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ALLIES ROUT GERMANS IN GREATEST BATTLE OF WAR

The Long-Expected Allies' Drive is Now Under Way and in the Preliminary Stages the Enemy Has Been Defeated at Every Point Where the Opposing Forces Have Come in Contact. While the British Troops Have Accomplished Wonders, the Showing Made by the French is Without Parallel. The Fighting on the River Somme, on the Middle-Southern Part of the Western Line, Has Been the Heaviest of the War. German Prisoners Captured in the Two Days Will Reach 10,000, the French Alone Capturing 6,000 in One Engagement. Incidents of Individual Bravery or Heroism are Numerous. In One Place Two Scottish Regiments Crossed Three Lines of German Trenches Without a Stop and Bayoneted Every Man They Found. A French Regiment Covered Themselves With Flowers Before Attacking a Village Held by Germans. Bullet-Riddled Flag of Regiment Was Carried Into the Village at the Head of the First Company and the Flower-Decked French Soldiers Put Every Man in the Garrison to the Bayonet. Stern Reprisals for German Cruelties Earlier in the War.

FRENCH DRIVE GERMANS OUT OF THIAUMONT WOOD AND TAKE MANY VILLAGES

Enemy Gives Way Before Determined Rushes of Gallant Allies—Thousands of Prisoners and Many Valuable war Trophies Fall to Victors—French Aviator Brings Down Fokker after Desperate Fight.

Paris, July 1.—The French have retaken the Thiaumont Wood according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight. The text of the communication follows:

"North and south of the Somme, following artillery preparations and reconnaissances carried out in the preceding days, the Franco-British troops launched this morning an offensive on a front of about forty kilometres (25 miles).

"In the morning, and during the course of the afternoon, along the entire front attacked, the Allied troops gained possession of the German first position.

"North of the Somme the French troops established themselves in the approaches of the village of Hardecourt and in the outskirts of the village of Curly, where the battle continues.

"South of the Somme the villages of Dompiere, Bequincourt, Busu and Fay have fallen into our hands.

"The number of unwounded German prisoners captured by the French troops won during the course of the day surpassed 3,500.

"On the left bank of the Meuse there was a violent bombardment in the whole region of Hill 304 and La Mart Homme.

"On the right bank about ten o'clock in the morning, our infantry moved forward to the assault of the Thiaumont Wood, which we are in possession of again.

"The afternoon was marked by a recrudescence of the bombardment in that region as well as in the sectors of Fumin and Chenois.

AERIAL WARFARE SUCCESSFUL.

"Aviation: On the night of June 29-30 a group of our aeroplanes carried out the following bombardment: Eighteen shells of 120mm were dropped on the Nesle station, and six of 120 millimetres on Reys, where a fire broke out. Two shells dropped on an automobile convoy, northwest of Heale, were seen to fall in the midst of the cars. The same night thirteen of our aeroplanes dropped sixty shells on a German munition factory in the outskirts of Nevon. Their objective was reached by most of the projectiles the effects of which were observed.

"On the night of June 30-July 1, seven of our aeroplanes dropped shells on the Nesle station and crossing, and six on the neighboring military establishment. A fire was observed.

"In the course of a reconnaissance one of our pilots was attacked by a Fokker. Though wounded in the first encounter he succeeded in bringing down his adversary, who fell in the forest of Bezange. On his way back the same pilot was again attacked by an enemy biplane and wounded a second time. He succeeded in extricating himself and returned to our lines."

Belgian communication:

"Our artillery carried out today again with success destructive fires on the German works and batteries, particularly in the region of Dixmude. The enemy replied with considerable violence in the approaches to that town."

DOMINION DAY A QUIET HOLIDAY IN FREDERICTON

Fredericton, July 2.—Dominion Day was the quietest public holiday Fredericton has seen in years, although generally observed as a holiday. In the evening the fire department held a festival, the proceeds of which will go to purchase comforts for nine local firemen on overseas service with the Canadian troops.

Chief of Police John H. McCollom left on Saturday evening for Toronto to attend the annual convention of the Chief Constables' Association to be held there this week. He was accompanied by Mrs. McCollom. The city council refused to pay the chief's expenses to the convention and he decided to make the trip at his own personal expense. Patrolman Marshall is in charge of the force during Chief McCollom's absence.

