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FRENCH MAKE IMPORTANT GAIN NEAR HARDECOURT WHILE BRITISH PUSH THEIR LINE FORWARD

German Trenches Captured in Somme Region on Depth Varying From 300 to 800 Metres

Desperate Fighting on French and British Front Marked Week-end—British Score Big Advance Between Watlot and Trones Wood After Stiff Fight in Which Enemy's Losses Were Heavy.

London, July 31.—Further advances by the British are reported in the latest despatches from Gen. Haig, in command of the French front. A heavy engagement was fought on the sector between Delville Wood and the Somme, with the result that the British moved their line forward east of Watlot and Trones Wood.

Important Gains by French.

Paris, July 30, via London.—The French in the Somme region near Hardecourt, have captured German trenches between Hardecourt and Hill 139 on a depth varying from 300 to 800 metres, according to the official communication issued this evening. Gains also were made by the French near the villages of Maurepas and Hem, which held against powerful German counter-attacks.

German Attacks Fall South of Fleury.

Bulletin—Paris, July 30, via London.—German attacks launched last night against the French positions in the ravine south of Fleury, three miles northeast of Verdun, were repulsed, says the official statement issued today by the French war office. In the region of the River Somme, French forces dispersed a German reconnoitering party to the south of Lihons.

The text of the French official statement follows: In the region of Chaumes we dispersed an enemy reconnaissance to the south of Lihons.

On the right bank of the Meuse German attacks directed against a redoubt in the ravine south of Fleury were repulsed. A bombardment continued throughout the region of Fleury, Vaux and the Pumline Wood.

The night was calm on the rest of the front.

Yesterday our machines engaged in eleven fights on the Somme front. Three German machines were brought down and a fourth machine, attacked by one of our aeroplanes, was dashed to pieces within the German lines in the Argonne. It is confirmed that one of the German machines previously reported as having been seriously damaged in the course of an aerial fight on the Somme front was in fact brought down by Second Lieut. Guyonemer. This brought the number of German aeroplanes this officer has driven down to eleven.

In the course of Saturday night forty bombs of 120 kilograms each were dropped on enemy railway stations in the Neuvion district.

This morning one of our bombardment squadrons dropped several bombs on the railway station and military establishments at Mueheln on the right bank of the Rhine.

French Success Reported.

Paris, July 30.—The official statement tonight says: "North of the Somme, the day was marked by a series of desperate actions. On the front between Hill 139, northeast of Hardecourt, and the river, our troops, passing to the attack, captured this morning a whole system of enemy trenches, on a depth varying from 300 to 800 metres. We reached the outskirts of the village of Maurepas."

"We hold the wood north of Hem station and the quarry north of this wood and Monacu Farm.

"In the afternoon the Germans delivered powerful attacks, particularly in the region of Monacu Farm, where the fighting was particularly violent.

"Everywhere our fire shattered the enemy's efforts, and inflicted heavy losses on him. We have retained the whole of the conquered ground and taken over 200 prisoners.

"On the right bank of the Meuse we repulsed a German attack directed against our positions west of the Tillemont work. There has been an intense bombardment in the sectors of Fleury-Viaux-Chapire.

British Advance Line.

London, July 31.—The official statement issued early this morning says: "Yesterday morning, in co-operation

ALL MANHATTAN ISLAND SHAKEN BY AN EXPLOSION

Property Loss \$25,000,000, at Least Two Deaths Reported and Scores Injured, when Ammunition Stored on Black Tom Island, for Shipment to Allies, Blew up—New York and Nearby Towns Thrown Into Panic.

New York, July 30.—Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000 was caused early today by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition, awaiting shipment to the Entente Allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City. The loss of life still was problematical tonight. It will not be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby. Two are known to be dead, and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably fatally. The cause of the disaster had not been determined tonight.

All Manhattan Island was shaken by the explosion which occurred at 3 o'clock this morning. Windows of buildings all over the lower end of the island were shattered and streets for many blocks in the downtown section were literally strewn with broken glass. Thousands of persons swarmed into the streets from all parts of the city, from buildings, subway exits and railway stations, running about in a panic. Many women became hysterical. Police whistles were blown frantically but the police themselves did not know what it was all about.

