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FRIDAY MORNING AUGUST 30 1918

VOL. XXXVIII—No. 13,806 TWO CENTS

BAPAUME TAKEN, PERONNE OUTFLANKED
FRENCH OVERRUN SOUTHERN PICARDY

British Capture All Important Defences of the Somme Battlefield, While French Take Line of Canal Du Nord--Americans, Aided by Tanks, Take Juvigny, Near Sois- sons--Belgians Advance on Langemarck Road, Inflicting Heavy Losses.

DRAMATIC DRIVE BY TANKS HELPS AMERICANS TO GAIN
WHOLE BRITISH LINE ADVANCES FROM THILLOY TO BRIE CROSSING

German Lines Fall Back Over Juvigny Plateau After Being Swept by Fire From Heavy Guns and Long Range Naval Guns.

With the American Army on the Vesle Front, Aug. 29.—Accompanied by a fleet of tanks and covered by a heavy artillery barrage, the Americans swept forward early today against the German lines that, slowly and reluctantly fell back over Juvigny plateau. The little operation carried out yesterday by the French and Americans had been merely preparatory to the attack which began at 7 o'clock this morning. The link had been taken out of the line yesterday, but no determined effort was made to advance to any extent. The firing was continuous throughout the night on both sides, the German guns being especially active. The rains of the early evening ceased before the ground had been converted into mud, so when the orders were given today, the men moved forward unimpeded. The German positions were shelled most vigorously by heavy guns, mortars and light pieces, firing almost point blank, as well as by long range naval guns, which searched the positions far and near. And then the infantry advanced. Up over the plateau the infantrymen went towards Juvigny and across

of the path up to the little place, smashing down one machine gun nest after another, in spite of the employment by the Germans of their new tank gun, a sort of super-Mausier. This gun is virtually identical with the Mausier, except that it fires a bullet a little more than half an inch in diameter. This, it is calculated, can pierce the tank and possibly injure some vital part of the engine. But in the path of the advancing machines there now lie broken or smashed into the earth scores of these guns. There is unquestioned mastery of the air by the allies along this front. It has been misty this morning and there was little effective aerial work, and practically none by the Germans. Above the lines the allied planes were seen all forenoon, attempting to conduct observations in spite of the murky atmosphere, and occasionally a German plane dared to dart thru, but in every case it was forced to retire hastily. Only a few prisoners are reported as yet, the Germans apparently seeing to it that only machine gun crews should be sacrificed.

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"THIS, OUR GREATEST VICTORY"
General Currie, in Message to Premier, Ascribes it to "Splendid Discipline and Leadership and Indomitable Courage and Morale."

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—"This, our greatest victory"—the phrase occurs in a message which Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, commander of the Canadian corps in France, has sent to the prime minister in response to a telegram of congratulations. Sir Arthur Currie's message reads: "Your kind message of congratulations is greatly appreciated by myself and the forces under my command. To the splendid discipline and leadership, the indomitable courage and morale of the fighting force, and to the co-operation of all services under the marked efficiency of all the staff, this our greatest victory, is undoubtedly due. With such a combination, I am confident that we shall be able in the future to accomplish even greater things toward the attainment of those principles for which we are fighting and the establishment of a firm and lasting peace."

Desperate Fighting Proceeds South of Scarpe for Purpose of Straightening Out Front--Only Four Miles Remains to Traverse Till Untouched Country is Reached From Arras.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 29.—The British forces gained additional ground today. There has been hard fighting in the Scarpe region, where the German resistance is being sustained regardless of cost in an effort to save their Drocourt-Queant line. As a matter of fact the line is still intact, but this is solely because the British have not actually carried out any assaults against it. In the operations today there was desperate fighting, this for the purpose of straightening out the British line and pushing closer to the enemy positions. Individual Germans in this locality, as at other places, are showing increased dislike for the war that is going against them. But in a body and under watchful eyes of their officers, who, incidentally, have been forced to shoot some of the men for refusing to obey orders, the enemy is offering the stiffest resistance.

