

AUGUST 12 1918

FOR SALE

FACTORY SITE
Dundas St. near Roncesvalles Ave.
150 x 150 to a lane.

PROB. Showers or thunderstorms in some localities, but mostly fair and very warm.

The Toronto World

TUESDAY MORNING AUGUST 13 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,789 TWO CENTS

WITH MOUTH OF POCKET TIGHTENS

Retreating Germans Are Penned in Against the Somme and Are Being Pounded to Pieces by Allies, Who Prepare for Storming of Nesle-Ham Road to Cut Off Enemy, Who Has to Make His Way Thru a Narrow Strip Ten Miles Wide.

GERMANY ON THE DOWN GRADE AND IS HEADED FOR DEFEAT

Morale of Men is Extremely Low as Result of Two Defeats and Enormous Number of Casualties.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 12.—During the lull in the battle there are further indications that the line is hardening. This afternoon Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria seems to have brought in more fresh troops, and while the allied forces are passing their own accord, the enemy within the area of his new battlefield, with the Somme at his back, is having a most uncomfortable time.

The British guns are hammering Chauines, while cannon of larger calibre are coming up all the time and drenching the enemy rear with steel. They are also pounding the Somme at the bridges across the

shelling of the bridges here is a serious matter for the enemy, as bombs from the air are daily being dropped by British airplanes from a low altitude at the bridges in the Peronne district. This bombing has been going on day and night since the battle began, forcing the Germans to divert their transport, so that the general movement was southward and away from the Somme.

At many places along the new front, especially just south of the Somme, the Germans are occupying the old line dugouts built by the French more than two years ago. The Germans have concentrated some artillery at many places and today are sending in more shells than on any day since the battle began, which came into British hands yesterday when Field Marshal Haig's men stormed the place after having been driven out in a counter-attack, was being heavily shelled today.

A party of cavalry, charging down the Roye road, ran into the line of large German pill boxes studded with machine guns just this side of Roye and received a check, but the Germans who happened to get the opportunity to do this execution paid the extreme penalty later.

Resistance Stiffens. Today the resistance by the enemy has been softening progressively, but his troops appear to be nervous and apprehensive of what the future holds out for them and what the allies intend to do. In the same fighting the allied forces it is expected that further heavy counter-attacks may be launched by the enemy.

Stories of the air fighting over the battle line are amazing. One observer coming in to his station shot down four machines. In the same fighting a British pilot chased one enemy plane to earth and was swooping down to finish off his antagonist when the man climbed out of his machine and held up his hands in token of surrender.

"So I didn't kill him," the British pilot said. "I shot him down and got a group of enemy machines and got a bullet in me, but managed to land inside our lines."

The report of this incident ends with the statement that the pilot died in a hospital shortly after relating his story.

There are dozens of thrilling tales of how machine after machine, skimming close to the ground, fired point blank into bodies of enemy troops, killing a great many, in spite of the fire from the ground, and how they wiped out the crews of enemy machine guns holding up the allied advance. They also effectively attacked the poorly constructed German tanks before they ever had a chance to get into action.

Prisoners from fresh Prussian and Bavarian divisions have been captured in the last few hours. The morale of these men is extremely low, a great many of them expressing the opinion that Germany, twice badly beaten in recent weeks and perhaps having further defeats in store for her, is on the down grade, headed for defeat.

Whenever possible, many of course, will find their homes, but others which were within range of the German guns before the allied offensive were knocked to pieces by shell fire.

The contrast between the number of prisoners taken and the allied casualties is regarded as remarkable. For instance, the casualties of the entire allied force were considerably less than the total prisoners taken. When it is understood that this battle has not been waged for the purpose of taking prisoners, the casualties inflicted on the Germans must have reached a large figure.