On the right flank the French also advanced their line. "In the neighborhood of Posteres the day was spent in strengthening the ground gained last week. There was no infantry fighting in this area today.

Three hostile aeroplanes were destroyed yesterday. Several others were forced to land in a damaged condition. Between the Ancre and the sea there was nothing important."

Paris, July 30.—The Belgian official communication issued tonight reads: "In the region of Dixmude, the artillery duel became more intense during the course of the day. East of Dixmude a German aeroplane was brought down after a fight, by a Belgian aeroplane in charge of Captain Jacquet and Lieut. Robin. This brings the number of enemy machines destroyed by Capt. Jacquet up to four."

British Wing Three Enemy Aircraft. London, July 29.—The British official statement from headquarters in France issued tonight reads: "Except for minor local actions and some heavy artillery fire on both sides nothing of importance occurred on the Somme front today.

On other parts of the British front there was the usual trench warfare activity. One of our patrols entered the enemy trenches at Puits (Shaft) and killed several Germans.

The enemy exploded a mine at Neuville-St. Vaast and one at Halprip Craters without doing us damage or causing any casualties.

Three enemy aeroplanes were destroyed yesterday and a German kite balloon was seen to fall in flames."

ANOTHER WEEK OF DRIVES OPENS WELL FOR ALLIES

Ceaseless Battle on Western Front Grows in Intensity while Czar's Men Force Matters in the East.

London, July 30.—The opening of the present week finds the prospects of the Allies perhaps brighter than at any previous period of the war, according to the views held here, and

BAD SMASH-UP ON THE I.C.R. AT GLOUCESTER JUNCTION

Five Cars, Locomotive and Van Demolished, While Crews Have Miraculous Escape in Collision Between Two Special Freights on Saturday Afternoon.

Wrecking trains were sent from Campbellton and Moncton and the Limited and Maritime west bound were held at Bartibogue until the road was cleared this morning.

Extra No. 23, Conductor Roy and Driver Murray, was shunting on the main line and was run into from the rear by extra No. 274, Driver McDonald and Conductor McWilliams. The crews of both trains miraculously escaped injury, although all struck to their posts, but Driver McDonald's engine and five cars and the van of No. 23 were piled up in a huge mass of wreckage on the track, blocking the line until five o'clock this morning.

The position of the Central Powers more discouraging. General Brussloff's striking victories present the German general staff with the imperative problem of how to reinforce the eastern front, since Gen. Von Linington, who was sent by the Germans to aid the shattered Austrians, has now been completely thrust back from the Lutsk salient.

But the same problem is presented on the western front, where, says an official correspondent, "the ceaseless battle seems steadily to gain in intensity. Doubtless the constant arrival of fresh German troops and guns," he adds, "has everything to do with this result. The enemy shows an increasing tendency to counter-attack."

These counter-attacks have failed to stem the steady Allied advance, and, although at the present moment the fighting on the Somme is mainly devoted to securing mastery of small strategic positions, which will be the keys to further progress, there is yet no sign of the Germans making any effective counter-offensive.

The Russians' remarkable victories reveal an interesting situation. The

Canadians In Successful Raids On German Trenches South of Ypres

Parties of Infantry Broke Into Enemy Positions Saturday Night Inflicting Severe Losses on Germans.

London, July 30.—Parties of Canadian infantry last night successfully raided the German trenches in two places south of Ypres, it was officially announced today by Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander-in-chief in France. A similar raid was carried out by the Royal Munster Fusiliers in the Loos salient. The German casualties in each case, the statement adds were severe. The text of the British official communication follows:

"Last night we heavily bombarded the enemy's trenches and reserve areas between the Ancre and the Somme. During the bombardment a hostile ammunition depot near Courcellette was exploded by our fire.

"Parties of Canadian infantry successfully raided the enemy's trenches in two places south of Ypres and the Royal Munster Fusiliers carried out a similar enterprise in the Loos salient. The enemy's casualties in each case were severe.

"Near Hohenzollern redoubt the Germans attempted two raids. One of these failed to get further than our wire. The other succeeded in entering our front trenches but the enemy was immediately driven out."

