

# OFFICIAL STORIES OF THE GREAT ALLIED OFFENSIVE IN FRANCE

## BRITISH TAKE 3,500 GERMANS IN FIRST RUSH

Second Day's Report Says That General Conditions Are Favorable.

## PENETRATED TWO MILES

Kitchener's Army Is Being Put To Its First Great Test.

## ENEMY CONFIRMS SUCCESS

Admits Withdrawal from First Line Trenches and Loss of Materiel.

[Canadian Press.]

London, July 2.—12:40 a.m.—British general headquarters reports tonight as follows: "Heavy fighting has taken place today in the area between the Ancre and the Somme, especially about Fricourt and La Boisselle.

"Fricourt was captured by our troops about 2 p.m., and remains in our hands, and some progress has been made east of the village.

"In the neighborhood of La Boisselle the enemy is offering stubborn resistance, but our troops are making satisfactory 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.

Estimates Too Low.

"The general situation may be regarded as favorable. Later information of the enemy's losses shows that our first estimates were too low."

The following official statement announced the capture of Fricourt, three miles east of Albert.

"Substantial progress has been made in the vicinity of Fricourt, which was captured by us at 2 p.m. today.

"Up to noon today some 800 more prisoners had been taken in the operations between the Ancre and the Somme, bringing the total up to 3,500, including those captured in other parts of the front last night."

The official British dispatches issued today report the continued success of the combined Anglo-French offensive.

The Germans put into operation strong counter-attacks during the night, and are apparently making desperate resistance, but the British troops have repulsed Fricourt, and the French have captured Curly and have seemingly nowhere had to yield the ground already gained.

The German lines in some places have been penetrated to a depth of two miles, and the prisoners taken by the French and British in the two days' fighting are many thousands. North of the Somme, where the French and British armies make contact, various points of tactical value have been taken.

The allied struggle to extend and hold over the rolling plateau of from 300 to 500 feet high, which stretches around Albert, at Contalmaison, Fricourt and Commercourt, the Germans made a most desperate resistance with a view to defending the high road which extends from Arras to Bapaume and Peronne, and which is one of the main arteries of the western operations.

Germans Confirm Success.

The German official report generally confirms the success of the first day's operations, admitting the withdrawal of the Germans from their first-line trenches and the abandonment of heavy materiel 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, Gen. Brusiloff, is possible against the depth, strength and raw power of the formidably organized German front, and that great sacrifices and possible setbacks must be prepared for.

Kitchener's Army Fighting.

Many reports have heard that Kitchener had not lived to see the results of his work. This is the first great battle in which the military legends he created are being put to the test.

Kitchener's armies have virtually replaced the first small expeditionary force sent out under Field Marshal French, which had to sustain the earlier battles of the war.

It is also the first time that a great offensive has been carried out by a well-organized, co-ordinated allied strategy, not on the western front alone, but over the whole field of operations, and confidence in the allied commanders has no intention to risk needless sacrifices of life for a mere spectacular advance. As one correspondent writes:

"There is no kniffer, any attempt to pierce as with a knife, but a slow, continuous, methodical push, leading to the day when the enemy's resistance will crumble at some point."

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## BATTLE OF THE SOMME OPENING OF OFFENSIVE; IN PROGRESS TWO DAYS

British Capture Nine Villages and 50 Square Miles of Territory From Teutons.

## FOE'S HEADQUARTERS IN DANGER

French Also Threaten Peronne, to Cut Off German Railway Centre—Enemy Unable to Bring Up Reinforcements.

[Canadian Press Cable.]

Paris, July 2.—The battle of the Somme, now in full progress, 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 entire allied forces are sweeping forward along a 25-mile front. The French already have taken about 6,000 prisoners, while the British lines have enveloped within the last 24 hours nine villages and 50 square miles of French territory held until now by the Germans.

The fighting lines extend between a great number of small villages, which are usually devoted to textile industries, while the outlying agricultural sections are level fields devoted to beet culture for the extensive sugar production of France.

Foe's Communication Cut.

The intense bombardment of the last four days was the signal for an advance over those level fields, beginning at 5.30 a.m. yesterday morning. The allied artillery then lengthened the range, so as to shut off all communication between the first German line and the German reserves in the rear. This made it impossible for the Teutons to utilize their perfect organization for the shifting of troops and for the bringing up of reinforcements. It is thought by French military observers that the Germans miscalculated the intentions of the Entente Allies and expected the attacks further to the north.

Villages Strongly Fortified.

The villages of the French captured in the first sweep include Dompreire, Beaucourt, Bussu and Fay, and these and the towns taken by the British—including Montauban and Mametz—were all found to have been strongly fortified by the Germans.

The Allies, profiting from their experience in the war, quickly threw up strong earthwork around the villages thus taken as a protection against German counter-attacks. The counter-attack was centered against the French positions at the outskirts of Hardecourt, and repulsed with heavy losses.

Important Towns Threatened.

In addition to these military successes the terrain overrun by the entente allied troops has an exceptional strategic importance. Four of the towns captured by the French are only seven miles west of Peronne, with the evident purpose of cutting the trunk railway there, which is an indispensable artery for German military reinforcements.