FRENCH ADD 2000 PRISONERS AND 30 GUNS TO CAPTURE

Crown Prince Rupprecht Hurries Up Part of Diminishing Forces to Check Retirement.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 12.—In yesterday's fighting the French added 2000 prisoners and more than 30 guns to their captures. There was stiff fighting today, Crown Prince Rupprecht having hurried up part of his diminishing reserves to try to check the retirement of the armies of Generals von der Marwitz and von Hutier. The greatly increased weight of the enemy's artillery and machine gun fire was proof of the rapid strengthening of his reinforcements.

CANADIANS TAKE 9000 MEN, 150 GUNS, GAIN 13 MILES

All Ranks in Best of Spirits and They Are Simply Irresistible, Says General Currie.

London, Aug. 12.—Sir Edward Kemp has given out the following statement: "Reports up to last night regarding the work of the Canadian corps in the present offensive further emphasize and confirm the extent of their successes. The corps' prisoners now total 9,000, with over 150 guns captured. The depth of the corps' advance at its maximum point is over 13 miles. The activities of the past three days have been on the scene of the old Somme battle ground, where the ground is fully traversed by the old trenches and other defensive works, making the operations of our tank units, motor machine gun companies, cavalry and infantry more difficult, thus accounting for the slowing down of the early advance. All ranks of the corps are in the best of spirits, and in the words of the corps commander, who is highly enthusiastic, they are simply irresistible."

SPLENDID SUCCESS

C. A. P. Cable.

London, Aug. 12.—General Foch, thanking Sir Robert Borden for his telegraphed congratulations, heartily applauds the splendid success of the Canadians in the current offensive.

Replying to Sir Edward Kemp's message of congratulations, Gen. Sir Arthur Currie wires: "Our men are irresistible and the team play is splendid."

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ENEMY LEFT IN BAG WITH MOUTH CLOSING

Canadians Repel Strong Counter-Attack, Putting Germans to Flight--To Avoid Frontal Assault on Somme Battlefield.

With the Canadian Forces in the field, Aug. 12.—The Canadian advanced line has been practically static since Saturday evening. Yesterday the enemy, having brought up fresh troops, made a strong counter-attack upon our sector, but the Canadian infantry was too much for him and he retired precipitately, leaving many dead upon the field. It is, however, a fundamental error and an injustice to our own men to describe the enemy as of weakened morale or to say that his rank and file surrendered freely. They surrendered in large droves on Thursday, because our barrage was behind them, and our cold steel upon them, while they lack entirely any adequate artillery support. These long files of prisoners swinging sullenly over duty roads to our rear by no means exhibit any army played out. In fact, they are fleshy and well clothed. Certainly, they are a somewhat heterogeneous lot, fair-haired men of the north, darker races of southern Germany, Jews, and what appear to be some Slavs. But in equipment and everything that goes to make the physical soldier, they are equal to the best. The obscure story of the look is another matter. They had the look of beaten men. It is not permissible as yet to tabulate the long list of prisoners, guns, heavy and light, and the miscellaneous booty that fell to the Canadians; but it is safe to say that these figures, when published, will satisfy the most sanguine expectations of the Canadian people.

This battle, planned for a limited front, has a far repercussion. Being, however, Amiens has been definitely relieved, but with it, too, are relieved Montdidier and a great slice of country to the south. The advance of our gallant allies north from the line of the Matz River is of great significance. It leaves the enemy in a bag, the string of whose mouth has fast been tightening. Immediately in front of us is the old battlefield of the Somme, pitted with ancient trenches which provide splendid hiding places for enemy machine gunners. Obviously, a direct frontal attack here, at this moment, might prove costly and the object of our leaders is the conservation of manhood in so far as is compatible with successful warfare.

During the past two days the Canadian corps has had the honor to receive several distinguished visitors, who have congratulated it on its splendid work. Among these have been Sir Douglas Haig and Premier Clemenceau.

Sir Douglas rode along the Canadian battlefield, stopping to speak to officers and men at Canadian headquarters. He complimented Sir Arthur Currie, not only on the achievement of the corps, but also on the wonderful spirit animating his men, battle-weary after three days of savage fighting, yet who only desire to be let loose again on the Boche.

