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Important Gain Made By General Mangin's Army

Plateau Gives Command Of The Famous "Ladies' Walk"

Wedge Driven Deeper Into Hindenburg Positions in St. Gobain Region—Fighting Severe During Last Few Days—Indications That Enemy is Preparing for Retirement in Region of Haumont—Strengthening Line Opposite American Positions

With the French Army in France, Sept. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—General Mangin's army attacked along the front northeast of Soissons today and captured the Colombes Farm, on the plateau just east of Stancy and just south of the point where the Chemin Des Dames branches off from the road leading from Soissons to Laon.

A strong counter-attack led by grenadiers of the Prussian Guard was repulsed by the French, who drove the enemy back of the road leading from the plateau of Ange Gardiens to the Colombes Farm. This road is less than half a mile from the Chemin Des Dames.

This success puts the French in possession of part of the important plateau of Ange Gardiens, which commands the ridge along which runs the famous "ladies' walk" for a considerable distance.

It also drives deeper the wedge south of the Hindenburg positions in the St. Gobain region and facilitates operations in the direction of Pinon, which was held by the French until the German offensive late in May.

The fighting in this region has been severe during the last few days. Prisoners are now coming in and complaining that they are frequently left in the front line to shift for themselves. Rarely do their officers stand by them when they are attacked they say.

On American Front.—With the American Army on the Lorraine Front, Sept. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—American patrols after a night near the enemy's line reported that the Germans were placing mines at various points in the region of Haumont. This seemingly indicates that the Germans are preparing to evacuate.

The Germans are strengthening their dugouts and strong points along the Hindenburg line opposite the American position. Aviators report that the enemy is building additional telegraph lines in various parts of the Hindenburg defenses.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Five American planes are missing as a result of an attack by a superior German force during a bombing expedition in Lorraine, General Headquarters reported in today's communiqué received tonight by the war department.

More Siamese Troops.—Paris, Sept. 18.—Siamese troops, with a general and his staff, have arrived in France to participate in the war.

This evidently refers to a new Siamese contingent arriving in France on an attack by a superior German force during a bombing expedition in Lorraine, General Headquarters reported in today's communiqué received tonight by the war department.

BERNARD McMENNAMIN OF FREDERICTON DEAD.—Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 18.—Bernard McMennamin died early this morning at his residence, King street, in the eighth year of his age. He was a native of Stanley and resided here until retiring from business some years ago when he removed to Fredericton. At Stanley he was engaged as a merchant and hotel keeper and also a farmer. For several years he represented Stanley parish in the York county council and he was a justice of the peace. Mr. McMennamin was a lifelong Liberal. He was married to Miss Mary Ann McMenamin, a daughter of John and Mary McMenamin of Fredericton. He was survived by four sons and two daughters. The sons are John of Lunenburg, Maine, George and James of Lunenburg, Maine, and Clarence of Gallon. The daughters are Mrs. F. L. Smith of Mesquite, N. Y., and Miss Laura McMennamin at home. One son is postmaster at Lunenburg.

FREDERICTON NEWS.—Fredericton, Sept. 18.—The junior and senior matriculation examinations and the supplementary examinations of the N. B. were begun this morning. Lectures will be resumed on next Monday morning.

Hon. W. E. Foster and Hon. P. J. Veniot are this week in Restigouche county inspecting highways and bridges. The minister of public works will not be able to attend his office in Fredericton until the latter part of next week.

FOUNDLING IS DEAD.—The infant girl found on the steps of the Children's Aid shelter early this week is dead. The baby was sent to the Municipal Home where every care was given but its condition when found, evidently due to the administration of drugs, was such that little hope had been held out.

ON INSPECTION TRIP.—Brigadier-General A. H. Macdonell, accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Powell, left last evening for Fredericton, where today they inspected the district depot and the military hospital. They will return to the city this evening.

BURIED TODAY.—The funeral of Wesley Comstock took place this morning from the Mission church. Services were conducted by Rev. E. A. Young. Interment was made in Fernhill.

