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## Combined Anglo-French Offensive Still Successful

**Germans' Lines at Places Have Been Penetrated to a Depth of Two Miles—Many Thousand of Prisoners Have Been Taken by French and British the Last Two Days**

### GERMAN REPORTS CONFIRM BRITISH SUCCESSES

Many Regrets Are Heard That Kitchener Did Not Live to See the Result of His Work—Confidence is Felt That the Allied Commanders Have no Intention to Risk Reckless Sacrifices of Life For a Mere Spectacular Advance

LONDON, July 3.—Official British despatches issued today report the continued success of the combined Anglo-French offensive. The Germans, who put into operation strong counter-attacks during the night, are apparently making desperate resistance, but British troops have occupied Ercourt and the French have captured Curly and seemingly have held the ground gained. The Germans' lines at some places have been penetrated to a depth of two miles. The prisoners taken by the French and British during the last two days number many thousands. North of the Somme, where the French and British armies make a contact, various points of tactical value have been taken. The Allies are struggling to extend their hold over three rolling plateaux, from three to five hundred feet high, which stretches around Albert. At Ercourt, Contalmaison and Gommecourt, the Germans made most desperate resistance with a view to defending the high road which extends from Arras to Bapaume and Peronne, which is one of the main arteries of the western operations. The German official reports, generally, confirm the success of the first day's British operations, admitting the withdrawal of German troops from their first line of trenches and the abandonment of heavy material therein. 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, General Brusiloff is possible against a depth and strength of rail power of the formidably organized German front, and that great sacrifices and possible 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 virtually replaced the first small expeditionary force sent out under Field Marshal French, which had to sustain the early battles of the war. It is also the first time a great offensive has been carried out under a well-organized and 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.

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## HUNS SUFFER HEAVY IN MEN AND ARTILLERY

PARIS, July 3.—The second German position captured by the French extends from Maricourt, Wood, which is in possession of the French, as far as the edge of Assevillers. The village of Herbecourt, taken by the French, lies between these two points. Further south the French made progress towards Asevellois and Estrees. North of the Somme the Germans made no attack on positions previously taken by the French. The French captured heavy artillery and took more prisoners. The statement says 29 German battalions participated in the fighting and that 31 of these battalions sustained important losses during artillery preparation preceding the inauguration of the offensive. 31 German captive balloons were burned.

## Both British and French are Consolidating Their Gains; Splendid Work Done by British

So Complete Was the Destruction of German First Line Trenches That the British Occupied One With the Loss of a Single Man—British Mortars Get in Good Work and British Artillery Attack on Village of Thiepval Made it Impossible for Germans to Survive in Even the Strongest Redoubt

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, July 1.—The close of the first offensive over the largest front the Entente Allies have attempted, and the most extensive action in the war for the British, finds both British and French consolidating gains. South of the Ancre River, where the infantry swept forward, Curly was captured by the French, whilst Montauban Mametz were taken by the British with almost unbroken success, though against a heavy curtain of fire and delays, due to a stubborn resistance at some points, particularly for the British.

From a German trench called Dancing Alley, word came back that the destruction by artillery of the first line trench was so complete, that one British battalion occupied it with the loss of a single man. The Germans, in their defensive tactics, in many instances left the first line trench lightly held, then shelled it when occupied by our troops, and carried on the fight to the second line.

The Germans in large force fought fiercely north of the Ancre. At Gommecourt and Beaumont Hamel there was terrible, complicated intensity of action, with every method of destruction, like at Verdun, with the Germans as defenders. When the attack was made in the morning, the mist in the valley made it difficult for the

## French Offensive Continues Successful

PARIS, July 3.—The French offensive south of the Somme, in conjunction with the British drive, continued last night with complete success, the War Office announced today. The French have occupied two lines of trenches of the second German position, on a front of five kilometers (3 miles), and have captured the village of Berbecourt.

## ALLIED LOSSES WERE SLIGHT AS COMPARED HUNS

First Day's Offensive Considered as Fully Satisfactory—Allied Offensive Will be Pushed From Line to Line Until Such Time as Enemy's Resistance Breaks at Some Point

PARIS, July 3.—An artillery preparation, the violence of which has never been equalled, marked the attack of the Franco-British troops in a joint offensive yesterday, says a semi-official note. For more than a week the face of the continued preparation from the North Sea to Champagne gave an inkling of it, the British in particular. The entire sector they occupied had been methodically bombarded by an alternative system of intense bombardments and soundings operations here and there. According to preliminary information the Allied losses were slight, by reason of the efficiency of the preliminary work, while those of the Germans are said to be quite heavy.

## PAPERS ARE SOMEWHAT RESERVED

London Papers Somewhat Reserved in Dealing With Big Offensive—Some Say it is Not Yet Known if This is Really the Long Awaited Big "Push"

LONDON, July 3.—The London papers in their editorials deal with the situation on the British front in a 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 with greater force than any of the other previous movements.