FIVE TOWNS WIPED OUT BY FIRE; DEATH TOLL MAY PASS 200 MARK

One of Most Disastrous Forest Fires in Years Sweeps Northern Ontario Levelling Cochrane, Matheson, Nushka Station, Porcupine Junction and Iroquois Falls and Causing Terrible Holocaust—Outlying Settlements in Path of Fire Likely to Add their Quota to Loss of Life.

Englehart, Ont., July 30.—Forest fires, which for some days have threatened the northernmost towns and the outlying settlements of northern Ontario yesterday and today culminated in a holocaust which has wiped out entire communities, licked the fringe of larger towns, and leaved a death toll which cannot at present be accurately computed, but which will range from 140 to 200. Scores of persons are suffering from injuries, many of whom are likely to die. The loss of life, so far reported is as follows:

At Nushka, a French-Canadian settlement, 57.

At Cochrane, 18 dead, 34 injured.

At Matheson, 34 dead.

Iroquois Falls, 15 dead and many injured.

Porcupine Junction, number of dead unknown, but the town was wiped out, with the exception of the station.

Ramora, 15 dead.

In addition to the known dead, there are many outlying places which will materially swell the list of victims when the rescue parties return. It is feared that at Tahota and Kowcash many prospectors may have been trapped.

Nushka suffered worst. It consisted of a score of frame dwellings and stores, and has been threatened for some days. It was practically surrounded, walls of fire cutting off all escape to the south and north, and with no river or lake at hand the inhabitants were doomed.

Two Streets Left in Cochrane. Cochrane was entirely burned with the exception of Second and Third avenues. The proximity of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario tracks and the lake saved most of the residents.

Ramora, a small settlement, was completely wiped out. Matheson is totally destroyed, with the exception of two houses, and thirty-four bodies are laid out on the station platform. South Porcupine suffered only the loss of the saw mill and the station. At Timmins the flames were checked on the outskirts, after licking up seventeen houses.

At Iroquois Falls nothing remains but part of paper mills and one store. The list of dead is likely to be largely increased from among the outlying settlements. One settler and ten children perished while his wife was absent to seek aid. Refugees, destitute of food and clothing, are pouring into the towns to the south of the burned district. A large number have arrived here, and are being distributed to New Liskeard, Cobalt and Halleybury. Citizens of the town worked all last night to feed and clothe the victims, prior to distribution.

Tonight rain was falling at Matheson and several other points, but it will take several days of rain to quell

Sir Sam Hughes The Kitchener of Canada

Striking Tribute by London Paper to Canada's Minister of Militia—A Leader of Men, Whom Canadian Soldiers Love as British Loved "Bobs."



SIR SAM HUGHES.

London, July 30 (Montreal Gazette cable).—Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia, was in good condition on his arrival in London today, and in a group interview he gave to the London press the benefit of his views on the news, which are known in Canada. Apparently the minister's visit will not be prolonged. He will proceed to the front at an early date.

The Sunday Pictorial in an eulogistic leader says that if the people of these islands were able to get Sir Sam Hughes and welcome him, their welcome would astound the world.

"All our great cities are eager to do him honor," says the article. "We desire to let Canada know what we think of the man who will always be remembered as the Kitchener of Canada. Sir Sam Hughes is Canada's incarnate. Canadian soldiers love him as the British soldier loved Lord Roberts. Why? Because he is a leader of men."

To Commemorate Canadians' Deeds Around Ypres

London, July 30 (Montreal Gazette cable).—To bring more vividly to mind the Canadian exploits around Ypres, both during the present and past year, is the object of the proposed Ypres exhibition at London, now being organized by Major Beckles-Willson and Doughty, the dominion architect. Already they have gathered together an interesting collection of historic objects, such as road signs, house keys, drawings, public records, newspapers.

The exhibition, which will be held in September, will be opened by the Lord Mayor of London, assisted by the Mayor of Ypres. The scheme is also receiving the sympathetic support of King Albert.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard E. Baznell wish to thank their many friends for sympathy in their recent bereavement.