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The Toronto World

TUESDAY MORNING AUGUST 27 1918 VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,803 TWO CENTS

CANADIANS MAKE BIG GAINS DESPITE HEAVY RAINSTORMS

Capture Wancourt and Monchy-les-Preux and Press on Beyond—British Take Towns West of Longueval—German Retirement Continues All Along the Front, While British Troops Overwhelm Enemy Rear Guards in Heavy Fighting.

CANADIANS MAKE BIG GAINS DESPITE HEAVY RAINSTORMS

Complete Capture of Important Towns and Make Progress Beyond—British Pressure Maintained and Line Advanced.

London, Aug. 26.—It was the Canadians who early Monday morning in the new offensive of the British southeast of Arras captured Wancourt and Monchy-les-Preux and pressed on beyond them, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

The statement also records the capture by the British of Montauban and Basentin-le-Grand, respectively west and southwest of Longueval.

The text of the communication follows:

"At 3 o'clock this morning Canadian, Scottish and London troops attacked on both sides of the Scarpe River from Croisilles to the neighborhood of Gavrelle. On the south bank of the river Canadian divisions, attacking with great gallantry, passed rapidly thru the enemy's foremost defences and captured the high ground known as Orange Hill in the first rush of their assault.

"Despite heavy storms of rain the Canadian troops pressed on and at an early hour reached Wancourt and Monchy-les-Preux.

"During the morning the rain ceased. These troops completed the capture of both villages and have made progress beyond them.

"Meanwhile, north of the Scarpe

Scottish troops, advancing once more over the ground on which they fought in 1917, carried the German first defensive system south of Gavrelle, reaching the outskirts of Rouex. The chemical works north of Rouex are again in our possession.

"On the right of the Canadians the Scottish and London troops who, during the preceding days had fought their way toward Croisilles and Heninel, continued their attacks. A'cho they met with vigorous resistance from parties of German infantry and machine gunners, they have made substantial progress and have completed the capture of the high ground between Croisilles and Heninel. In this new sector many prisoners have been taken by us during the day.

"On the southern section of the battlefield our advance has continued on both sides of the Somme. Australian troops have taken Cappy and have made progress east of the village. North of the Somme they have entered Suzanne.

"Further north English troops have pushed forward in the direction of Montauban and Welsh troops have captured Basentin-le-Grand.

"On the remainder of the battlefield fighting has taken place at a number of points. Our pressure has been maintained and our line has been advanced in certain sectors."

Steady Progress Is Made All Day

Canadians Take More Than 1000 Prisoners in Their Drive Along the Arras-Albert-Cambrai Road.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 26, 4 p.m.—With the battlefield widened by a surprise attack in the north, so that it now extends all the way to the River Scarpe, the British again have made steady progress eastward all day long.

The enemy's resistance, offered on many sections, has taken on more and more the aspect of rear-guard actions—stubbornly fought, but nevertheless rear-guard actions.

There are rumors that a counter-attack has been developed by the enemy in an effort to gain the time which he badly needs, as his main roads, especially in the centre of the battle zone, which are required for moving material to the rear, have been broken or are under fire from the British big guns, which have been shored up so that they range far behind the enemy's line.

In many localities the retreating Germans have left strong posts of machine guns supported by single field guns, in an effort to delay the advancing British. These field guns have had no effect.

Cappy, the little town just south of the Somme, was lined with machine guns when the Australians, in the middle of the night and during a driving rainstorm, attacked it. A lone field gun from the rear of the town threatened to do some damage until a daring group circled round and crept upon it from the rear and hurled themselves upon the gunners, killing them. Then, with the assistance of tanks, Cappy was cleared of the live machine gunners, and the Australians pressed on. About the same time Suzanne, almost across the river from Cappy, fell in somewhat the same manner.

doubtedly heavy damage has been inflicted upon men and material here.

It is an interesting feature of the battle that the Mametz Wood, which has been taken and passed, was attacked and captured by the same units of Welsh troops which attacked the position in July, 1916.

South of the Scarpe the Canadians, driving along the Arras-Albert-Cambrai road, have gained more ground and added more than a thousand German prisoners to the British total of prisoners during the day's fighting.

Many letters taken from prisoners and dead indicate that hopeless despair is beginning to prevail on the German side of the line. A letter written home by a German who was stationed in a town which has now been captured, says: "The war has been lost for some time, only those high up are falling to admit it."

The letter added: "Oh, poor Germany! Only the dead at the front have forgotten this swindle."

Another letter said: "This cannot last much longer," while still another German wrote: "Our losses greatly exceed all the drafts. Germany is sure to lose very soon."

It is a fact that many letters taken from prisoners, whether written by them to be posted home or received by them from civilians in the interior, are in the same vein. One German in Berlin chided his brother at the front about making rapid progress to the rear. He then predicted that the war was surely coming to an end and that with the allies then making an economic war, Germany would be ruined. Many of these letters were written before the British began their drive.

