, and after several violent combats crossed the Grand Morin, occupied Jouy-sur-Morin definitely and took up position on the Petit Morin.

Foch, overrun by numbers on his right, held good until the 11th corps weakened, then established his line a little in the rear of the front of Salon-Gougancon-Counatre-Allemand.

The 12th corps of Gen. Langle de Cary's army, heavily punished, was sent to the rear to be reorganized. Six battalions of this corps—the least tried—sustained alone the attack of 25,000 Germans all the evening.

The German attacks were arrested around Sompiers by the 13th division of the 21st corps, which lost its chief, Gen. Barbade, as well as Col. Hamont and a great many other officers.

The army of Gen. Serrail and that of the crown prince of Prussia continued their duel, without result.

Gen. de Castelneau, before Nancy, having lost the Plateau of Amance, retook it and held it while Dubail in the Vosges maintained his advance.

September 8.

The morning of the 8th found the position of the wings little changed from the beginning and the allies' success limited to the gains of the British forces and the army of Langle de Cary. The fighting had continued all night. The army of Paris at the extreme left weakened, but the centre held firm by grace of the furious charges by the Algerian and Moroccan troops that created gaps in the enemy's ranks, in each case immediately filled. The day passed in attacks and counter-attacks. Villages were taken, retaken. At the cemetery of Chambray, a great many officers and soldiers of the 3rd Zouaves were killed, and finally the line began to bend back in the direction of Neufmoutiers.

The 4th corps, commanded by Gen. Boelle, brought from Alsace and re-ordered en route by the exodus of civilians from Paris, arrived—one division went to the support of the British troops, the other reinforced Maunoury. The situation of the army of Paris became critical as the result of the retreat of the 14th division of the 7th corps.

The British forces, reinforced by one division of the 4th corps, made further gains, taking many prisoners and several cannon. The army of Gen. Franchet d'Esperey, after eight hours hand-to-hand fighting, entered Montmirail and the army of Von Buelow, leaving 7,000 dead and a large number of prisoners, was in retreat all along the line.

Gen. Foch, at dawn, declared to his troops:

"The situation is excellent. I order again a vigorous offensive."

German Line Broken.

The retreat of part of Von Buelow's forces before Franchet d'Esperey broke the German line and facilitated the efforts of Foch's army on his right. They key to the heights of Sezanne, the chateau of Mondement, where the Prince Eitel Freidrick of Von Kluck's staff had conferred and dined with Von Buelow, was the centre of attack. The artillery drove out the staff, after which the Moroccan riflemen penetrated the park of the chateau—were driven out, attacked again and were repulsed. A third assault succeeded and in the park lay 3,000 dead Germans, including two generals. Whole battalions of French troops were annihilated there.

Fere Champenoise and Sommesous, after Sezanne, fell into the hands of Foch's army. Sommesous, counter-attacked by the Prussian guard, remained in their hands only the time necessary for the French forces to reform. The regiments of the 11th corps charged and drove out the 4th regiment of Grenadiers of the Queen Augusta and the 4th regiment of Grenadiers of the Emperor Francis.

A vital development of the day's fighting was the discovery, by aviators, of a gap between the armies of Von Buelow and Von Hausen, the effect of Von Buelow's retreat, leav-

ing Von Hausen's right flank exposed. By an audacious and opportune manoeuvre, Gen. Foch massed his right in this gap under cover of the night, before Von Hausen's flank, and threw his adversary back upon the marshes of Saint-Gond in disorder. The German losses there were heavy.

The army of Langle de Cary was very heavily engaged around Vitry-le-Francois, where the forces of the Duke of Wuerttemberg counter-attacked fiercely. The artillery fire crossed here over the town of Vitry-le-Francois, which was partly in flames. At Pargny and at Maurupt-le-Montay both sides lost heavily in hand-to-hand fighting. By a night attack the French infantry took the village of Etrepy, almost entirely burned, and the surrounding region. A little progress was made also to the left of Vitry-le-Francois.

