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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 5 1918

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GERMANS RETIRE ON 150-MILE FRONT

Success of Allied Armies Compels Outflanked Enemy on Western Part of Battle Line to Begin Retrograde Movement From Ypres to Rheims—Debate in the South is Complete, and Germans in the North Also Are Facing a Crisis.

REPARATION AND PUNISHMENT IS DEMANDED OF BOLSHEVIKS

Bolsheviks Responsible for Outrage at Moscow Must Act Promptly or Britain Will Take Speedy Action.

London, Sept. 4.—The British Government has sent a telegram to the Bolshevik Government at Moscow demanding reparation and prompt punishment of those culpable in the attack on the British embassy at Petrograd on Saturday when the embassy was sacked and Capt. Cromie, the British attaché, was killed.

FOUR NIGHT RAIDS ON CONSTANTINOPLE

British Aerial Forces Heavily Bomb Gallipoli and Chanak.

Turk War Office Also Becomes Target for Bombs.

London, Sept. 4.—Constantinople was bombed on four successive nights, the admiralty announced today. The arsenal, the dockyard, the Turkish war office, the airdrome at Galata the airplane base at Gallipoli and Chanak were attacked.

Constantinople was again bombed on the night of Aug. 25-26. The airdrome at Galata and the airplane base at Gallipoli and Chanak were also heavily bombed by British machines in co-operation with a Greek unit.

GERMANS QUIT LENS; GAS HOLDS UP BRITISH

Patrols Entering French Coal City Find It Clear of Enemy.

London, Sept. 4.—The City of Lens has been definitely evacuated by the Germans, according to reports from northern France today.

MEN'S FUR-LINED COATS.

Dixson Company has something very special in Men's Fur-Lined Coats. It is an exceptional opportunity to secure a first-class garment under unusual value.

WHAT BRITAIN DEMANDS OF BOLSHEVIK GOVERNMENT

London, Sept. 4.—In its protest against the sacking of the British Embassy at Petrograd and the killing of Captain Cromie, the British attaché, the British Government declares: "An outrageous attack has been made on the British Embassy at Petrograd; its contents have been sacked and destroyed; Captain Cromie, who tried to defend it, was murdered, and his body barbarously mutilated."

GERMANS MOVE HEADQUARTERS

Transference From Spa, Belgium, to Bonn, Prussia.

CANADIANS ON CANAL ALONG WHOLE FRONT

British Advance Towards Cambrai Lulls Into Series of Patrol Fights.

PARIS PRESS PRAISES VICTORY OF DROCOURT

Paris, Sept. 4.—The French newspapers today appeared with big headlines announcing the British victory on the Drocourt sector.

AMERICANS CAPTURE FOUR MORE VILLAGES

Washington, Sept. 4.—American troops in close pursuit of the Germans retiring north of the Vesle have captured the Villages of Dazoches, Perles, Fiamette and Dasleux, taking prisoners and machine guns, General Pershing reported in his communique for today, received tonight at the war department.

BRITISH PATROLS PUSH FORWARD FRENCH FIGHT DESPERATE BATTLE

Germans Give Way on Whole Front East of Noyon.

CAVALRY JOINS ACTION

French Are Pursuing Enemy and Keeping in Closest Touch.

Paris, Sept. 4.—General Humbert's third army has been fighting a desperate battle for the past two days northeast of Noyon along the line of the Canal du Nord in the neighborhood of Campagne and Geny.

The Germans had resolved to hold on here and had fortified the canal in the most formidable manner with great fields of barbed wire, cemented shelters and defence systems bristling with machine guns hidden behind enormous logs.

The enemy machine gunners had received orders to hold at all costs and die at their posts rather than give ground.

MORHANGE 'DROME THRICE IS BOMBED

Direct Hits Made and Heavy Damage Caused by British.

BLAST FURNACES ALSO

All British Machines Returned Safely From Each of Three Raids.

London, Sept. 4.—An official communication issued by the air ministry says: "On the afternoon of the third instant our squadrons carried out a most successful attack on the hostile airdrome at Morhange. Several hangars received direct hits and two hostile machines on the ground were blown up."

GERMANS GIVE UP BATTLE ON VESLE

Combat Patrols of Allies Closely Follow Withdrawal.

The Germans are now giving ground over the entire 150-mile battlefront from Ypres to Rheims.

Seemingly the question whether the Germans will be able to hold even relatively their present line from Flanders to Champagne is being answered. And the answer apparently is in the negative.

The strategy of General Foch, which imposed upon the Germans the necessity of falling back in Flanders, Artois and Picardy, now likewise is compelling the enemy to withdraw from the Vesle River between Soissons and Rheims northward toward the Aisne in order to avert disaster.

