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MONDAY MORNING JULY 3 1916 —TWELVE PAGES

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 13,018

## HOLD ALL GROUND

### British and French Troops Are Consolidating the Positions Captured on Saturday and Sunday and Are Continuing to Advance in Spite of Desperate Resistance By the Enemy---French Troops Took Dompierre, Curly, Becquincourt, Bussus, Frise, Fay and Mereaucourt Wood, While British Took Montauban, Fricourt and Mametz, All Strongly Fortified.

### COUNTER-ATTACKS AGAINST FRENCH AT HARDECOURT EASILY REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSS TO THE ENEMY

#### Four of the Captured Towns Are Only Seven Miles West of Peronne, on the Chief German Railway, and This Town Now is Threatened---Fifty Square Miles of French Territory Held Until Saturday by Germans Has Been Recaptured---British Aeroplanes Brought Down Scores of Enemy Air Craft---Thousands of Prisoners Taken and Thousands More Germans Killed While Allies' Casualties Are Light---First Line of Section of Enemy's Trenches Captured With Loss of Only One Man---Official Reports of Big Drive

LONDON, July 2.—The official British despatches, issued today, reported the continued success of the combined Anglo-French offensive. The Germans put into operation strong counter-offensives during the night and are apparently making desperate resistance, but the British troops have occupied Fricourt 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 thousands.

North of the Somme, where the French and British armies make contact, various points of tactical value have been taken. The allied struggle is to extend the hold over the rolling plateau of from 500 feet high, which stretches around Albert. At Fricourt, 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 Determined and Confident.**

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 possibly 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 earlier battles of the war. It is also the first time that a great offensive has been carried out under well organized, co-ordinated, 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 slow, continuous, methodical push, leading to the day when the enemy's resistance will crumble at some point."

**BY FREDERICK PALMER**

**BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Saturday, July 1.—** Via London, July 2.—The close of the first day's offensive over the longest front the entente allies have attempted, and the most extensive action of the war for the British, finds both the British and French consolidating their gains. South of the Ancre River, where the infantry swept forward, Curly was captured by the French, and Montauban and Mametz were taken by the British with almost unbroken success, the against heavy curtains of fire and delays due to stubborn resistance at some points, and particularly for the British from a German trench called "dancing alley."

Word came back that the destruction by artillery of the first line trenches was so complete that one British bat-

place was visible to the observer before the British opened another artillery attack which seemed to be churning it to dust, making it impossible for any human being to survive even in the strongest redoubt. The British mortars also were busy, the projectiles glinting under the sun as hundreds of them followed one another like the juggler's balls, into the vertex of fire. So swift is the transport that some British wounded may already be in London.

Prisoners are being brought in in batches as they are gathered from the dugouts not destroyed by artillery.

The destruction of six German anaerage-shaped observation balloons by British airman early in the week, evidently was a serious loss, as none had been replaced. It was noticeable that the British aeroplanes over the battlefield greatly outnumbered the German machines.

**German Statement a Lie.**

Indignation was expressed by both the British and the French staffs over the statement in today's German wireless communication that a British air raid over Lille had bombed the Church of St. Saviour. The statement was freely branded by the officers as a lie. Lille, it was pointed out, has been within reach of the British heavy guns for a year, without a bombardment, and that the entente allied machines bombed only railway stations and military points and continue to do so.

Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters in France, suggests that the comparative feebleness of the German artillery in response to the British bombardment, arose from the same cause as the shortage of food in the German trenches, namely, the deadly character of the almost ceaseless British barrage of fire, which for the past week has hampered the German transport service. He warns the British people that although the situation looks promising, too much should not be expected, and adds:

"We are fighting a determined, resourceful foe and the he has now been smitten harder than ever before by the British army. It would be unwise to underestimate his powers of resistance in the face of a highly menacing position."

**Preparations Kept Secret.**

Infinite care and pains had been taken to keep secret the preparations of the great offensive, and the section of the line where the big push was to be made. For many weeks the work went on, with silence required on the part of all officers, but most of them were so limited to their own areas that they did not know what was happening in the others.

At all the messes including the officers', the subject was barred from discussion altho all knew. The only spoken references took place at consultations, and the official orders naturally bore on the matter. Battery emplacements were constructed and batteries were placed in position, and troops were marched up at night with no lights. The soldiers and company officers only understood that they were expected to leave their trenches

at a certain time with a certain objective.

Before the action Gen. Sir Douglas Haig moved his temporary headquarters nearer the front, where the chiefs of his staff departments were at call and reports from all sections came promptly by telegraph and telephone which carried his instructions back to the front, while he was also in touch with French headquarters by telephone.

With the attack beginning at 7.30 in the morning, by 8 o'clock the staff had reports as to whether the different units had already held the first line of German trenches or were advancing beyond. It was known how far each had carried out the part assigned to it. Difficulty in keeping up communications thru the curtains of shell fire and making observations thru the smoke were not the smallest items of the preparations.