MASSIF OF LASSIGNY WILL FALL TO ALLIES

Important High Ground Northeast of Gury Will Be Wreathed From the Germans.

London, Aug. 12.—The Massif of Lassigny, three miles northeast of Gury, in Picardy, was expected to be in the possession of the allies of the nightfall, according to military opinion based on the latest news from the front. It was stated that the allies virtually were of the crest of the high ground, and firing into the Germans from the rear.

It has been ascertained that there is one Austrian division on the western front, but it has not yet been brought into action.

GERMANS CAUGHT INSIDE A POCKET

Areas Held by the Enemy Are Being Shelled Heavily.

FRENCH DOMINATE OISE

Have Sweep of Plains South of Roye With Their Guns.

Altho the Germans are employing fresh forces of reserves in efforts to hold back the allied troops who are pressing them from the region of the Somme to the Oise, the British, French and American armies continue to make progress.

Monday witnessed gains of ground at various points along the battlefield of high importance for the further prosecution of the endeavors of the allies to drive out the Germans from the old Amiens-Montdidier sector.

After an extremely bitter contest the British have gained a foothold in the important little town of Bray-sur-Somme, on the northern bank of the Somme. A short distance across the river, to the south the British have taken Fresnoy and midway of the line have pressed on to the east of Fouquencourt in a manoeuvre which has resulted in the further outflanking of Chauines from south and of Roye from the north.

On their part, the French, in the rolling country immediately north of the Oise River, have captured Gury, a position of great strategic value lying southwest of Lassigny, and at several other points southward to the region of the Oise. Here advanced their line further toward Noyon.

More Prisoners. In Monday's fighting hundreds of additional Germans were made prisoner, and the enemy also lost heavily in men killed or wounded. Unofficial reports give the number of Germans captured during the present offensive as in the neighborhood of 40,000.

The Germans at last accounts were still throwing reinforcements to the east of the road running thru Chauines, Roye and Noyon, the passage of which by the allies would seriously menace all the German forces inside the pocket formed by the Somme on the north and the east, and the Oise on the south. Not alone are the allies endeavoring to press their advantage by frontal attacks, but they have drawn up to their back lines of guns of medium and heavy calibre, and with these they are heavily shelling the areas held by the Germans, even as far back as Bethencourt, which lies on the Somme seven and a half miles east of Chauines. Meantime allied airplanes continue to bomb German positions and to use machine guns from low altitudes on troop formations.

To Sweep Roye Plains. Seemingly the advances by the French troops on the southern part of the line cannot but have an extremely important effect on the present battle. The hill positions they have gained not alone dominate the Oise valley running northward to Noyon, but around Lassigny also, give them a sweep of the plains south of Roye.

From the Amiens-Montdidier sector little fighting has taken place on any of the fronts. Along the Vesle the Germans again have delivered violent counter-attacks against the Americans and French who are holding ground on the north bank of the stream. As a previous occasion when the enemy attempted to dislodge the allied troops the counter-attacks failed.

FURTHER PROGRESS IS MADE TWO COUNTER-ATTACKS FAIL

French Take Town of Gury, Eight Miles From Roye.

GERMAN ATTACKS FAIL

Attempts to Regain Ground on the Vesle Are Repulsed.

Paris, Aug. 12.—French troops have captured the town of Gury, about eight and a half miles south of Roye, according to the French official communication issued tonight. Two counter-attacks against the positions held by the French and Americans on the Vesle River, near Fismes, have been repulsed. The text of the communication follows:

"Between the Ayrre and the Oise our troops have captured the village of Gury. We have made some progress to the north of Roye-sur-Matz and Chervinourt.

"On the Vesle front we have repulsed two violent counter-attacks against our positions on the north bank of the stream in the region of Fismes."

ALLIES' ADVANCE IS SLOWING DOWN

Fresh German Divisions Replace Regiments Broken by First Shock.