London, July 2.—The hearing of the appeal of Sir Roger Casement, who on June 29 was found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death for complicity in the Irish rebellion, has been fixed for July 17.

BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS DRIVE GERMANS BEFORE THEM INFLECTING GREAT SLAUGHTER

Two Scottish Regiments Went Through Three Lines of Enemy Trenches Putting Every Man to the Bayonet—The Battle of the Somme Marks Most Critical, if Not Decisive, Phase of War—Allies Capture From 6,000 to 10,000 Prisoners as Result of Two Days Fighting.

Paris, July 2.—The battle of the Somme, now in full progress, marks the opening of the Franco-British offensive long expected as a critical, if not the decisive stage of the war.

Early reports today show that the Entente Allied forces are sweeping forward along a 25 mile front. The French already have taken about 6,000 prisoners, while the Allied lines have enveloped, within the last 24 hours nine villages and fifty square miles of French territory held until now by the Germans.

The fighting lines extend between a great number of small villages which are usually devoted to textile industries, while the outlying agricultural sections are level fields chiefly devoted to beet culture for the extensive sugar production of France.

The intense bombardment of the last four days was the signal for an advance over these fields beginning at 7.30 o'clock yesterday morning. The Allied artillery then lengthened the range so as to cut off all communication between the first German line and the German reserves in the rear. This made it impossible for the Teutons to utilize their perfect organized places for the shifting of troops and for the bringing up of reinforcements. It is thought by French military observers that the Germans miscalculated the intentions of the Entente Allies and expected the attacks further to the north.

FRENCH CAPTURE MANY TOWNS.

The villages which the French captured in the first sweep include Dompiere, Bequincourt, Busu and Fay, and these and the towns taken by the British—Montauban and Mametz—were all found to have been strongly fortified by the Germans. The Allies, profiting from their experience in this war, quickly threw up strong earthworks around the villages thus taken in order to protect them against counter-attacks. It was not before night, however, that the Germans were able to deliver any counter-attack. This was centered against the French position on the outskirts of Hardecourt and it was repulsed with heavy losses, ending in a precipitate retreat.

In addition to the military success the terrain over-run by the Allied troops has an exceptional strategic importance. Four of the towns captured by the French are only seven miles west of Peronne, the chief railway from the German center at Cologne to the German front in the region of Noyon and Soissons.

The German headquarters is at St. Quentin, twenty-five miles southeast of Peronne. Already the French forces threaten Peronne with the evident purpose of cutting the trunk railway there, which is an indispensable artery for German military reinforcements.

STORIES OF BRAVERY.

A correspondent at the front, in describing the capture of Dompiere, says the soldiers of one corps, taking example from their commander, went into battle covered with flowers.

"That," said a general, pointing to a carnation in his buttonhole, "will fade yonder where the Germans are now."

The correspondent continues: "Two regiments covered themselves with glory in the fight for Dompiere, which had been transformed by the Germans into a veritable fortress. In the face of a fire from the machine guns that had survived the bombardment intact they rushed the posts with such impetuosity that the guns were captured before they had time to put their quick fires into action."

"In the streets of the ruined village there was furious hand-to-hand fighting. Of the German garrison defending the town not one man got away. When it was over 140 bodies lay on the ground. The survivors were prisoners."

"The battle flag of one regiment, riddled with bullets, was carried into the village at the head of the first company."

"Two Scotch regiments in the region north of the Somme went over 3 lines of German trenches without a halt, stopping only in

side the village of Montauban, where they put several hundred Germans to the bayonet, and took the entire staff of a regiment prisoner."

Desperate fighting continues around Verdun, and although this field of action is separated by nearly one hundred miles from the fighting in the north, Verdun is considered part of the vast movement now unfolding.

The French have now taken the aggressive at Verdun, today's report shows an attack on Dead Man's Hill, with heavy German losses and the taking of prisoners. The French are thus keeping the Germans fully occupied at Verdun, and are preventing them from sending reinforcements to relieve their weakened line in the north.