**Saw Whole Advance.**

During the bombardment the Associated Press correspondent made a most picturesque journey, working his way forward thru transport reserves on the march to a high point, and had a view of the shelling in the darkness which was probably the most terrible display of fireworks in all times.

Far in the distance those flashes in quick succession are the French 'T's on the hills above the Somme. Other flashes of the same kind far to the north are the British field guns. Nearby, the small calibre made ugly sharp flashes from their muzzles, and the big calibre larger ones, and the missiles go swishing thru the dewy night air and burst in balls of expanding flame.

A flaming sheet is laid across a ridge, and that is the barrage of fire of the German guns anticipating a British attack. Sheets and chains of man-made lightning show trees and buildings, or ruined walls, in weird silhouettes.

As the pieces of German flares slowly rise with dependable, steady illumination between the trenches, green and red and other signal lights add to their variety until the eyes ache and sensations are numbed with the thought of the struggle that is proceeding.

The first batch of wounded from the British front in France arrived at Charing Cross Station this evening. A crowd assembled at the station and the police had considerable difficulty in securing passage for the Red Cross vehicles thru the lines of flag-waving people.

**British Army Rejoices.**

There is rejoicing in the British army at the close of the second day of the battle of the Somme, over the taking of Fricourt, which the capture of Mametz and Montauban yesterday left as a sharp German salient. The British guns surrounded it with curtains of fire, and, after a heavy pounding, the British troops rushed thru the debris, taking the surviving prisoners at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Later they stormed Fricourt wood, and from the neighboring hill it could

be seen that the Germans, as they were forced from the wood, were holding up their hands in surrender.

Included in the same panorama was the bombardment of LaBoiselle, followed by a British infantry attack. When it faced the machine guns, which the artillery had not reached, the line advanced unwaveringly into the German positions and was lost to view. The possession of Fricourt and the wood means command of the ground toward Bapaume, and the German guns, which had been hidden in the valleys of the front, have now been disclosed to the British observers and must withdraw or be put out of action.

North of the Ancre the day was quiet except for violent and and out fighting in the sections of the first line German trenches held by the British. Here the Germans in great force in the day attack kept to their dugouts forty-feet deep during the bombardment. They then rushed out with machine guns to resist the British advance. Ulster troops drove thru the ridge north of Thiepval most gallantly, but were forced to retire before the fire of the machine guns.

The northern attacks yesterday served as a diversion which led to the success at Fricourt today and Montauban the same day. A German counter-attack at Montauban yesterday was moved down by the British machine guns.

The weather was fair and hot today, merciful to the wounded. There are many tales of heroism. Scotch pipers played their regiment to the charge. A private of 18, when all the officers of his company had been killed, came on and captured a machine gun.

Many German dead are lying on the ground taken by the British at Montauban and Mametz, and the British litter bearers were busy today bringing in the German wounded.

**What the Papers Say.**

The London papers in their editorials deal with the situation on the British front in somewhat reserved fashion, some of them pointing out that it is not yet known whether this is really the long-awaited "big push" or only another feat in greater force than any of the previous movements.

The Graphic remarks: "Our bombardment is still being maintained along the whole front, and the enemy does not know whether we may not at any moment rush another stretch of line. The necessity of sending adequate reinforcements to cope with the situation may necessitate the Germans

(Continued on Page 6, Column 6).

**MEN'S HATS FOR EVERY OCCASION.**

The enormous choice in summer headwear for men at Dineen's, 140 Yonge street—should influence many every man to visit this well-known store. Straws and panamas are selling freely at from \$2 to \$5 for straws, and \$5 to \$15 for panamas. There is a wealth of variety in hats and caps for bowling, touring, yachting, golfing and all outdoor recreations. You'll surely find the hat or cap you need at Dineen's.

to have been strongly fortified by the Germans.

The allies, profiting from their experience in the war, quickly threw up strong earthworks around the villages thus taken in order to protect them against counter-attack. It was not before night, however, that the Germans were able to deliver any counter-attack. This was centred 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 territory overrun by the allied troops has an exceptional strategic value. Four of the towns captured by the French are only seven miles west of Peronne, on the chief railway from the German centre at Cologne to the German front in the region of Novon and Soissons.

The German headquarters is at St. Quentin, 25 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.

A correspondent at the front in describing the capture of Dompierre 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 Dompierre, 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 posts with such impetuosity that the Germans were captured before they had time to put their quiklocks into action.

**Furious Fighting.**

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

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

The French have now taken the aggressive at Verdun, today's report showing an attack on Dead Man Hill with heavy German losses, and the taking of prisoners.

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 level fields beginning at 7.30 o'clock Saturday morning. The allied artillery then lengthened their range so as to shut 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 organization of shifting of troops and for the bringing up of reinforcements. It is thought by the French military observers that the Germans miscalculated the intentions of the entente allies and expected the attacks further to the north.

The villages which the French captured in the first sweep include Dompierre, Curly, Becquincourt, Bussus, Frise and Fay and the Mereaucourt wood and these and the towns taken by the British—Montauban, Fricourt and Mametz—were all found