FIRST DUTY IS TO WIN THE WAR

Statement by British Labor Leader—Returned Soldiers Must Be Cared for—After-war Plans Suggested

Quebec, Sept. 18.—The International Relations Committee of the Inter-Allied Trades and Labor Congress this morning listened to addresses from fraternal delegates. Those present are J. G. Hancock, representing the British Trades and Labor Congress, Stuart A. Hayward, Buffalo, who speaks for the American Federation of Labor, and Miss Rose Schneiderman, New York, of the Women's League of America.

Mr. Hancock, discussing labor's first duty today, said it was to win the war. His next was to the men who had survived the dangers of the trenches, seas and air. Suitable employment with good pay must be provided for them, English had decided. Disabled men must be placed beyond the reach of war.

Mr. Hancock said that the British government, during the good trade movement at the end of the war, must set a big national scheme like re-housing, including in Belgium, in various ways and canals in order to absorb labor that could not be taken up when demobilization came. If this work did not absorb all the men, it might be necessary to increase the school age, abolish all overtime and even reduce the working days in the week.

Miss Schneiderman explained that the women's league was formed for the purpose of abolishing the great difference in salaries paid to men and women for the same work.

Miss Schneiderman also spoke of the need of a national scheme like re-housing, including in Belgium, in various ways and canals in order to absorb labor that could not be taken up when demobilization came.

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Bolshevik Forces Retreat On North and South Fronts

London, Sept. 18.—Bolshevik forces are retreating on both the northern and southern fronts, according to a Stockholm despatch to the Daily Mail. The despatch says that a telegram had been received in Stockholm from Moscow stating that the Czech-Slovaks still hold the city of Samara, which the Bolsheviks recently abandoned to have taken.

Alles Forces Units.—Tokio, Sept. 18.—A contingent of Japanese cavalry, together with troops belonging to the command of General Semenov, the Cossack leader, entered the town of Tbilisi, in the Trans-Balkans, on Sept. 6. The arriving troops were enthusiastically received.

The entry of Czech-Slovak forces into Tbilisi from the west previous to this date has already been reported.

SERBIANS AND ALLIED TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED 45 VILLAGES

Offensive Continued Successfully in Spite of Strong Enemy Reinforcements—Progress Made to Depth of Fifteen Kilometres—Bulgarians, Completely Defeated, Are in Flight With Serbians Pursuing—Prisoners Too Numerous to be Counted

Paris, Sept. 18.—The following official statement dealing with operations on the Macedonian front was issued tonight by the war office: "Despite important reinforcements hastily brought forward by the enemy, who defended his new positions stubbornly, the offensive of the Allied armies continued successfully on the 17th. All objectives fixed for the day were reached. Attacks developed on a front of about thirty-five kilometres and progress was made to a depth of fifteen kilometres at certain points.

Serbian troops, operating with French and Greek detachments, took, after violent assaults, forty-five villages, including Zovik and Stravina, and the heights of Fotobichio and Bopichia, north of the River Gradishtina, and the village of Gradishtina which was stubbornly defended by the enemy, who had orders to hold it at any cost. In the centre they progressed on the hill which is situated near Kozlak, advanced northeast of Kozlak and took a footpath on the hills of Boudkov. To the east they crossed the Pecos and occupied the Masif of Topolka. The booty captured was considerable. More than fifty cannons, of which twenty were heavy pieces, fell into our hands.

The number of prisoners is increasing unceasingly. The Allied aviators dominated completely over the enemy and greatly aided in the attack by attacking enemy troops.

UNLITTLER BULGARIANS.—Paris, Sept. 18.—Bulgarian military prison in Bulgaria sixty British soldiers, including seven officers, have arrived here in a very weakened condition. It is apparent their sufferings had been more severe than those of Allied prisoners in Germany and Austria.

One of the officers, in speaking of the treatment he received declared the Bulgarians would remain orientals and would never become civilized Europeans. He said the country was beginning to starve owing to the exploitation of foodstuffs by Germany.

Throughout Bulgaria, he added, feeling against the dominating Germans was increasing.

Baku Retaken.—Paris, Sept. 18.—Turkish troops have taken Baku, according to a Basel despatch quoting a telegram from Constantinople under date of Sept. 17.

