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Lens Falls to British

Germans Fail To Make Effort To Recover Drocourt-Queant Line--Queant Is Captured With Several Other Places

Haig's Men Drive Four Miles On 20-Mile Front

Canadians Had Big Share In Storming Work On Monday

Carried Everything Before Them--Ten Thousand Prisoners Taken Yesterday--Hint at Something of Much Importance on Southern Battlefront

London, Sept. 3.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's, Ltd.)—The British have occupied Lens, Wulverghem, Queant, Tromville, Doignies, Yelu Bertincourt and Rocquigny.

This represents an advance to a maximum depth of four miles on a twenty mile front this morning.

Lens was evacuated by the Germans, the British moving in. More than 10,000 prisoners were taken by the British yesterday.

Contrary to expectations the enemy has not reacted heavily with a view to the recapture of the Queant-Drocourt line, but has left the British in undisturbed possession of it.

SOMETHING BIG IN SOUTH? The situation in the southern part of the battlefield is said to be extremely interesting, but nothing more can be said for the moment.

The capture of the town of Queant, the southern support of the famous German switch line before Cambrai and Douai, is announced in an official statement from Field Marshal Haig today.

Along this line the enemy was heavily defeated in his prepared defences and is retiring on virtually the whole battlefield.

The British forces are reported to have entered the towns of Pronville, Dougnies and Bertincourt.

In storming the Drocourt-Queant line the Canadians assisted the English troops and carried everything before them.

WELL BEYOND THE LINE. With the British Army in France, Sept. 3, 1918 p. m.—(By the Associated Press)—In heavy fighting last night beyond the Drocourt-Queant line, the British are reported to have made further progress on a front of 13,000 yards.

The villages of Seneffe and Recont, more than a mile and a half beyond Dury, the capture of which was announced last night, are reported to have been taken today.

The village of Etzing, two miles north of Dury, fell yesterday at about the same time the British farther south were capturing Villers-Lez-Cagnicourt.

These captures were effected after most bitter fighting.

GERMANS SHORT OF ARTILLERY. With the British Forces in France, Sept. 3.—(By the Associated Press)—The Canal du Nord constitutes another heavily defended Boche system and the British in the fighting along this waterway have killed an enormous number of Germans who seem to have been packed in this locality.

There has been heavy fighting in Sully-Saulbache, where 100 prisoners were taken and another large group of Germans killed by the British.

Early this morning the British began operations in the area northeast of Hendeourt. After three counter-attacks on the town had been smothered, the British attacked the headquarters at the Chateau from which seventy prisoners, including a battalion commander, and his complete staff, were taken.

So swiftly did the British advance that at one point in the recent fighting a complete horse ambulance, including two doctors and 800 prisoners, were taken.

At one place a British officer with one man bombed an enemy trench and then advanced. Eighty Germans of the garrison surrendered to the pair.

The effects of the recent Entente Allied artillery fire are shown in an order signed by General Ludendorff, which also apparently discloses a shortage of German artillery. General Ludendorff says that during one month the Allies shell fire destroyed thirty per cent of the German guns in action. He directs that strong counter-battery measures be taken.

REICHTAG LEADERS IN ATTEMPT TO END WAR. Stockholm, Sept. 3.—The Nyadagligt Allehandas quotes Pieter Troelstra, Dutch Socialist leader, as saying that an attempt was made last January by the leaders of the three parties constituting the German Reichstag majority to reach an agreement with the political pacifist leaders of England with the view to preparing the way for energetic action in favor of peace on the principles enunciated by President Wilson.

After Draft Evaders. New York, Sept. 3.—Nearly 25,000 government agents today began to ferret out draft evaders in New York city and vicinity.

Means Loss of French Coal Fields; Perhaps Even Flanders Coast

Drocourt-Queant Switch All Important to the Germans

Pivot of Whole Enemy Front

Breach Made By British, Huns Were Expected to Make Desperate Efforts to Close It—Comment of London Papers

London, Sept. 3.—The essential breaking of the famous Drocourt-Queant switch line following a series of important Allied advances with great captures of men and material, has made an immense impression here. While the great confidence that the success can be maintained is depressed, and while the expectation is general that the enemy will make the most desperate efforts to recover the position, it does not appear as if one of the worst disasters inflicted upon the Germans during the whole war and one which could cause their high command the deepest anxiety.

The belief is general that the switch line is the main system of German defence and that there is nothing so strong behind it. Consequently, its loss if it becomes final, opens the widest possibilities.

"The loss would involve the evacuation of the French coal fields, perhaps even of the Flanders coast," says the Daily Mail, "and would imperil the German hold on Douai, Valenciennes and Cambrai, which are essential to Hindenburg for manoeuvring his armies. The switch line is thus the pivot of the whole German front, and its breach means that we have forced the enemy to a struggle of man against man which he had used to avoid."