South of the Somme the Germans are retreating before the Australians. The French to the south having re-occupied the banks of the Somme back waters, the Australians are engaged in clearing the enemy from the small bit of ground remaining to him west and south of the river within the angle created by its course. Bapaume has virtually been surrounded for several days. British patrols having been in its western outskirts, and it has just unofficially been reported to have fallen. Towns Captured. South of Bapaume the battle continues. This afternoon the British were east of Maurepas and Comblès, while Ghéchy and Guillemont have been stormed and captured. The British are pushing on. Other British troops this afternoon beat down the opposition and are moving thru Thillois, just south of Bapaume. The whole British line here seems to be on the move. The Germans are falling back, leaving large numbers of machine guns on the ground, out of which they are being pushed. By this movement the British are thrusting out with the object of making their lines conform with those in the north with respect to the old Hindenburg line. By reason of the fact that the line shoots off to the northwest, the troops up near the Scarpe reached its continuation, in the shape of the Drocourt-Queant switch, earlier than the other divisions. Straightening Line. In the north heavy fighting is in progress on both sides of Bullecourt and in front of that town. From south of Bullecourt all the way to the Scarpe the operations are aimed at straightening the line and gaining ground. Villers-Carbonnel and Bar-lez have been taken. Within the past 24 hours the Germans have launched several heavy counter-attacks, fresh troops being employed. In every case except one the enemy was beaten back with terrible losses, gaining no ground whatsoever. The one exception was a counter-attack south of Gevresille, north of the Scarpe, where the Germans managed to penetrate the British lines. But they did not remain there long, for they were driven out, and British posts were re-established as before.

MORE TOWNS AND VILLAGES RECLAIMED BY FRENCH

Foch is Pushing His Men Forward With Great Impetus While Haig's Forces Cut Their Way Eastward North and South of the Somme.

The Germans continue in retreat everywhere between Arras and the Soissons sector under the violent attacks by the allied troops. As yet there seems to be no slackening in the offensive that is steadily reclaiming numerous French towns and villages and territory that long has been in the hands of the enemy. Indeed, instead of halting his men for a breathing spell, Marshal Foch seems to be pushing them forward with greater impetus. And at present the retiring enemy shows no indications of turning and offering more of a battle than he recently has been giving with his machine gunners and infantry units that are acting as rearguards to aid in covering the eastward retrograde movement. Already outflanking the old Hindenburg line on the north, Field-Marshal Haig's forces gradually are cutting their way eastward, both north and south of the Somme, and putting down strong counter-offensive actions, also on several sectors they have had to cede ground temporarily. Capture of Bapaume. Official reports assert that the British have captured the important town of Bapaume, where for days there has been bitter fighting, the Germans exerting their utmost strength to keep Haig's men from gaining control of the railway and the high road leading to Cambrai. To the south the British are also said to have penetrated to the outskirts of Maurepas, another point of strategic value. Along both sides of the Somme running eastward ground has been gained, and this important railroad junction outflanked. Since the caving-in of the German line by the fall of Chaules and Roye, the French literally have overrun the southern portion of Picardy, having reached the western bank of the Canal du Nord along almost its entire length and captured the town of Noyon, which, surrounded by hills, has stood defiantly for days under a rain of shells. East and southeast of Noyon other important positions have been taken, and between the Oise and the Aisne the French have overcome

the heavy resistance of the enemy and crossed the Ailette River. Gains Near Soissons. Northwest of Soissons, where the Americans are in the line with the French in the general movement of clearing Picardy of the enemy, there has been severe fighting, but with the allied troops having the advantage. The American sector is between Chavigny and Juvigny, and the enemy facing them includes the Prussian seventh infantry. Along the Vesle River at Bazoches and Pismette the situation is rather less tense than it was on Tuesday and Wednesday, when heavy fighting oc-

urred between the Americans and Germans. Thursday the Americans heavily shelled the German positions, but the Germans failed to accept their challenge to a duel and replied only feebly. The claim of the German war office that 250 Americans were made prisoner during the recent fighting is denied by the Americans, who assert that only a few of their men are missing. U.S. WHEAT \$2.26. Washington, Aug. 29.—President Wilson will fix the 1918 wheat price at \$2.26 a bushel f.o.b. Chicago.

British Take Bapaume Along Whole Front From There Southwards Germans Forced to Retreat With Great Loss in Prisoners and Guns.

London, Aug. 29.—The occupation by the British of Bapaume was officially announced tonight in Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters. Field Marshal Haig reports that along the whole front from Bapaume southwards, the Germans have been forced to retreat with great loss in prisoners, guns and material. The British have reached the west bank of the Somme opposite Brie and Peronne. The text reads: "Successful attacks delivered since Aug. 8 by the 4th, 3rd and 1st British armies, have rendered the enemy's positions on the old Somme battlefield untenable. "On the whole front from Bapaume southwards, the enemy has been forced to abandon, with great loss in prisoners, guns and material, as well as killed and wounded, the ground he gained at such heavy cost in last March and April. We have reached the west bank of the Somme opposite Brie and Peronne and have taken Hem. "North of Hem we are advancing on the general line of Comblès, Morval, Beaulencourt and Fremicourt. Sharp fighting occurred on this front today and many casualties have been inflicted on bodies of German infantry who attempted to delay our progress. "This morning the New Zealanders took possession of Bapaume, driving out the enemy's rear guard. "In the sector north of Bapaume, the enemy is still endeavoring to maintain his positions. Our troops, after hard fighting about Vraucourt, Ecoeur St. Mein and Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt, made progress and have taken many prisoners. "North of the Scarpe successful operations today enabled our troops to re-establish themselves in the positions on Greenland Hill, from which they were forced back by the enemy's counter-attack on Tuesday. We gained further ground during the day on both sides of the Lawe River, north of Bethune, and also east of Nieppe forest."