BIG DEFENSIVE BATTLE

Von Hutier Must Fight the Threatened British Advance on Amiens Road.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 12.—There was a lull over the battlefield this morning. On the front of the French first and third armies the enemy was endeavoring to establish himself on the line of Roye-Lassigny and the French were in contact with him along the greater part of this line which runs about two miles in front of Roye and three miles in front of Lassigny. The line extends from Anchezy, close to the Amiens-Roye road, thru Dancourt, and Tillois and on to Gury.

The enemy's reserves now are taking a vigorous part in the battle which is over terrain that was covered by the German offensives in March and May of this year. The first three days of irresistible allied advance is slowing down as the enemy's fresh divisions replace the broken regiments that met the first shock. The army of General von Hutier, with 242 regiments on the Massif of Thieucourt and on the Oise at Noyon, is sufficiently well placed for a defensive battle to repel the threat of a further advance by the British along the Amiens-Roye road.

JAGODINA BRIDGEHEAD GIVEN UP BY ENEMY

Rome, Aug. 12.—The war office statement issued today says: "Along the whole front the fighting activity has been moderate. North of Col dei Rosso our patrols forced the enemy to retire from an advanced post.

"Five hostile airplanes were downed by us. In Albania, Saturday, we forced the enemy to evacuate the Jagodina bridgehead and to pass to the right bank of the river. Northwest of Berat, Sunday, we repulsed hostile parties."

REPULSED AT FISMES.

Washington, Aug. 12.—"Along the Vesle hostile attacks in the vicinity of Fismes were repulsed with severe losses to the enemy," General Pershing reported in today's communique.

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTS ON NEW ALLIED FRONT

Germans Defending Ground Inch by Inch, Intent on Saving Retreating Armies.

Paris, Aug. 12.—There has been desperate fighting during the last two days on the Chauines-Roye-Lassigny-Noyon front. The Germans are defending the ground inch by inch, intent on saving the bulk of the armies of Generals von der Marwitz and von Hutier, which are retreating in the direction of Nesle and Ham.

The allied pressure has not been diminished, but the Germans have brought up reserves which had been intended for offensive purposes and have thrown them into the defensive action, temporarily delaying the progress of the allies.

Solid occupation by the allied infantry and artillery of Chauines and Roye would be a critical situation for the Germans in their retreat. Light elements of cavalry and cyclists already have penetrated both points, but permanent occupation by the allies and their control of the roads leading to Nesle and Ham have not yet been obtained. The objectives undoubtedly will have to be taken by storm.

Two Enemy Airdromes Have Been Captured

Prisoners Taken Are From Fresh Prussian and Bavarian Divisions.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 12.—Two enemy airdromes and more prisoners have been captured by the allies. The prisoners are from fresh Prussian and Bavarian divisions and have been taken during the past few hours.

FORCES OF CANADA PLAY LARGE PART

Extent of Advance With Captures Exceed Early Anticipations—Objectives Gained.

Ottawa, Aug. 12.—The following cable was received today by the department of public information from Sir Edward Kemp, minister of overseas military forces:

"Official reports received today emphasize the prominent part played by the Canadian forces in the present offensive. The extent of the advance and captures of prisoners and war materials are greater than anticipated in earlier reports.

"All objectives were achieved and held. These gratifying results were obtained with very moderate casualties."

Sir Edward Kemp has despatched the following telegram to the Canadian corps commander, Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Currie:

"My heartfelt congratulations to yourself, the corps, and other attached Canadian units, including cavalry and motor machine gun brigades, on the greatest success in the history of the Canadian forces. Canadians have more than maintained their past splendid record, and Canada will be proud to share with them and their glorious achievements."

FRANKFORT RAIDED

London, Aug. 12.—An official communication issued by the air ministry tonight, dealing with bombing and raiding operations, says that despite the unfavorable weather, British airplanes successfully attacked an airfield and chemical works at Frankfort. Other squadrons attacked the railways at Metz and an airdrome at Aachen.

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