The Telegraph, also noting the danger to the important German centres of communication, says: "If the Germans cannot stand before Douai, Cambrai and St. Quentin they can stand nowhere this side of the German frontier. If it is possible for them to fight harder and throw in reserves at a swifter rate than they have done in the last few days they will do so. We doubt the possibility of their accomplishing either."

Other commentators remark that the Germans now pretend that they are retiring according to plan, and are convinced that the retirement will be completely carried much further than they ever intended.

Superior—A shallow disturbance which was over the state of Kansas yesterday morning has moved to the lake region, causing showers over western and northern Ontario. The weather has been fine in Quebec and the maritime provinces. Frost has occurred in many parts of the western provinces.

Forecasts. Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Showers today; Wednesday, fresh north-west winds, fair and cool.

Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Unsettled and showery; Wednesday, fresh north-west winds, fair and cool.

Lower St. Lawrence—Moderate winds tonight and early Wednesday, then clearing.

Gulf and North Shore—Moderate winds, fair today, showers on Wednesday. Unsettled.

Maritime—Light winds, fine; Wednesday, moderate south-east to south winds, becoming unsettled with showers.

Superior—Fresh north-west winds, fair and cool tonight and on Wednesday.

Manitoba—Fair and quite cool. Saskatchewan and Alberta—A few light scattered showers but mostly fair and cool today and on Wednesday.

New England—Showers tonight; Wednesday partly cloudy, probably showers in Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts. Cooler the mainland; moderate south and southwest winds.

Giving Way In The South

Signs of Enemy Retirement in Vicinity of Ham And Guiscard Are Reported Today

Paris, Sept. 3.—Constant movements toward the rear of the German lines on the Somme front in the regions of Ham and Guiscard are reported by the correspondent of Le Journal at British headquarters. Hospital and dressing stations are being hastily cleared, while convoys are moving northwardward harassed by hostile airplanes.

Paris, Sept. 3.—Artillery actions on the Somme front and farther south between the Oise and the Aisne are reported in the official statement issued at the war office today. Enemy raids along the Vesle River and in the 'Voieges' regions were without result.

FIVE MILES FROM CHEMIN DES DAMES. With the French Army in France, Sept. 2.—(By the Associated Press)—The French army resumed its attack on the plateau north of Soissons this morning, encountering very strong resistance in spite of which General Mangin's men pushed on to Leudilly, which is only two miles from Vaux Allion and five miles from Chemin des Dames.

Further south they captured Torny-Sorny and Fontaine St. Remy. The road from Cozy to Font Rouge, in the direction of Chemin des Dames was reached and progress continues, according to latest reports.

BURNING THEIR SUPPLIES. Huge fires which were seen in the direction of Vaux Allion, northeast of Soissons, at three o'clock this afternoon indicated that the enemy was burning his supplies. There is said to be nothing else inflammable in that region.

Today's successes completed the conquest of Soissons plateau, which will compel the Germans to retire to the Chemin des Dames, which itself is menaced by the French advance towards Vaux Allion.

French Comment. Paris, Sept. 3.—Yesterday was another day of notable successes for the Allies, results of the first importance being attained in the face of stiff resistance to both the British on the left of the line and to General Mangin's forces on the right.

The French military commentators were enthusiastically today over the breach in the Hindenburg line made by the British between Drocourt and Queant.

"Astounding as it may seem," says Henri Bidou, in the Journal des Debats, "the effects and the consequences of the presence of this important mass of effectives. Doubtless the German staff held the hope that the British, after several days of hard fighting, would be obliged to rest."

In the newspaper Oul, Colonel Fabry advances the view that the battle is being directed on the German side by the local command, which is being more and more left to their own resources by General Ludendorff. This, he argues, is the German plan that confusion prevails along the German line and likewise of a scarcity of reserves, for they say that the German staff are now in a state of command loses its best reason for intervening in the direction of affairs at the front.

All the commentators agree that the British success is likely to have wide-reaching effects and that the German army fighting before St. Quentin and Laferre will be obliged to accelerate their retreat for fear of the fall of what is characterized as the pivot of the whole line, to the west of Cambrai, which would place them in jeopardy.

MRS. JOSEPH McLEOD DEAD. Mother of Col. H. F. McLeod, Capt. Norman F. McLeod and Mrs. Blanchard Fowler.

Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 3.—News of the death of Mrs. McLeod, widow of Rev. Dr. Jos. McLeod of this city was received today. She died at Victoria corner, Carleton county. She had spent the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Fred Boyer, and was taken ill in June when preparing to return home. The body will be brought here tomorrow evening for interment.

Mrs. McLeod was formerly Miss Squires of Carleton county and was aged seventy-four. She is survived by two sons, Colonel H. F. McLeod, M.P., of York-Sunbury, and Capt. Norman F. McLeod, serving in France, and three daughters, Mrs. Ida White of Pretoria, South Africa; Mrs. Fred Boyer of Victoria corner, and Mrs. Blanchard Fowler of St. John. The funeral will take place on Thursday afternoon with services by Rev. J. E. Wilson.