It is pointed out by the Temps that the army of West-Litovka left Baku to the Russians, but that this does not prevent the Turks from continuing their advance.

This report from Constantinople would seem to indicate that the British have suffered a reverse in the Baku region. It was reported on August 16 that British forces had entered Baku, having reached it from their base by way of Persia. No fighting in the Baku region has been reported recently.

More Troops Captured.—London, Sept. 18.—The Serbian and French troops have taken the towns of Topolka, Poshishita, Beshishita, Melynishita, Vitolishita, and Radshbit. They have also taken the height of Kuchkov Kamen.

Bulgarians in Flight.—London, Sept. 18.—The Bulgarians are in flight to the westward in the Balkans, according to a Serbian official statement received here.

The Allied troops now have advanced more than twelve miles, and their progress is so rapid that they have not been able to count the prisoners and war material taken. New regiments thrown in by the Bulgarians have been defeated and retreating with the others.

The Bulgarians have been defeated completely and the Serbian troops are pursuing them day and night.

WAR NEWS BY BROKERS' WIRES.—(J. M. Robinson & Sons, Private Wire Telegram.)

New York, Sept. 18.—British and French troops have taken the towns of Topolka, Poshishita, Beshishita, Melynishita, Vitolishita, and Radshbit. They have also taken the height of Kuchkov Kamen.

A letter received from a St. John officer in command of a forestry company on the western front is timely. He writes that he has received a \$500 man picture machine and sporting goods to the value of \$125 from the Catholic army huts fund in England for use of his men in the wooded section where they are operating.

MARKET SAGGED.—New York, Sept. 18.—Wall Street (noon)—With the short interest reduced, the market sagged again, the decline being accelerated by considerable profit-taking in the oils. Near midday the list again stiffened, with the shippings making good progress, Atlantic Gulf rising three points.

Halifax Bank Clearings.—Halifax, Sept. 18.—Bank clearings for the week ending today, with comparisons, are: 1918, \$4,196,289; 1917, \$3,261,522; 1916, \$2,446,260.

ARE NEARER ST. QUENTIN

British and French Both Successful—Fighting Now on Hindenburg Line—German Resistance Stiff and British Gain Regarded as Remarkable

London, Sept. 18.—The British last night made further progress in their drive into the Hindenburg line in the St. Quentin region, aimed at the encircling of that town. In a continued advance north of Pont Ruet, they reached the outpost positions of the Hindenburg line.

The Australians resumed their attacks and carried the Hindenburg outposts. Many prisoners and some machine guns were taken by them. The town of Lempre was captured, as was Geuch Wood. (Lempre is four miles directly west of Locatlet.)

The Germans last yesterday started a heavy bombardment on the northern part of the battlefield, southwest of Cambrai, between Gouzencourt and the Arras-Cambrai road. The fire was of extreme intensity. The enemy followed his bombardment by a strong infantry attack on a wide front northward from the vicinity of Trescault. He was completely repulsed at all points, with great loss.

He was likewise driven off with heavy casualties soon afterwards when he launched a strong attack north of Messures. Some German parties that succeeded at points in entering the British trenches were entirely disposed of by counter-attacks.

FRENCH PRESSING IN.—French Headquarters, Sept. 18.—(Evening, Canadian Press despatch from Reuters' Limited)—General Debeney's army continues to advance in the direction of St. Quentin in connection with the British to the north. The most vigorous resistance is being met with a few hundred yards in front of the Hindenburg line which runs west of the town and whose suburbs form a part of the defensive system. Groups of infantry, heavily supplied with machine guns, dotted everywhere, are endeavoring to hold up the advance, but vainly, for the French, alternating their rushes with infiltration tactics are steadily progressing and are now only two miles from the suburbs of St. Quentin, already holding some of their old trenches on a wide stretch of front.

BRITISH ADVANCE.—London, Sept. 18.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuters' Limited)—Correspondents at the front emphasize the stiffening of the enemy resistance, making yesterday's British advance all the more remarkable. German gun power near Bullecourt, which is being used to drive velocity guns being employed to draw the line of fire, almost equal to a barrage, commanding the town, were repulsed yesterday's British advance all the more remarkable.

