

The French and English Begin Great Forward Movement Along Twenty Mile Front in Flanders

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FAIR AND WARM

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THE ARMIES OF BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN POWERFUL DRIVE CAPTURE NUMEROUS VILLAGES

CONFLICT GREATEST OF WAR

British Last Night in Possession of Three Lines of Hun Trenches.

A HEAVY GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACK

Teuton Front Line Trenches Torn to Pieces by Bombardment.

STIFF RESISTANCE AT SEVERAL POINTS

Valuable Work of British Tanks Assisted Advancing Army.

British front in France, July 31.—(By the Associated Press).—The Entente Allied forces, which launched their offensive this morning, have advanced well beyond the shell-shattered front line German trenches. In many places they have reached the second line defenses on a twenty mile front on attack, according to the early reports.

The British and French troops went into battle under cover of what perhaps was the greatest barrage fire seen during the war. The Entente artillery is moving forward and the whole situation is satisfactory in every particular.

In numerous places the Entente Allies encountered strong resistance and counter-attacks, from the desperate Teutons.

Get Trench Lines. Between Dixmude and Boesinghe the attacking forces secured the two first lines of the German trenches after having fought over the most difficult terrain imaginable due to marshes and inundated areas with which the section is blocked.

The German front line about the Ypres salient, which has been held unquestioned by the enemy since the early days of the war, offered little resistance today to the British advance, but beyond these trenches the Germans made a firm stand in an endeavor to stem the onslaught.

The British again captured La Basse Ville on the Franco-Belgian frontier, which a few days ago they had occupied and then relinquished. The Germans made a heavy counter-attack here in an attempt to regain the position, but the British flung them off and began consolidating the ground won.

Many Prisoners. Many prisoners already are finding their way back of the Allied lines. These men report that the unprecedented artillery preparation which preceded the Entente Allied attack worked havoc in the German lines, and undoubtedly caused a heavy loss of life.

The German front line trenches were entirely smashed to pieces, and the wire entanglements before them were torn away. The British and French went into battle under cover of what was perhaps the greatest barrage fire seen during the war. The great guns of the Allies opened up at the appointed time, and for hours hurled an avalanche of shells into the enemy territory with drum fire intensity. A large number of tanks, which were in the attack are reported to have done invaluable work during these trying stages of the battle.

FRENCH CAPTURE TWO VILLAGES AND CARRY IMPORTANT GERMAN POSITIONS AT LEFT OF BRITISH

Battlefield is Covered with German Dead Showing Magnitude of Enemy Losses While French Casualties Were Exceedingly Light.

TEUTONS HEAVILY BOMBARD FRENCH LINES AT CERNY AND HURTEBISE

Allies Cross Yser Canal During Night and Attack Enemy at Four o'clock in the Morning, Inflicting Big Losses.

Paris, July 31.—The French attack today, in conjunction with the British, was highly successful, according to the official statement issued by the Entente tonight. At small loss, the French troops carried important German positions and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The text of the statement reads:

"Having crossed the Yser Canal during the night our troops attacked at four o'clock this morning in conjunction with the British armies on their right. The formidable artillery preparation had completely levelled the German organizations, and inflicted heavy losses on the defenders.

Carried Positions. "At the end of the morning our troops had carried two enemy positions and in their dash had spontaneously gone beyond the objective which had been assigned to them. They advanced on the road between Lizerne and Dixmude and captured the village of Bixschote and Kortekert inn.

"Our losses were exceedingly small; we captured important material and took prisoners, not yet counted. The battlefield is covered with German dead, showing the magnitude of the enemy losses.

"On the Aisne front the artillery fighting was particularly violent. Reports up to the present concerning the operation carried out south of La Royere emphasize the splendid attitude of our troops. On the entire front of the attacks, the objectives assigned have been exceeded, we have been able to clear out the advance trenches which we found filled with enemy dead. The number of prisoners taken exceed up to the present 310. Our losses were slight.

Counter-Attack. "About 11 o'clock in the morning the enemy made a counter-attack against our trenches west of L'Epine De Chevreigny, which was repulsed.