PART OF ODESSA IS DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION. Amsterdam, Sept. 3.—A Kiev despatch received here reports that a disastrous explosion occurred in Odessa on Saturday. The despatch says several Austro-German officers and men were killed and that a portion of one of the suburbs of Odessa was destroyed.

BURIED TODAY. The funeral of Peter Britt took place this morning from his late residence, 55 Sheffield street, to St. John the Baptist church, where high mass of requiem was celebrated by Rev. F. J. McMurray. Interment was made in the new Catholic cemetery.

PILES OF HUN DEAD TESTIFY TO POWER OF OUR ATTACK

Heavy Fighting In The Smashing of Drocourt-Queant Line

CANADIANS CAPTURE DURY

Intense Barrage Preceded the Climb Over the Top—Many Germans Surrender, Some Covering in Holes and Scrambling With Frigate

With the British Army in France, Sept. 3.—(By the Associated Press)—During the night there was very heavy fighting around the British positions, which were almost jammed up against the German defence system. Piles of dead Germans were one of the results.

During one enemy attack a sergeant with a machine gun killed sixty Germans in a crash barrage. The whole sky seemed ablaze as thousands of British shells poured into the German wire and lines. When the barrage raised the Canadians and English swarmed over the top. Just behind them were numerous tanks of all sizes. They had been over only a minute when the enemy opened with a counter-barrage, which is said to have been far the strongest he has put down since the British offensive began.

The instant the British appeared the Germans in many cases jumped out of the trenches and held their hands high above their heads. In some cases, however, the advancing British met with hail of machine gun bullets, but not withstanding this, they were being more and more left to their own resources by General Ludendorff. This, he argues, is the German plan that confusion prevails along the German line and likewise of a scarcity of reserves, for they say that the German staff are now in a state of command loses its best reason for intervening in the direction of affairs at the front.

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NOW ON TO CAMBRAI

British Break Down The Determined Resistance

PROGRESS AT SEVERAL PLACES

Strong Opposition Developing at Only One Place, On Extreme Left, And They Are Expected to Try to Stand at Canal du Nord

With the British Armies in France, Sept. 3.—(By the Associated Press, 1918 p. m.)—The determined German resistance at the cross roads north of Villers-Lez-Cagnicourt was overcome by the British this morning and Haig's men are now showing forward in the direction of Cambrai.

A strong British force is driving forward on the northern reaches of the Hindenburg line. The British are well inside the Drocourt-Queant line.

So far as learned, no organized counter-attacks have been developed by the Germans, but on the extreme British left determined opposition is developing. British troops today advanced well to the east of Peronne and are making steady progress.

The enemy was in force at the last reports to the southwest and to the north of Queant. From the ridges he was pouring a heavy machine gun fire at the British, who were returning the fire and gaining ground at the same time.

On the Somme battlefield the British are driving at a pace generally fast in the direction of the Canal du Nord, where the Germans have erected wire. It is said, though, that their trenches here, however, have only been half dug.

The Germans, it seems to be expected, will offer determined resistance along this line, as they are now doing in front of it, and then retire back of the canal if necessary. With their lines at the canal in such an embryo state, however, little protection will be afforded the enemy should he be forced to take refuge behind them.

(Continued on page 2, seventh column)

WEATHER REPORT. Issued by Authority of the Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, Director of meteorological service.

OUR ARMEN GIVE ENEMY GREAT WORRY

Much Bombing and Machine Gun Fire Into Retreating Germans

London, Sept. 3.—The operations of the British aviators along the fighting line are described in an official communication last night as follows:

"After the heavy rain of Saturday night the weather improved on Sunday. More than 1,000 photographs were taken by our airmen and many reconnaissance effected. Throughout the day the area which the Germans were entering was searched by our low flying aircraft, who everywhere attacked enemy troops and transport with bombs and machine gun fire, causing heavy casualties and much confusion. Bridges and railway connections in the enemy back areas were heavily bombed.

"In the air fighting eight enemy machines were destroyed and four driven down out of control. Six hostile balloons were brought down in flames. Eight of our machines are missing.

"Night bombing was continued. A German airbase beyond St. Quentin was heavily attacked. We lost one night bombing machine. During the twenty-four hours more than thirty-four tons of bombs were launched."

TWO FIRES IN ONE PLACE IN MONCTON. Moncton, N. B., Sept. 3.—The firemen were called out during the night at early morning for two fires in one place. A blaze started between D. H. Mills' store and Flewelling Wilbur's pool room. Little damage was done at first. About two o'clock a second alarm was rung for a fire which caused considerable damage. Mills' loss is estimated at between \$60 and \$100.

TAX AMERICANS EIGHT BILLIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S WAR EXPENDITURES. Washington, Sept. 3.—Under the new war revenue bill, favorably reported to the house today by the ways and means committee, the American people will pay in taxes approximately \$8,012,782,000 of this year's estimated war expenditure of \$24,000,000,000. The remainder of nearly \$16,000,000,000 will be left to posterity in the form of bonds.