## 54 Sailing Vessels Destroyed in Black Sea

PETROGRAD, July 3.—A Russian torpedo-boat destroyed 54 enemy sailing vessels in the Black Sea, near the Anatolia coast on June 29, says an official statement.

## ALLIES MAKE NEW GAINS ON WEST FRONT

PARIS, July 3.—Reserves which the Germans rushed up to the Somme region to check Franco-British offensive began to make themselves felt yesterday afternoon and last night, and according to latest reports received here, fighting has reached a pitch of exceptional desperation, but, nevertheless, the German efforts to check the Allied advance failed. The Franco-British Allies, these reports say, retain their initiative unimpaired, and as a result of the day's fighting have materially advanced their line and strengthened their hold on what they had previously won.

The capture of Curly represents a great step forward, for the village bars the road leading to the only points where the River Somme can be passed. French troops have now before them their road to Peronne, their goal, a series of hummocks, each of which is crowned by a village ending in a narrow plateau. The British on their part have made steady progress toward Bapaume, which is an important centre on account of the intersection there of the main highways, which apparently is their objective.

## HUNS SMITTEN HARDER THAN EVER BEFORE

Sounds Warning Note to British People Not to Expect Too Much Just Yet—Unwise to Underrate Enemy's Powers of Resistance in Face of Menacing Position

LONDON, July 3.—Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters in France suggests 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 barrier of fire, which the past week has hampered the transport service. He warns the British people, although the situation looks promising, too much should not be expected, and adds, "we are fighting a determined and resourceful foe, though he has now been smitten harder than ever before by the British Army, and it would be unwise to underrate his powers of resistance in the face of a highly menacing position."

## Over Five Thousand Engineers on Strike

LONDON, July 3.—A statement issued by the British Central Press Bureau says 5,600 engineers and allied workers at Vickers and Barrow-in-Furness struck over the dilution of labor last Monday. The strikers, who were repudiated by responsible leaders, were threatened under the Defence of the Realm and War Munitions Acts. Picketing was prevented, public houses closed, and a general resumption of work with diluted labor began last night.

## COUNT FOR COUNCILLORS

When the ballots for Mayor had been counted Saturday evening the counting for Councillors began and concluded after a comparatively short time when recess was taken till 9.50 to-day. About each half hour to-day a bulletin was put out in The Plaindealer office and up to 3 p.m. the count stood as follows:

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Tait       | 500 |
| Morris     | 482 |
| Mullay     | 450 |
| Brownrigg  | 428 |
| Ayre       | 367 |
| White      | 332 |
| Vinnicombe | 331 |
| Withers    | 310 |
| Bradshaw   | 275 |
| McGrath    | 254 |
| McNamara   | 198 |

Today a man of a nearby outpost was before the Court for cruelty to his horse in keeping it out under the rain for 5 hours. He was let go with a warning and a fine of \$1 or 3 days.

## The French Now Take Aggressive at Verdun

### British Now Have Superior Guns

LONDON, July 3.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Paris says: "I am credibly informed that the British heavy guns now absolutely outdo the German or Austrian famous 47 centime guns, which the German command sprang as a surprise at outbreak of war. The supplies of munitions are so great that in the present offensive the question of economy of shells does not enter into accounts."

### GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE AT LA BOISSELLE

Germans Here Are Offering Stubborn Resistance but Allied Troops Made Much Progress—The General Situation May be Regarded as Favorable—Aero-planes Were Very Active Yesterday

LONDON, July 2.—British General Headquarters report to-night as follows: "Heavy fighting has taken place today in the area between the Ancre and the Somme, especially about Ercourt and La Boisselle. Ercourt was captured by our troops about 2 p.m. and remains in our hands. Some progress has been made east of the village. In the neighbourhood of La Boisselle, the enemy is offering stubborn resistance, but our troops are making good progress. A considerable quantity of war material has fallen into our hands, but details are not available. On either side of the Valley of the Ancre the situation is unchanged. The general situation may be regarded as favourable. Later information of the enemy's losses shows our first estimates to be too low. Yesterday our aeroplanes were very active in co-operation with our attack north of the Somme, and afforded valuable assistance to our operations. Numerous enemy headquarters and railway centres were attacked with bombs. In one of these raids our escorting aeroplanes were attacked by enemy Fokkers, which were driven off. Two enemy machines were seen to crash to earth, destroyed. Some long distance reconnaissance was carried out in spite of numerous attempts by enemy machines to frustrate these enterprises, and that three of our aeroplanes are missing. Our kite balloons were in the air the whole day."

### RUSSIANS FIRMLY HOLD AUSTRIANS

LONDON, July 3.—As a result of one week of the most costly onslaughts on the Russian lines between the Stokhod and Styf River, the Austro-German forces have advanced their battle front, at most, only 5 miles eastward of the Styf and that only in some sectors, says a Reuter's despatch from Petrograd. Military authorities, the correspondent adds, are confident that the Russians are firmly holding the enemy on this front pending the development of the General Lotchitky's sweep through Bukovina, notwithstanding that strong German reinforcements are entering the field. Meanwhile the Russians have progressed 15 miles south-westward of Kolomea, and the Austrians there are hard pressed to cover their retreat to the Carpathian Mountains.

