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The Toronto World

"WE HAVE RETAKEN ALBERT"

French and British Gains Continue

Germans Retire in Disorder Before Successful Advance of Allied Troops—Galloping Cavalry Clears Open Fields and Hundreds of Tanks Follow Everywhere—Scores of Villages Taken—Enemy Must Retreat to the Hindenburg Line.

MIGHTY WEDGE IS DRIVEN BETWEEN GERMAN ARMIES

Noyon is Now All But Enveloped and Important Town of Laon Will Shortly Be Outflanked, Forcing German Retirement From the Vesle River.

THE German battle line in France is still crumbling under the impetus of the attacks of the French and British.

From the region of Soissons around the curve in the front to the vicinity of Lassigny the enemy has been visited with further heavy defeats, while farther north, between the Somme River at Bray to the south of Arras, Field Marshal Haig's men have continued their victorious thrusts.

On no sectors of the front have the Germans been able to stay their feet, who have captured a large number of additional towns and strategic points which in the further prosecution of the offensive are of the utmost strategic value. Nowhere is the enemy being permitted to pause for breath. The armies of Haig, Mangin and Humbert are pressing their advantage with a strength that brooks no denial of their efforts.

Thousands of prisoners, numerous guns and machine guns and large stores of war supplies have been added to the stocks already in allied hands as trophies for their valorous work since the tide of battle was turned against the enemy by the commencement of General Foch's offensive on the Marne, July 18. To the British alone in the past two days have come more than 5,000 prisoners.

Under the further progress of the French armies from the vicinity of Lassigny to Soissons a mighty wedge seemingly has been driven in between the armies of General von Boehn and the German crown prince. Over the entire front the Germans have been further pushed back, at some distances from two to three miles, and in the retrograde movement the enemy was forced to abandon large numbers of guns. Noyon is now all but enveloped, and the hill and wooded country in this vicinity almost cleared of the enemy. The Divette River has been crossed and both the Oise and the Ailette rivers have been crossed, and the onward thrust of the French of the eastern end of the line from Soissons northward seems likely to bring about shortly the outflanking of the important town of Laon and the forced retirement of the Germans from the Vesle River northward across the Aisne.

Viewed in all its aspects, the allied offensive seemingly shows that General Foch has taken the initiative entirely in his own hands and that he purposes to press his advantage for the little more than two months of good fighting weather that remain before the winter season sets in. Indeed, it is not improbable that he may elect to keep after his quarry even when the cold descends. The Germans nowhere are standing with their usual zeal, and Foch now has a greatly strengthened army.

Desperate resistance has been offered to the further eastward advance of the British in the sector immediately south of Arras, where the important railroad town of Bapaume seems to be the immediate objective. Particularly fierce fighting occurred at Achiet-le-Grand, but also the town changed hands many times, the advantage belonged to the British at last accounts. Further important penetrations of the enemy line had occurred, and the British were operating west to the east of the Bapaume-Arras railway.

GERMANS RUN BEFORE FRENCH WITH COLUMNS IN CONFUSION

Gen. Mangin's Men Approach Coucy Forest and Widen Their Hold on Oise—Gen. Humbert's Troops Capture Thiescourt and Height of Plemont.

General Mangin's troops also are pressing the enemy vigorously, having occupied the height of Plemont, just south of Lassigny, which they surrounded yesterday. They have captured Thiescourt, which completes the conquest of the group of hills known as the Thiescourt Massif. The enemy now has only a precarious hold on the valley of the Divette River, in which French cavalry is now operating.

Several thousand prisoners have been taken since Wednesday evening, and trophies in such great quantities that thus far it has been impossible to count them also have been captured. General Mangin's troops advanced seven miles during the night, and this morning were rushing the enemy's rear-guard so energetically that the retreating columns were thrown into confusion.

Another Advance is Made By the British on the Lys

Attack North of Bailleul Throws Line Forward and 5000 Prisoners Are Taken.