FRENCH AID CANADIANS WHO LATER RECIPROCATE

Each Appeals to Other When They Find Themselves in Difficult Positions.

A French Army Headquarters in the Field, Aug. 26.—A certain portion of a line Canadian regiment, 80 per cent of whom spoke French, attacked alongside French troops. Subsequently the Canadians were harassed by the enemy, who was strongly posted in a wood. They appealed for assistance to a French regiment on their flank. The French immediately advanced and completely turned the position. The French regiment shortly afterwards found themselves similarly situated. They appealed to the Canadians, and the latter also immediately attacked and saved the situation. The two regiments in the evening mopped and bivouacked together.

RAID ON CONFLANS.

American Machines Throw Bombs, Causing Enormous Explosion.

With the American Army in France, Aug. 26.—American bombing machines again raided Conflans, Sunday, dropping forty bombs on the railroad yards, despite heavy anti-aircraft fire. All the bombs were well together at the east end of the yards, one causing a big explosion, as if an ammunition car had been hit. The northern edge of the round-house also was struck.

RUDELY SURPRISED BY CANADIAN DASH

Enemy Taken at Disadvantage by Dense Waves of British.

HALF CIRCLE DRAWN

Exit From Bapaume Almost Closed—Town Reported Deserted.

A. British Army Headquarters, Aug. 26.—This morning's attack eastward of Arras carried our battle flank towards the Scarpe at a moment when the eyes of the Germans were turned nervously elsewhere. Consequently the enemy was rudely surprised when, on a equally cloudy morning, dense waves of British swept forward, after a heavy passage has caused the enemy in this place few days to transfer reserves from this region towards the Bapaume sector. This morning's attack has progressed in the most favorable way and at the moment of writing the British are comparatively few prisoners have as yet come back, but this does not convey any indication regarding the character of the fighting.

Canadians and other British troops have carried Monchy-le-Preux. Southward of the Somme, movement in the past 24 hours has been more restricted, but has been intensely active, especially on the part of the Germans, who have been repulsed in numerous counter-attacks and were unable to arrest our program.

Monchy-le-Preux last night we have drawn a half-circle around Bapaume, the exit from which is allowed closed, save toward the Cambrai river. Our air force is doing well. The most striking story of the day is the capture of Miraumont stands as the finest feat to the credit of the First Lancashire Regiment. Canadians participated in the capture of Monchy-le-Preux.

The enemy casualties, official figures show the enemy was subjected, to which the enemy was subjected. Some battalions have been reduced to 100 men and even to 50. The British have been repulsed in numerous counter-attacks and were unable to arrest our program.

GERMANS FORCED BACK IN BATTLE ON SCARPE

TWO VILLAGES TAKEN BY FRENCH IN ADVANCE UPON BANKS OF AVRE

Fresnoy-les-Roye and St. Mard Carried—Six Hundred Prisoners Made by Allies in Operation.

Paris, Aug. 26.—French forces on the Avre have captured Fresnoy-les-Roye and St. Mard. They have also taken more than 600 prisoners, according to the war office announcement tonight.

The statement says: "On both sides of the Avre we carried out two local operations which enabled us to occupy Fresnoy-les-Roye and St. Mard, despite spirited resistance offered by the enemy. Prisoners counted up to the present exceed 600.

"In the Vosges we repulsed several attempts at surprise attacks."

Suburb of Bapaume Has Been Captured

Outskirts of Thillois Also Reached—Carouy is Taken and the British Approach Two Big Towns.

London, Aug. 26.—Reuter's learns that the British have captured a suburb of Bapaume, Avesnes-le-Bapaume, and also Cappy, to the south of the Somme. Suzanne, on the north bank of the Somme, was also captured, and we have reached the outskirts of Thillois. There is an unconfirmed report that we have reached Montauban and the western outskirts of Longueval.

The line which is in our possession now runs as follows: Monchy-le-Preux-Wancourt-western outskirts of Croisilles-St. Leger-Mory-Favreuil-Butte de Warlencourt-Baucourt and L'Abbaye.

We are fighting east and south of Martinpuch and west of Bazentin-le-Petit. We have captured Carouy.

THREE TORONTO MEN WIN MILITARY CROSS

Lieuts. Gwyn, Lamsburier and Ramsden Distinguish Themselves in Raiding Operations.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

London, Aug. 26.—Particulars are being given of the deeds for which the following have received the Military Cross:

Lieut. Roy Bailey of Harrow, Ont., during a raid, the wounded, carried the wounded man back.

Lieut. Gerald Cloutier, Montreal, left a trench with a non-com. and captured two of the enemy.

Lieut. Donald Gwyn, Toronto, showed fearless leadership during a raid.

Lieut. Henry Lamsburier, Dragons, Toronto, during a raid, set fire to all the enemy's dugouts in a trench.