ITALIANS REPULSE AUSTRIAN THRUSTS.—Lively Fighting Between Reconnoitering Parties—Slight Withdrawal at One Place is Reported.—London, Sept. 18.—Persistent thrusts by the Austrians in the Serna Valley, on the northern Italian front, were repulsed on Monday night by the Italians, according to an official Italian wireless message received here. At one point, however, the message says, the Italians were forced to make a slight withdrawal of one of their posts. Italian reconnoitering patrols have captured a enemy post in the Ghanza Valley.

Official Report.—Rome, Sept. 18.—The official communication from Italian headquarters today says: "North of Monte Grappa five enemy counter-attacks, in an effort to re-advance on the head of the Serna Valley, were repulsed. Prisoners taken in minor operations between Cesilla Valley and Col Del Oro yesterday morning numbered 442. Also twenty machine guns were taken.

"On the slopes of Monte Nasosio southeast of Mori, there was lively fighting between reconnoitering parties. On the Orlic Valley a hostile outpost was captured.

"The enemy artillery was particularly active along the Piave in the Montello region and near Fagari."

Continue Progress.—Paris, Sept. 18.—French troops last night continued their progress in the region of St. Quentin and penetrated the German positions at Contescourt, three miles southwest of St. Quentin.

With the British Armies in France, Sept. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—Field Marshal Haig's forces up to mid-night last night had captured a total of more than 8,000 Germans as the result of their drive of yesterday on the Cambrai front.

Several thousand yards of the Hindenburg outpost line was in British hands this morning in the Villers section southwest of Locatlet.

NEARLY \$3,800.—Knights of Columbus Tag Day Very Successful.—Notable success was achieved in the Knights of Columbus tag day yesterday. Well up to \$3,800 is the result of the day's work by the taggers and the generosity of the people. It should be noted, in fairness to the ladies canvassing in Sydney, Dulce, Gays and Brooks wards that a house to house canvass had been made in those sections on the preceding days by parish committees. Had the amounts then given gone into the tag day receipts and had the weather kept fine last yesterday afternoon the ladies in charge believe that the total would have been fully \$5,000.

A letter received from a St. John officer in command of a forestry company on the western front is timely. He writes that he has received a \$500 man picture machine and sporting goods to the value of \$125 from the Catholic army huts fund in England for use of his men in the wooded section where they are operating.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF WILSON'S PEACE TERM BY LABOR CONFERENCE.—London, Sept. 18.—The work-alike committee of the Inter-Allied Labor Conference today made a report recommending that the conference "subscribe to the fourteen points formulated by President Wilson, thus adopting a policy of clearest understanding and support to a policy dictated exclusively by the interests of the war map."

AMERICAN ARMY OF 4,800,000 BY NEXT JULY.—Washington, Sept. 18.—An army of 4,800,000 by next July after all deductions have been made for casualties and rejections is what the enlarged American military programme calls for. General March explained this to the house appropriations committee in discussing the new seven billion dollar arm estimates.

There are now about 3,800,000 men under arms, General March said, and the plan is to call 2,700,000 of the new draft registrants to the colors between now and July.

HOLOCAUST WORK OF WOMAN MANIAC

Servant in Grey Nunnery Confesses to Setting Fire Which Caused Death of Thirty-Five Babies

Montreal, Sept. 18.—The disastrous grey nunnery fire of Feb. 15 last in which sixty-five babies were burned to death, was purposely caused by a female orderly of the institution, Bertha Courtmanche, who is said to have confessed to the crime.

Courtmanche admits having made two other attempts to set fire to the Grey Nunnery, once before her first successful attempt, and the other a few weeks later.

Bertha Courtmanche is a woman of twenty-seven, and was employed in the eastern townships, where she lived most of her life. She came to Montreal in February, 1917, to work in the service of the Grey Nunnery as an orderly in the babies' orphanage. Lectures to that she had been a school teacher in a town near Sherbrooke, the name of which is not revealed. Her removal to Montreal was brought about by an interview with him printed in the Lokal Anzeiger, of Berlin. He is quoted as saying that differences of opinion regarding peace aims no longer exist between authoritative political and military circles, and hence there is no ground for objection to Von Hertling retaining the chancellorship.