Official War Reports

BRITISH

London, Sept. 4.—The Canal du Nord and the Tortille River have been crossed on a wide front north of Moislains by English and Welsh troops, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

"Despite the natural strength of the enemy's positions, our troops advanced with great dash and courage and carried the Village of a Manacourt and Elricourt. Overcoming the obstacles presented by the canal and river, they made substantial progress on the rising ground to the east."

Further north English and New Zealand divisions have taken Ruyaulcourt and reached the northern outskirts of Havincourt Wood, east of the canal line.

"English troops entered Moeuvres from the north, and the fighting continues here along the old Hindenburg line defences."

"In the course of our advance further prisoners and material have fallen into our hands, including two of three German tanks used by the enemy in an unsuccessful counter-attack on August 31."

"On the Lys front also we made progress at different points."

French Troops Sweep Away Last of Old Noyon Salient

Germans Are Giving Ground Over Entire Front and Will Be Unable To Hold Line From Flanders to Champagne.

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Outflanked on all defensive works along the western part of the battle line and in great danger of a turning movement eastward from the regions of Noyon and Soissons, the German high command at last has been forced to begin the retrograde movement in the Soissons-Rheims sector which the military experts long had predicted would be necessitated thru the successes of the British, French and American armies.

FRENCH

Paris, Sept. 4.—In addition to forcing the Germans to retreat north of the Oise and on the Vesle front, the French made big gains northeast of Noyon, according to the war office announcement tonight.

"Our troops after having broken on the preceding days the stubborn resistance of the enemy, forced him today to retreat to the north of the Oise and on the Vesle front. Between the Canal du Nord and the Oise our advanced elements, on the heels of the enemy rearguards, have gone beyond Libermont and reached the outskirts of Esmerly-Hallon and occupied the Bois de l'Hospital."

Further south our line extends along Freniches, Guiscard, Beaules, Gaudry, Mondescourt, and Appilly. More to the east we crossed the Ailette and reached Marzelle, northeast of Marlicamp.

"Between the Ailette and the Aisne the battle continued on the plateau north of Soissons."

"Menaced on his right flank, the enemy has retired north of the Vesle. We took Bucey-le-Long and Moncel, north of the Aisne."

"Further to the right, our troops having crossed the Vesle on a front of 30 kilometres, advanced beyond Chassemy, Brenelle, Vaubertin, Vauxcres and Blanzay and gained a footing on the northern crest of Baslieux."

Exhausted and Confused, Germans Are Harassed by the British.

More Ground Gained

Northern Part of Hindenburg Line Continues to Be Cleared.

With the British Army in France, Sept. 4.—British troops are on the Canal du Nord virtually along its whole length from Peronne to north of the Arras-Cambrai road, and in the south at two places, where the canal is only about half constructed, at Ruyaulcourt and Moislains, patrols are pushing forward.

Along the canal to the north, however, the enemy is holding the east bank, apparently in great strength, and has been using his machine guns freely all day. Patrols who have ventured anywhere in sight have been heavily fired upon from the opposite bank.

The Germans have destroyed all the bridges and crossings over the canal. Exhausted and in confusion, the enemy is being subjected to heavy shell fire. But the British for the moment are making no attempt to drive him further. It seems quite evident that the Germans intend to make a desperate stand here, in front of the famous Bourlon wood and Cambrai.

Meanwhile the northern part of the Hindenburg line continues to be cleared. The troops are making some progress astride it in a southeasterly direction.

More Ground Gained.

North of Peronne the British have advanced to the east, and while the actions have not been fought with the violence which characterized those in the past four days, being mainly between strong British advanced patrols and German rearguards, additional ground has been gained.

The enemy artillery seems to have stiffened all along the line.

Villages which have been taken at the crest of the advance had previously been evacuated by the enemy. At least one town some of the French inhabitants, including women, managed to hide themselves in the cellars and after enduring several days of shellfire, first from the approaching British, then from the retreating Germans, finally were rescued.

When British patrols approached the Town of Ecourt-St. Quentin three men in civilian clothing emerged to meet them. On the strength of the story they told, the British troops rushed into the town and there found 16 persons, 10 of whom were women, hiding in cellars. They were helped out and came across the battlefield struggling over shell craters, and occasionally menaced by a hail of indirect machine gun fire from the Germans.

Pitiful Procession.

It was a strange and pitiful procession. Both men and women had been evacuated under the domination of the Germans since September, 1914; they had not seen a single allied soldier since then, for this was the first time that the ground in the locality of their village had been out of the possession of the Germans since the beginning of the war.

There were unkempt old Frenchmen, staring at the bare, shell-battered fields and roads alive with troops, and women carrying parcels or limpingly pushing perambulators bearing their few belongings or children across fields where one of the most furious battles of the war had been fought.

They were almost delirious with joy as they threaded their way to the rear between long stretches of guns, ambulances, horses and khaki-clad soldiers. On the road they passed men who had been wounded or killed. The combination of such sights and their grateful emotions at being delivered from the Germans sent tears streaming down their thin cheeks. More than one laughed and cried alternately as they

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