"The Germans, after an intense bombardment of our lines at Cerny and Hurtebise, attacked our positions east of Cerny, on a front of about 1,500 metres, with three regiments. Our counter-attacks, immediately carried out, drove them back and permitted us to advance along the whole front.

"The day was relatively calm on both banks of the Meuse. "Belgian communication: During the course of the night the enemy artillery bombarded our cantonments with long range guns, and shelled our roads of communication at various points along our lines. Our artillery silenced several German batteries in the region of Wommen.

"Army of the east July 30: Rifle firing and grenade fighting took place on the right bank of the Vardar, in the neighborhood of Baraki and Lenz.

At the Cerna bend Bulgarian patrols, attempting to reach our lines, were repulsed. There was cannonading on both sides along the entire front. Our heavy artillery caused two explosions in the enemy batteries."

CASUALTIES. Ottawa, July 31.—Casualties: Artillery. Wounded—Gunner E. W. Clements, R.F.D., No. 4, N. E. Sergt. W. L. Malby, Newcastle, N. S.

BIG GUN FIRE GREATEST OF ENTIRE WAR

In Many Places Allies Reach Second Line Defenses on 20-Mile Front.

THE ARTILLERY MOVES FORWARD

German Front Line in Ypres Salient Offers Slight Resistance.

British front in France, July 31.—An offensive launched by the British and French against the German lines between the River Lys and Boesinghe at daybreak has, with few exceptions, accomplished all that had been planned for the first day of the battle, which, in its early stages, gives promise of being the greatest conflict of the war.

Roughly speaking the British penetrated positions held by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, between Boesinghe and Warneton, and at the time of filing of this despatch were in possession of the first three lines of German trenches at most points throughout this front.

Reports received from the French troops, which are attacking on the difficult territory between Dixmude and a point near Boesinghe, say they have forced their way across this marsh-studded and partly inundated region and captured the first two lines of German trenches.

Excellent Co-operation. The losses of the Entente Allies have been surprisingly light and the morale of the men continues at the highest pitch. The contact between the British and French armies has been constant and excellent. Late today it was said the Germans made a heavy counter-attack at the point where the Allied forces join.

The German front line trenches, which had been torn to pieces by the preliminary bombardment, offered little resistance, but once the Allied forces had penetrated beyond them they met with fierce resistance at many points. Directly east of Seillebeke, and again a little to the north, the British were temporarily held up by a heavy machine gun fire, but only temporarily, for the troops charged through the rain of lead and forced the Germans from their positions in hand-to-hand fighting.

Heavy Gun Fire.

Again at a redoubt which was strongly held in the German line and defended by concrete fortifications, the British were brought to a stand by machine gun fire. But they charged with bayonets and dislodged the Germans. One of the most striking and spectacular events of the day's fighting occurred at the so-called Menin Tunnel, a great underground fortification constructed by the Germans on the Meuse road, opposite Hooge. The British preliminary bombardment had forced the Germans to hold the French line thirty yards and the British division, which was to attack at dawn, lay out all night in shell-holes, within twenty-five yards of the Germans, waiting for the signal to advance. When the time arrived for the charge and the British gunners had dropped a fire on the Germans, it was seen that the Germans had taken to their heels and were fleeing.

Teutons Fled. The British, seeing their prey escaping, went mad and charged directly through their own barrage, fortunately without heavy casualties. Menin Tunnel, which was expected to be occupied by several hundred Germans was found to be held by only forty-one, the rest having retreated.

In Canada there was a powerful element that openly proclaimed disloyalty.

ENTENTE ALLIES SUCCEED IN TAKING TEN VILLAGES AND OVER 3,500 PRISONERS

British and French Lines Advanced on Front of More Than Fifteen Miles from La Basse Ville on River Lys to Steenstraete.

ALLIED OPERATIONS CONTINUE WITH SUCCESS DESPITE BAD WEATHER

La Basse Ville, Steenstraete, Biaxchoote, Verlorenhoek, Frezenberg, St. Julien, Pilkem, Hooge, West Hoek and Hollebeke Captured.