Lieut. George Cruikshank, when about 50 of the enemy attempted to raid his platoon, held them up, capturing four.

Lieut. Herbert Cunningham of the dragons, led a successful raid with great dash.

Sergeant Major Tobin, when all the platoon commanders became casualties, rushed forward in the fourth wave of the attack to assist in leading the men to their final objective.

DEEDS COUNT MORE THAN HATS!

Major Church, Controller Sam McBride and Alderman Sam Ryding appeared before the city's visitors to the fair yesterday with plug hat decorations. They had been much more imposing if the Bloor street viaduct had been opened and our guests from all over been able to ride across Toronto's greatest public improvement and the finest steel bridge in America. They were just as ludicrous in tall hats in war time as they were all three of them in holding back the bridge from service in fair time.

Roly Harris discreetly spent the day in picking up some Italian articles to lay the crosscode blocks on the bridge, keeping away from the three gangs who had got him in wrong. If Mr. Harris speeds up a bit and is more careful in his advisers he may yet let the public see his bridge in use before the fair closes.

CORONER IS ARRESTED FOLLOWING ACCIDENT

Dorothy Parfrey, (12), 82 Nairn avenue, attended the Hospital for Sick Children late last night in a critical condition, and Coroner Dr. W. M. McCormick is under arrest on a charge of negligence following a motor accident in front of the girl's home late last night.

It is said that the girl was struck while she was attempting to cross the street. The hospital authorities stated at 2.30 this morning that the girl's condition was critical. She has severe injuries to the head and the lower jaw is broken.

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VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,803 TWO CENTS

Dozen Villages Captured by New Blow of Field Marshal Haig South of Arras—French Capture Two Points Near Roye.

While the Germans were busily engaged in defending themselves against the attacks of the British and French armies from the Ancre River to the region of Soissons, Field Marshal Haig early Monday morning struck another surprise blow over a new front north of the old battle zone. The new offensive was launched from the east of Arras on the Scarpe River and southward to the Cojeul. All along the front the British pressed forward, at some places to a depth of more than two miles, and captured a half-dozen or more villages, among them Monchy-le-Preux, Guemappe and Wancourt.

Across the Cojeul the new British attacks on the old battlefield brought them the villages of Mory and St. Leger, and farther south—the small town of Favreuil, one and a half miles east of Bapaume, from which the British pressed on eastward about a mile. Farther south the British are reported unofficially to have reached the western outskirts of Thillois in the nipper movement they are carrying out against Bapaume. With Haig's men now standing well within gun range of the town it seems likely that the Germans will be forced to evacuate Bapaume in short order.

Additional gains also have been made by the British east of Albert and on both sides of the Somme River. In fact notwithstanding the efforts of the Germans thru the use of large reinforcements to hold them in check, the British and French all along the line from Albert to Soissons have materially bettered their positions and carried further forward their plan of making the Picardy battleground untenable for the enemy.

FRENCH DRAW BACK ALBANIAN LEFT WING

Slight Withdrawal Enthus After Austrian Attack to Keep Level With Italians.

Paris, Aug. 26.—A French official statement says: "Eastern theatre, Aug. 25.—There was increased artillery activity in the region of Lake Doiran, on both banks of the Vardar and in the neighborhood of Huma. In Albania the Austrians on two different occasions attacked the Franco-Italian positions near the confluence of the Devoll and Tomorica Rivers.

"Our troops repulsed these attacks, and then in conformity with orders withdrew slightly on the left wing in order to maintain liaison with the Italian troops. British aviators bombed enemy bivouacs in the region of Demir-Hissar. A Serbian aviator brought down an enemy machine in the region of Dobropolje."

THE MASSIF OF THE CORNFIELDS.

Fodder corn was planted late in many fields; some had to be replanted; for a time the outlook of full silos was anything but promising. Now it is a miracle in its dark green bending color; its towering height (it grows a foot in two days after rain and scuffling); the thickness of the individual stalks, and the closeness of their massing. If it gets a chance to cob, and it looks that way now, it will be a surprising source of food for the dairy herds of Ontario, and more hay to sell for thirty dollars a ton!

RECONNOITERING ACTIVE UPON ITALIAN FRONT

British and French Raid Austrian Trenches on Asiago Plateau.

Rome, Aug. 26.—The war office announcement today says: "Along the whole front there was considerable activity by our reconnoitering parties. On the Asiago Plateau British and French patrols carried out raids on the enemy's trenches, bringing back prisoners.

"Other prisoners and material were captured by our patrols in the Monte Grappa region and the Piave islets."

MANNHEIM ATTACKED

London, Aug. 26.—Chemical factories at Mannheim and the railway station at Frankfort were successfully attacked Sunday night by the British Independent Air Force, according to an official communication issued tonight.

All the British machines returned safely to their base.