"No one need doubt that the chancellor is determined to bring about a peace by understanding," he says. "It will, however, be necessary for the government to make a determined stand against the pan-Germans."

Copenhagen, Sept. 18.—German Social Democrats, says the Tageblatt, of Berlin, while not actually refusing to join in a coalition government, the formation of which has been suggested, would join only under certain conditions and with certain guarantees.

Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay.—Fresh to strong southwest to northwest winds, a few passing showers, but mostly fair and cool; Friday, fresh northwest to north winds, fair and cool, local frosts at night.

Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence.—Fresh to strong southwest to northwest winds, some passing showers, but partly fair and cool; Friday, fair and cool.

Gulf and North Shore.—Fresh to strong south to southwest winds, partly fair, occasional showers; Friday, fresh to strong west to northwest winds, mostly fair and cool.

Mostly Fair.—Maritime.—Fresh south to west winds, a few local showers, but mostly fair today and on Friday.

Superior.—Strong breezes to moderate gales, northwesterly, clearing and cold; frost at night; Friday, fresh northerly winds, fair and cool.

Manitoba.—Fine today and Friday, higher temperature on Friday.

Saskatchewan.—Fine today and on Friday, with rising temperature.

Alberta.—Fine and moderately warm today and on Friday.

New England.—Partly cloudy tonight and Friday, moderate winds, becoming southwest.

BRITISH AIRMEN BOMBED BRUGES

London, Sept. 18.—British army and navy aviators last night dropped eight tons of bombs on the docks at Bruges and a German ammunition factory in the vicinity. Eleven German airplanes were destroyed.

Three enemy seaplanes which approached the east coast of England were driven off by four British machines. One enemy machine was destroyed.

Many Austrian munition makers lose lives.—Amsterdam, Sept. 18.—Many persons have been killed or injured in a fire in the Woelendorf ammunition factory in Vienna, according to an official report received here. After the fire there was a panic among the workers in the shell making section of the factory.

Phelix and Ferdinand WEATHER REPORT.—Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—The depression which was in Wisconsin yesterday morning has now passed northeastward to Northern Quebec, while a cold wave is covering Manitoba. Rain has fallen from Ontario to the maritime provinces and heavy frosts have occurred in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

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LOOTING IMPORTANT PART OF HUN WARFARE

Organized Pillage in German Army—Hospital Near Seasons Stopped

With the French Army in France, Sept. 18.—(By the Associated Press)—Efforts to organize pillaging by the German army and the transportation of loot appear from official documents and verified incidents, to have been much more effective than the work of carrying out the removal of legitimate war booty during the summer's operations.

The sacking of private houses and public buildings throughout the regions from which the Germans have been driven has been done with characteristic German thoroughness by specifically detailed squads. Advancing French armies, however, have found intact on the plateau in the region of Soissons and elsewhere important dumps of munitions which the French had been obliged to abandon in their retreat last spring.

An order, signed by General Von Marwitz and dated May 28, was found in the pocket of a prisoner. It throws peculiar light on the subject of pillaging. After condemning in severe terms disorganized looting operations by soldiers for their personal account, this document calls attention to the rules established for organized pillage and says that the men of the "loot detachment" bearing white arm badges and special identification cards, have the same power as military police. It adds: "The chief of these detachments will confiscate eatables and drinkables as well as objects of current use that are collected and kept guard over until the arrival of the exploiting group."

Quartermasters are authorized by this document to apply to the use of their units a proportionate quantity of booty suitable for immediate consumption and to send the rest to the rear.

Although supposedly under the protection of the Red Cross, the Vaubain hospital near Soissons, was robbed of everything it contained. All the finer objects were shipped to Germany and ordinary hospital beds went to the dugouts of German artillery officers around Soissons. Two hundred of these have been recovered since the region has been reconquered.

MARKET SAGGED.—New York, Sept. 18.—Wall Street (noon)—With the short interest reduced, the market sagged again, the decline being accelerated by considerable profit-taking in the oils. Near midday the list again stiffened, with the shippings making good progress, Atlantic Gulf rising three points.