London, July 31.—The official statement from British headquarters in France tonight reports the capture by the Allies of the following villages:

"La Basse Ville, Steenstraete, Biaxchoote, Verlorenhoek, Frezenberg, Saint Julien, Pilkem, Hooge, West Hoek and Hollebeke and more than 3,500 prisoners.

"The operations of the Allied troops begun this morning in the neighborhood of Ypres have been continued with success during the day despite unfavorable weather. The enemy's positions during the day have been entered and our line has been advanced on a front of over fifteen miles, from La Basse Ville, on the River Lys, to Steenstraete, on the River Yser. Both of these villages are now in the hands of the Allies.

CONSCRIPTION DISCUSSED IN THE SENATE

Sir James Loughheed Says Voluntarism Puts Premium on Cowardice—Assails Slack and Rebellious Persons.

Ottawa, July 31.—(Canadian Press) Sir James Loughheed, in the senate today, moved the second reading of the military service bill.

After sketching the circumstances leading up to the decision to enforce conscription, Sir James said there was nothing more illegal than voluntarism. It put a premium upon cowardice, and resulted in the bold and worthy men of the land risking their lives for the reluctant and unworthy. In Canada no clique and no section of the country could logically refuse to serve in the defence of the Dominion, no matter how recalcitrant the spirit of a clique or portion of the country might be.

Would Be Farce.

To take a referendum upon the question at the present time would be doing violence to the principle of defence. To say that on the question of military service the government, through a referendum, should ask the verdict of the coward, the slacker, the alien and rebellious persons, who had not responded to the call of duty, would constitute a farce in the greatest tragedy that the world had ever seen.

It was futile to talk, as some portions of the country did, of defending Canada in Canada. Canada had to be occupied in Europe, where Britain and civilization were being defended. In Canada there was a powerful element that openly proclaimed disloyalty.

THE BRITISH ATTACK ON WIDE FRONT

Berlin Says Strong Drive Made by Allies, But Claims Victory.

MANY PRISONERS TAKEN BY ALLIES

Germans Claim to Have Captured Important Positions Near Cerny.

ALSO CLAIM TO HAVE WON OVER RUSSIANS

On Bank of the Dneister and the Pruth Germans Allege Victories.

London, July 31.—British troops, in conjunction with the French forces on their left attacked the German positions along a wide front north of River Lys at 3.50 o'clock this morning.

The Allied troops, according to a British official statement, have captured their first objectives on the whole front, and are reported to be making satisfactory progress at all points.

A considerable number of prisoners already have been captured by the French and British.

The text of the British statement announcing that an offensive had been launched by the British and French against the German positions north of the River Lys in Flanders says:

"In conjunction with the French troops operating on our left we attacked at 3.50 o'clock this morning, on a wide front north of the River Lys.

"The Allied troops have captured their first objective on the whole front attacked, and are reported to be making satisfactory progress at all points. "Considerable numbers of prisoners already have been captured."

German Statement.

Berlin, July 31.—Strong attacks by the Entente Allies have commenced along a wide front from the Yser to the Lys, in Flanders, says the official statement issued today by the German general staff. The infantry battle in Flanders, the statement adds, has thus opened.

"The British attack in Flanders, on both sides of Ypres, has been repulsed according to the German official communication issued tonight. Only a crater position was taken in the assault, it is asserted. The text of the communication follows:

"The first assault of the English army, delivered in Flanders on a 25 kilometre front on both sides of Ypres has been repulsed. "After changeable bitter fighting on a large scale the enemy, who attacked with superior forces many ranks deep, had to content himself with the possession of a crater position in our defensive zone.

"On the Chemin-Des-Dames (Aisne front) an energetic attack put us in possession of important height positions near Cerny, and resulted in the capture of more than 1,500 French prisoners."

"In the east we obtained further successes on both banks of the Dneister, and the Pruth as well as in the wooded Carpathians."