ANOTHER POCKET FOR THE GERMANS

Must Evacuate It Promptly or Have Their Positions Turned.

ROAD IS UNDER FIRE
Difficulty of Getting Out of Salient is Increased Enormously.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 29.—The operations of the past two days have put the Germans into another pocket, between the Canal du Nord and the River Oise. They will have to evacuate it promptly or run a big risk of having their positions there turned from the north by the French along the Valley of the Somme. Since the fall of Noyon, which was the apex of this salient, until this morning, Mount St. Simeon, a mile and a quarter to the east, is its advanced defence. This height dominates the Valley of the Oise eastward, and the Valley of the River Meuse and the Canal du Nord to the north. These valleys were lines in the salient last night. The taking of Quenoy Wood this morning has tightened the pocket from the western side, bringing the French within shelling distance of the main road leading out of it in the direction of Ham. The road from Noyon to Chauny, which skirts the salient on the south, has been under the fire of General Mangin's artillery for several days. Between the roads to Ham and Chauny a succession of heights extends from Mont St. Simeon to Chauny. The Germans are in great strength here, and the French are vigorously shelling their communications to the north, suggesting that they are merely using their immense ammunition supplies there to ease the pressure which had become so strong as to require them to abandon ammunition dumps over the field of the Avere. The French troops, having gained a foothold in the Valley of the Somme northeast of Nesle, may naturally be expected to advance eastward on Ham which will render the stronghold of St. Simeon and the ridge leading east useless to the enemy, while enormous increases in the difficulty of getting the rearward out of the salient.

French Cross Ailette After Taking Noyon in Heavy Fighting, They Advance More Than a Mile East, Capturing More Villages.

Paris, Aug. 29.—The French, after capturing Noyon in heavy fighting today, continued their advance and now have a foothold on the southern slopes of Mont St. Simeon, more than a mile to the east, according to the war office announcement tonight. They also have taken Landrimont and Morlincourt, and have crossed the Ailette River at several points. The text of the statement reads: "During the course of the day our progress continued in the region of the Canal du Nord, which we have reached along its entire length, except near Cantigny and Sermaz. We have occupied Quenoy Wood, northeast of Evucilly and Beaurains. "Further south we captured Noyon in a bitter struggle and advanced as far as the southern outskirts of Haplincourt. To the east of Noyon we gained a footing on the southern slopes of Mont St. Simeon, and took Landrimont and Morlincourt. We captured several hundred prisoners. "Between the Oise and the Aisne our troops crossed the Ailette River at several points north and south of Champs, in spite of the resistance offered by the enemy. Gony and Post St. Mard are in our hands."

Paris, Aug. 29.—The Canadian between Monday and 6 o'clock this morning have taken 2000 prisoners. BELGIANS TAKE GROUND ON A TWO-MILE FRONT. Paris, Aug. 29.—The Belgian official communication says: "Our troops attacked last night on a front of three kilometres north and south of the Langemarck railway and penetrated the enemy positions. All our objectives were reached and maintained. We inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy and brought back 90 unwounded prisoners belonging to six regiments, machine guns, bomb throwers and war material."

STRAW HATS CALLED IN. First September ushers in the fall season, and fashion decrees the laying aside your summer Panama or straw hat. Be prepared by purchasing your new fall hat today or tomorrow. The Dineen Co. have just opened up the greater portion of their new stock of men's hats, in all the new styles to be worn this season, and invite those wanting a new stylish hat to visit Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

Two Trains Taken by Japs in Siberia. Enemy Attacking Along Ussuri Front Routed by Allied Charge. Vladivostok, Aug. 29.—The enemy in considerable numbers attacked desparately along the Ussuri front last Saturday. All the allied forces participated in the fighting except the Americans. Upwards of 200 of the enemy were killed. The Japanese bore the brunt of the fighting. They captured two armored trains and several field guns. According to a wounded Czech, the Japanese, infuriated by finding mutilated comrades on the battlefield, charged and routed the enemy in the face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire. The Japanese report that the allied troops are advancing steadily.

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