London, Aug. 22.—The following official communication dealing with the operations on the western front, supplementing Field Marshal Haig's communication, was issued tonight:

"Our troops have made further progress on the left bank of the Ancre south of Beaucourt. North of the Ancre the enemy has counter-attacked heavily during the day at a number of points. "After the repulse of one hostile assault early this morning in the Miraumont sector, the enemy again attacked in this locality later in the day and entered our positions. He was at once counter-attacked and driven out by our troops. "Northwest of Achiet-le-Grand also the enemy succeeded during the morning in pressing back our forward posts, but once more our counter-attack re-established our position and we took 200 prisoners. Other hostile attacks east of Courcelles and east of Moyenneville were in each case repulsed. "The number of prisoners taken by us today and yesterday in our operations between the Somme and Moyenneville is more than 5000. "On the Lys front our troops have made progress east of Meriville and in the direction of Neuf Berquin, where they are in close touch with the enemy. Several prisoners and a few machine guns have been taken by us in this sector. We carried out a successful local operation this morning north of Bailleul, advancing our line on a front of about 1 1/2 miles and capturing several prisoners. A raid attempted by the enemy early this morning in the neighborhood of Diekebusch was repulsed."

FOUR THOUSAND GERMANS TAKEN

Count Steadily Increased by Army of General Byng.

COUNTER CRUSHED

Battalion of Enemy Wiped Out—Advance on Bailleul.

With the British Army Headquarters in the Field, Aug. 22. Evening.—The position on the evening of Wednesday, when the battle subsided between Moyenneville and Baucourt, was that we had despatched ourselves along nearly the whole of the railway between these places. Except along the Miraumont sector, which was strongly garrisoned, our line ran along the eastern slope of the contour between which and the Ancre the town was situated. We had again back in the vicinity of Achiet-le-Grand, to the west of the railway skirting it, and were maintaining a heavy machine gun barrage upon the enemy, who had concentrated hereabouts at Beaugard, between Miraumont and Puisseux. "After much sharp fighting the place, having changed hands successively, finally came into our possession. Thence the line bent east of Achiet-le-Grand to the railway which follows northwards. "During the night the enemy bombarded and bombed our positions, but their work was child's play compared to the performances of our guns and our airmen. "This morning at dawn the situation was fairly quiet. Shortly after sunrise a counter-attack developed towards the two flanks of our advanced line, similar to the attack against the Guards division by a battalion of the 12th German division, which was so successfully repulsed that the enemy force was wiped out. None of these counter-attacks was pushed home with great strength or determination, nor have they anywhere been the direct cause of our giving up ground. "An operation launched on high ground between Albert and Bray was eminently successful, over a thousand prisoners being taken and making a total with General Byng's captures of the 21st, about 4,000 in all. "In Flanders we are steadily advancing towards Bailleul. Our casualties have been very light.

ENEMY GIVEN NO TIME TO WRECK OISE BRIDGES

Important River Crossed By French in Pursuit of Germans.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 22.—So hot on their heels was the French advance guard that the Germans had no time to destroy the bridges behind them over the Oise. Some of these were found intact. Others were only partially destroyed. "While the German rear-guard was making a last stand to protect the crossing of the stream, long lines of wagon trains could be seen across the river encumbering the roads leading to the north. "All indications point to a record-breaking attendance at the coming Exhibition. Already visitors are arriving in increased numbers, and all the old down town firms are adding to the beautiful stock of furs now displayed in that department. As a matter of fact, many are already taking advantage of this extra assortment of improved styles to pick out the one desired and place their order for later delivery. The Dineen Company looks forward to this season of the year as a time for renewing old acquaintances and making new friends.

EXHIBITION VISITORS ARRIVING

then pushed eastward at various points. They occupied Hamelincourt trench, well to the east of the embankment and were reaching out similarly at other points at the same time beating down desperate attacks launched by the enemy in an effort to regain his valuable lost positions. "A counter-attack this afternoon north of Courcelles was completely broken down by the British before the Boche gained a single foot of ground, despite his evident determination to do so. The value of the positions along the embankment can readily be seen. The country is flat and the railroad runs along the top of a high made-to-order ridge, which overlooks and controls considerable shell-cleaned ground on either side of it. "Fierce Fighting. "To the south from Achiet-le-Grand to the Ancre, the armies in battle have been sweeping backwards and forwards, attacks and counter-attacks being repeated again and again. British patrols have been in Miraumont, but at the moment it appears that the British lines are actually a few hundred yards west of that town, in the neighborhood of Beaugard and Dovecote, on the road between Miraumont and Puisseux-au-Mont. "On the northern half of the battlefield the British stormed the enemy positions and captured them inflicting terrible losses on the enemy. They

WHOLE OF THEIR OBJECTIVES TAKEN ON A SIX-MILE FRONT

In Addition to Recapturing Albert, British Troops Advance Two Miles, Take More Than 5000 Prisoners in Two Days and Beat Off Persistent Counter-Attacks.