Serrail, menaced with envelopment by a combined attack from forces coming from Metz and the crown prince's army in front, sent his cavalry against the forces from Metz and continued his infantry attacks in front. Fresh troops from Strassburg resumed the violent but vain attacks upon the heights of Amance. The German losses here were extremely heavy, but less than on the Heights of Sainte-Genevieve, where de Castelneau's troops inflicted such losses on the Bavarian reinforcements from Metz that they were obliged to retire upon the village of Atton.

Dubail, obliged to abandon Luneville to the enemy, held them in check elsewhere and retook the summit of Mandroy and Fourmeaux.

September 9.

The position of the army of Paris which had become critical the evening of the 8th, had not improved the morning of the 9th. Heavily outnumbered, it appeared little likely that the position could be held without reinforcements. Gen. Joffre ordered Maunoury to resist just the same to the last man. The formation of the line had been so modified that the army of Paris described an angle, one side of which faced the east and the other the north. Three thousand men of the 7th corps, pitted against one entire division, began an attack at Marville, and the action became general. During nine hours the battle waged incessantly. Encouraged by news of successes of the other armies, Maunoury's men redoubled their assaults. Gen. Mangin, with the 5th division, by a desperate charge near Asy-en-Multien, hurled back the forces in front of him, nearly destroying the regiment of Magdeburg. Bayonet charges by the African troops relieved the pressure near Hayden-Multien, and toward the end of the day the Germans, having lost nearly half their force, were repulsed all along the line of the army of Paris. The 4th corps of Landwehr was signalled coming to the relief of Von Kluck's flank from Bethel, Maunoury's army was exposed to a decisive attack by fresh troops. Maunoury appealed to Gen. Gallieni. The governor of Paris requisitioned 5,000 taxi-automobiles, drays, etc., and sent 20,000 men to his support across Paris.

Nanteuil-le-Haudoin and its vast petroleum stocks were in flames. The troops, most of them, had been without food for three days—only the Moors, habituated to fasting, seemed capable of further effort. The Germans seemed equally exhausted, for their attacks weakened with the darkness.

The British forces, continuing their progress, threw Von Kluck's centre back upon the Marne from Vareddes to Chateau Thierry; they had gained twenty miles in two days, taking prisoners and booty every hour. After seventeen failures the British engineers succeeded in throwing a bridge across the Marne at Vareddes threatening Von Kluck's rear. They crossed at La Ferte-sous-Jouarre, at noon, in close pursuit. A detachment of cavalry, meeting two squadrons of German cavalry toward Chateau Thierry, charged through and charged back again. After traversing both squadrons, then charged the mangain in front.

Germans Retreat.

Von Kluck's entire army was now in full retreat, abandoning wounded and material and losing prisoners. The British forces discovered that Von Kluck's troops lacked ammunition for their Mausers. Many cannon and prisoners fell into the hands of the British army during the day.

The army of Franchet l'Esperey advanced in unison with the British troops close upon the heels of the enemy, and only the German batteries, posted on the slopes north of Chateau Thierry, saved the retreat from developing into a rout. The German losses on this front exceeded even those of the left. At Esternay they left 8,000 unburied dead after four days' fighting. Near Chateau Thierry they had emptied the reservoir that supplied Paris with water from the Nesles, filled it with dead and covered the bodies with earth.

Foch pushed ahead also with the

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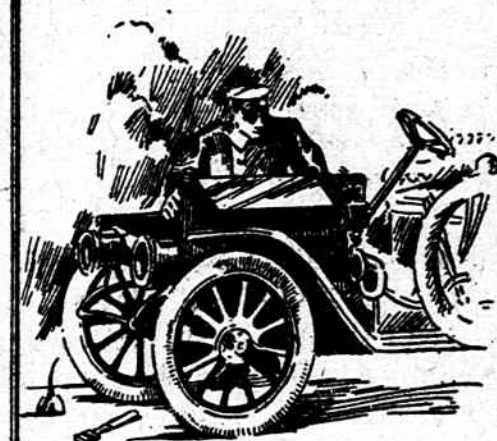
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