London, July 2, 7.45 p. m.—Fricourt, a town three miles east of Albert, the scene of desperate fighting between the British and Germans since the Entente Allied offensive was begun yesterday morning has been captured by the British, according to an official statement issued this evening.

The text of the official announcement says:

"Substantial progress has been made in the vicinity of Fricourt, which was captured by us at 2 p. m. today."

"Up to noon today some 800 more prisoners had been taken in the operations between the Ancre and the Somme, bringing the total up to 3,500, including those captured in other parts of the front last night."

KITCHENER'S ARMIES HAVE REPLACED SMALL FORCE AND HUNS FEEL BRITAIN'S MIGHT

Official Despatches from London Treat Saturday's Big Success as the Beginning of the End—Paris Says 'Twill now be "Long Methodical Drive Until Enemy is Broken" and the End Comes.

London, July 2.—The official British despatches issued today report the continued success of the combined Anglo-French offensive. The Germans put into operation strong counter-attacks during the night and are apparently making desperate resistance, but the British troops have occupied Pricourt and the French have captured Curly and have seemingly nowhere had to yield the ground already gained.

The German lines in some places have been penetrated to a depth of two miles, and the prisoners taken by the French and British in the two days number many thousands.

North of the Somme, where the French and British armies are making contact, various points of technical value have been taken. The Allied struggle is to extend the hold over three rolling plateaus of from three to five hundred feet high, which stretches around Albert. At Pricourt, Contalmaison and Gommecourt the Germans made a most desperate resistance with a view to defending the high road which extends from Arras to Bapaume and Peronne and which is one of the main arteries of the western operations.

The German official report generally confirms the success of the first day's British operations, admitting the withdrawal of the Germans from their first line trenches and the abandonment of heavy material therein.

British Public Quietly Enthusiastic.

The British public still displays the same quiet enthusiasm, determination and confidence, fully understanding that no great drive like that carried out by the Russian commander, Gen. Brusiloff is possible against the depth, strength and rail power of the formidably organized German front, and that great sacrifices and possible setbacks must be prepared for. Many regrets are heard that Kitchener had not lived to see the results of his work. This is the first great battle in which the military legions he created are being put to the test.

Kitchener's armies have virtually replaced the first small expeditionary force sent out under Field Marshal French, which had to sustain the early battles of the war. It is also the first time that a great offensive has been carried out under well organized, coordinated allied strategy, not on the western front alone, but over the whole field of operations, and confidence is felt that the Allied commanders have no intention to risk reckless sacrifices of life for a mere spectacular advance. As one correspondent writes: "There is no longer any attempt to pierce, as with a knife, but a slow, continuous, methodical push, leading to the day when the enemy's resistance will crumble at some point."

Paris, July 2.—"Artillery preparation the violence of which never has been equalled, marked the attack of the Franco-British troops in the joint offensive yesterday," says a semi-official note. "For more than a week, in fact, the continued preparation from the North Sea to Champagne, gave an inkling of it. The British, in particular, in the entire sector they occupied, had been methodically continuing an alternative system of intense bombardments and sounding operations here and there."

"According to the preliminary information, the Allied losses were slight, by reason of the efficiency of the preliminary work, while those of the Germans were said to be quite heavy."

The first day of the offensive is considered to have been fully satisfactory, although not as overwhelming as has happened before in similar operations, but it was extensive and is important, says the note, which adds:

"It is especially important, because it is rich in promise that the effort now is not a doubtful attempt to pierce the line, but rather a long continued drive, which will be methodical and which will economize life."

"It will be exercised from line to line until the day when the enemy resistance, continually hammered, will be broken at some point."

ENGINEERS IN VICKERS PLANT QUIT

5,500 of them Objected to "Dilution of Labor" and Stopped Work.

London, July 2.—A statement issued by the British official press bureau says:

"Five thousand five hundred engineers and allied workers at Vickers, in Barrow-in-Furness, struck over the dilution of labor last Monday. The strikers, regulated by their responsible leaders were threatened, under the Defense of the Realm and the War Munitions Acts. Picketing was prevented, and the public houses were closed. A general resumption of work with dilution of labor began last night."