LONDON, Aug. 22.—The Town of Albert, 18 miles northeast of Amiens, on the Ancre River, has been recaptured by the British, who also have obtained all their objectives in the fighting today between Bray-sur-Somme and Albert, according to the official communication from Field Marshal Haig tonight. Over the six-mile front the British advanced two miles. "The text of the communication follows: "In our attack between Bray-sur-Somme and Albert we have been completely successful, capturing the whole of our objectives at an early hour and advancing two miles on a front of more than six miles. "We have retaken Albert. "There was considerable resistance at certain points, especially on the slope north of Bray, the town itself not forming a part of our objective. "We have captured over five thousand prisoners in two days. "We captured in Albert 1400 prisoners and a few guns. "In counter-attacks in the Miraumont sector the enemy entered our positions, but was driven out again. The same thing happened northeast of Achiet-le-Grand. Hostile attacks east of Courcelles and east of Moyenneville were also repulsed."

NUMEROUS VILLAGES NORTH OF SOISSONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN THE FRENCH DRIVE

Divette River Reached From Its Mouth to Evricourt and Lines Carried to the Outskirts of Quierzy.

PARIS, Aug. 22.—Numerous villages running northwest of Soissons have been taken by the French, whose drive along the whole front continues, according to the war office announcement tonight. The most important of the places captured is Pommiers. The statement says: "Our troops continue to advance along the whole front. We have reached the Divette River from its mouth as far as Evricourt. We have carried our lines to the outskirts of Quierzy. "We have occupied St. Aubin, Selens, Bagneux, Epagny, Bleux, Vauxreux and Pommiers. The material abandoned by the enemy between the Aisne and the Oise is considerable. More than 200 cannon have been counted since Aug. 20.

BRITISH IN FIERCE FIGHTS FROM ARRAS TO SOMME

Two Armies Threaten to Pocket Germans and Already Have Taken Thousands of Prisoners—Streams of Machine Gun Bullets Wither German Ranks—British Losses Light.

WITH the British Army in France, Aug. 22, 3:30 p.m.—There has been fierce fighting today along a large section of the British front, to the south of Arras virtually thru to the River Somme. "Again the British have been victorious. The battle north of the Ancre raged all day long, while ten thousand yards to the south another British force, which crossed the Ancre during the night and opened an attack at daybreak, was driving steadily into the enemy positions on the high ground between Bray-sur-Somme and Albert, and had already captured a thousand prisoners. "The Germans are retreating from the section between the two points where the British armies are hammering them and where they are threatened with being left in a pocket. The town of Albert has fallen into the hands of the British, who are pressing the enemy hard. "Along the Arras-Albert railway embankment and on both sides of it heavy fighting continues. "Storming Positions. "On the northern half of the battlefield the British stormed the enemy positions and captured them inflicting terrible losses on the enemy. They

the Germans launched another vicious counter-attack against the British positions on the outskirts of Miraumont, but after sharp fighting were driven off. In the face of streams of bullets from blazing machine guns the German ranks withered or were dispersed. "The British are still west of Achiet-le-Grand, but patrols have been in the town. The Boche counter-attacks here, as well as at Miraumont, were carried out by fresh troops, which have been seen rushing forward from the rear in an effort to relieve General Otto von Below's harassed seventeenth army. "Enemy's Back to Ancre. "At Achiet-le-Grand the attacks were in such strength that the British retired for a short distance from the outskirts of the town and contented themselves for the time being with pouring bullets into the enemy forces, who in their eagerness to win something, no matter how small rushed right into the centre of the target formed by the town. "Southwest of Miraumont the British at latest reports, had the enemy with his back to the River Ancre. "Tanks have been working well to the front of the British lines almost

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