### Italian Vessel; British Steamer Sunk

LONDON, July 3.—The Italian sailing vessel Carlo Alberti, and the British steamer Windermere, have been sunk. The Windermere was unarmed.

### French Are Now Keeping Germans Busy Around Dead Man's Hill—Also Around Verdun—Germans Now Prevented From Sending Reinforcements to Relieve Their Weakened Line North

### CAPTURE OF DOMPIERRE WAS BRILLIANT FEAT

Two Scotch Regiments Went Over Three Line of German Trenches North of the Somme Without a Stop, Halting Only When They Reached the Village of Montauban, Where They Took Entire Staff of One Regiment Prisoners

PARIS, July 3.—The German headquarters is at St. Quinton, 25 miles south-east 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 from the front describing the capture of Dompierre says the soldiers of one corps, taking an example from their commander, went into battle covered with flowers. "That," said the 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 transferred by the Germans into a veritable fortress. In the face of fire from machine guns that had survived the bombardment they rushed the enemy's posts with such impetuosity that the gunners were captured before they had time to put their quick-firers into action. 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 3 bodies lay on the ground. The survivors were made 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 three 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. Although this field of action

is separated by nearly one hundred miles from the fighting to the north, Verdun is considered a part of that vast military plan now unfolding. The French have now taken the aggressive at Verdun, to-day's report showing an attack on Dead Man's Hill, with heavy German losses, and the taking of many prisoners. The French are thus keeping the Germans fully occupied at Verdun, preventing them from sending reinforcements to relieve their weakened line north.

### Thiaumont Recaptured

PARIS, July 1.—Bombardment on the left bank of the Meuse. On the right bank, about 10 a.m. our infantry assailed Thiaumont works, which we have once more occupied. There have been bombardments in other sectors.

### ALLIES REACH MAIN SECOND HUN TRENCHES

Allies Capture Towns of La Boisselles, Montauban, Curly and Favers Woods—Fighting Now Has Reached the Main Second Line—British Now Endeavor to Surround Thiepval

LONDON, July 1.—British headquarters reports from the front up to 12.30 o'clock, five hours after the combined French and British offensive was launched, showed that the Allies had captured the towns of La Boisselles, Montauban, Curly and Favers Woods. The main first line of trenches over the entire front under attack, are reported to have been stormed, and at various points fighting has reached the main second line. These reports show that the French and British at points of their further advances, have broken through a distance of more than five miles beyond the first German trenches. Montauban is 5½ miles east of the old British front and Curly Wood is 6 miles east south-east of Albert. The British are endeavouring to surround Thiepval and at other points an intense struggle is under way for the towns and villages.

Reports from the front indicate that the important German position at Ercourt may be cut off.

### Allied Lines Expand Last 24 Hours---Take 9 Villages and 50 Square Miles from Germans

Forces of the Entente Allies Are Sweeping Forward Along a 25 Mile Front—Allied Artillery Was So Directed as to Cut off German Reserve in the Rear—Germans Were Thinking the Allied Offensive Would be Launched Further North—All German Attacks against French Positions Were Repulsed With Heavy Losses

PARIS, July 2.—The Battle of the Somme is now in full progress and marks the opening of the Franco-British offensive, long expected, as a critical, if not the decisive stage of the war.

Early reports today show that the Entente Allied forces are sweeping forward along a 25-mile front. The French already have taken about 6,000 prisoners, while the Allied lines have expanded within the last 24 hours by nine villages and fifty square miles of French territory, held till now by the Germans. The fighting lines extend between a great number of small villages, which are usually devoted to textile industries, while in the outlying agricultural sections the level fields are chiefly devoted to beet culture for the extensive sugar production of France.

The intense bombardment of the last four days was the signal for advance over these level fields beginning at 7.30 o'clock yesterday morning. The Allied artillery then lengthened the range so as to cut off all communication between the first German line and German reserves in the rear. This made it impossible for the Germans to utilize their perfect organization for shifting of troops and for bringing up reinforcements.

It is thought by French military observers that the Germans miscalculated the intentions of the Entente Allies, and expected attacks further to the north. The villages which the French captured at the first sweep include Dompierre, Becquincourt, Bassa and Foy. These and the towns taken by the British, Montauban and Mametz, were all found to have been strongly fortified by the Germans. The Allies, profiting from their experience in this war, quickly threw up strong earthworks around the villages thus taken, in order to protect them against counter-attacks. It was not before night, however, that the Germans were able to deliver any counter attack. This was centered against the French position on the outskirts of Haudencourt. It was repulsed with heavy losses, ending in precipitate retreat.

In addition to the military success, the terrain overrun by the Allied troops has exceptional strategic importance. Four of the towns captured by the French are only 7 miles west of Peronne, the chief rail highway from the German centre at Cologne to the German front in the region of Noyon and Soissons.