Capture of Dompreire.

A correspondent at the front, describing the capture of Dompreire, says the soldiers of one corps, taking example from their commander, went into battle covered with flowers.

"That," said a 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 Dompreire, which was held by the Germans for some time. The British captured the town, and then the Germans were driven out of it."

Desperate fighting continues around Verdun, and although this field of battle is separated by nearly one hundred miles from the fighting in the north, Verdun is considered part of the vast military plan now unfolding.

The French have now taken the aggressive at Verdun, today's report showing an attack on Dead Man Hill with heavy German losses and the killing of prisoners. The French are thus keeping the Germans fully occupied at Verdun, and are preventing them from sending reinforcements to relieve their weakened line in the north.

Scots Take Montauban.

"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 prisoner."

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## ALLIES START TO CONSOLIDATE THE NEW POSITIONS

First Day Marks Permanent Capture of Trenches.

## DESTRUCTION COMPLETE

Enemy Puts Up Fight North of Ancre in Strong Force.

BY FREDERICK PALMER.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Saturday, July 1.—10 p.m.—Via London, June 2.—1:10 a.m.—The close of the first day's offensive over the longest front the Entente Allies have attempted, and the most intense action of the war for the British, finds the British and French consolidating their gains.

South of the Ancre River, where the infantry spent forward, Curly was captured by the French, and Montauban and Mametz were taken by the British with almost unbroken success, though against heavy curtains of fire and deadly machine-gun sniping from strong points, and particularly for the British, from a German trench called "Dancing Alley."

Lost Only One Man.

Word came from the destruction by artillery of the first-line trench so complete that one British battalion occupied it with the loss of a single man. The Germans in their defensive tactics in many instances lost the first-line trench lightly held, and then shelled it when occupied by the British, but the British carried on the fight to the second line.

The Germans in large force fought fiercely north of the Ancre. At Gommeourt and Beaumont-Hamel there was an intensely active exchange, in the morning the mist in the valleys made it difficult for the infantry units to keep in touch with each other, or the gunners to follow their advance, but a brilliant sunshine continued through the day, with clear air and summer heat.

Fight About Thiepval.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock the village was still being desperately held by the German forces. The place was visible to the observer, before the British opened another artillery attack, which seemed to be churning it to dust, making it impossible for any human being to survive the bombardment.

The British mortars also were busy, the projectiles glinting under the sun as hundreds of them followed one another, like a juggler's balls, into the village. So swift was the assault, that some British wounded may already be in London.

Prisoners are being brought in in batches as they are gathered from the dugouts not destroyed by artillery fire.

Quick Results for Allies.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Saturday, July 1.—12:35 p.m.—A tremendous British offensive was launched at half-past seven this morning over a front extending twenty miles north of the Somme. The assault was preceded by a terrific bombardment. The British troops already have occupied the German front line and have captured many prisoners.

The terrific bombardment which preceded the attack lasted about an hour and a half. It was too early as yet to give any but the barest particulars of the fighting which is developing in intensity. The British casualties have so far been comparatively light, according to official report.

The artillery bombardment of the first day was continued this morning with a degree of fury and a number of guns which were unprecedented in the region of Albert and the Somme, with the French co-operation.

At 7.30 o'clock, through clouds of smoke and dust which hung over the whole field, as far as the eye could see, the infantry sprang from the trenches for an assault over a front of 20 miles.

First Line Trenches Taken.

Already it has gained possession of the first line trenches, and the advance is continuing. The new British trench mortars, which fire 35 shells a minute, cut wire entanglements and destroyed trenches. A large number of prisoners have been taken.

Some of the prisoners say the British curtains of fire prevented them from getting food for the last five days.

British staff officers who witnessed the advance at the junction of the French and British lines, said the attack was launched as though the men were on parade.

Simultaneously with the launching of the British offensive, the French advanced to the attack. This movement of French troops was inaugurated over a section of the French line adjoining the junction point with the British front.

Gains in Five Hours.

Reports received from the front up to 12.30 o'clock, five hours after the commencement of the offensive, showed that the British had captured the towns of La Boisselle, Serre and Montauban and Curly and Faviere Woods. The main first line trenches were taken, and the British attack are reported to have been stormed, and at various points the fighting has reached the main second line.

These reports show that the French and British, at the points of their greatest advances, have broken through a distance of more than five miles beyond the first German trenches. La Boisselle is 5½ miles west of the British front, and Curly Wood is 6 miles east southeast of Albert.

The British are endeavoring to surround Thiepval, and at other points the intense struggle is under way for towns and villages. Reports from the front indicate that the important German position at Pricourt may be cut off.

Important Points Taken.

At this hour (1:15 p.m.), the British are making good progress behind the front lines in German-held territory. Serre and Montauban, which the British have captured, are important tactical points. Serre is southeast of Hebuterne and Montauban is northeast of Bray. The British are fighting for the villages of Mametz and Contalmaison, portions of which they hold.

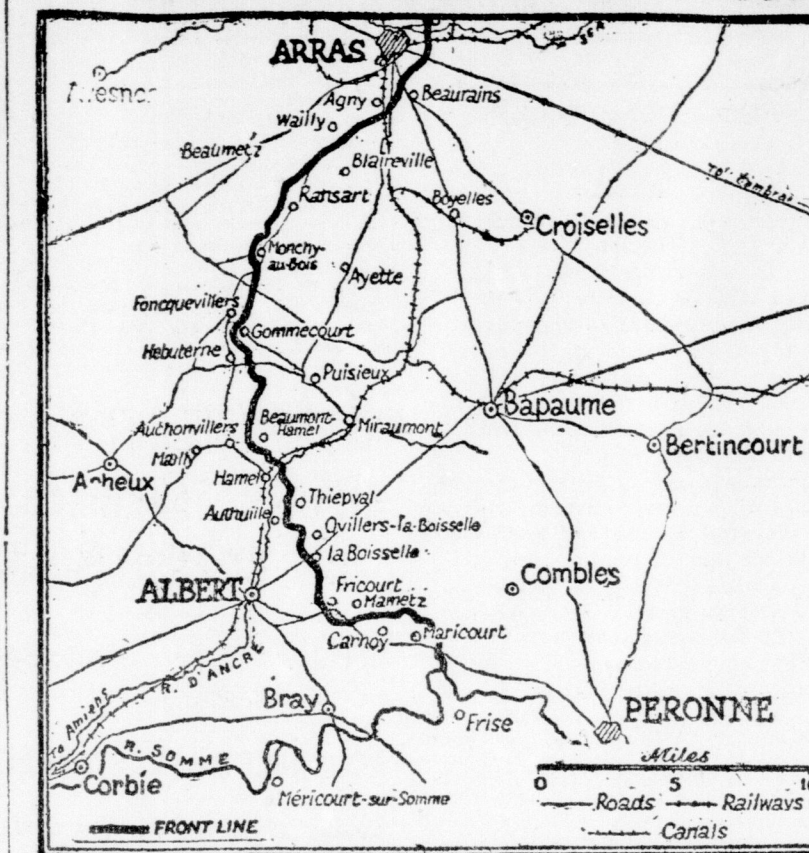
The British are fighting gallantly, and have taken many prisoners in the front lines.

The French, advancing on the British right, are moving with great steadiness. After the assault they very quickly covered a distance of two kilometers between the German front line. Thus far the day has gone well for France and England.

Casement Hearing July 17.

LONDON, July 2.—The hearing of the appeal of Sir Roger Casement, who on June 25 was found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death for complicity in the Irish rebellion, has been fixed for July 17.

## Where the British Advanced



Most of the towns captured by the British are shown on this map, east and northeast of Albert. Frise, west of Peronne, was taken by the French. Dompreire, south of Frise, and Curly, north of Frise, fell to the French. The Somme River marks the junction of the British and French lines.

## FOE'S OBSERVATION BALLOONS ARE PUT OUT OF BUSINESS BY ALERT BRITISH AIRMEN

Two Fokkers Brought Down in Air Battle—French Raid German Railway Stations and Bomb Munitions Factory at Noyon.

[BY FREDERICK PALMER.]

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, July 2, via London, July 2.—1:10 p.m.—The destruction of six German sausage-shaped observation balloons was a serious loss, as none has been replaced. It was noticeable that the British aeroplanes were in the open town of Lunelle. This is noted in view of reprisals.

Many French Raids.

On the night of June 29-30 a group of our aeroplanes carried out the following bombardments: Eighteen shells of 120 millimetres were dropped on the Neule station, and six of 120 millimetres, on Boye, where a fire broke out. Two shells dropped on an automobile convoy northeast of Neule were seen to fall in the midst of the cars. The same night thirteen of our aeroplanes dropped 60 shells on a German munitions factory in the outskirts of Noyon. Their objective was reached by most of the projectiles, the effects of which were observed.

On the night of June 30-July 1, seven of our aeroplanes again dropped thirteen shells on the Neule station and six on the village of Boye. A fire was observed.

"In the course of a reconnaissance one of our pilots was attacked by a Fokker. Though wounded in the first encounter he succeeded in bringing down his adversary, who fell in the forest of Bezaune. On his way back the same pilot was again attacked by an enemy biplane and wounded a second time. He succeeded in extricating himself, and returned to our lines."

WHAT BERLIN SAYS.

BERLIN, July 2, via London.—Today's German official statement says regarding aviation:

"Our squadrons gave battle at various points and inflicted upon the enemy heavy losses. For instance, in the region of the front attacked and in that of the Meuse, fifteen enemy aeroplanes were shot down, eight English and three French machines falling within our lines. Lieut. Baron von Albot was attacked with his seventh opponent. We lost no aeroplanes, but some pilots or observers were wounded."

RAILWAY STATIONS BOMBED.

PARIS, July 2.—11:38 p.m.—Referring to the activity of the aviators, tonight's French official report says:

"Several of our aeroplanes brought down five German aeroplanes, which crashed to earth on the night of the 1st. One of our squadrons dropped thirteen shells on the railway station at Longuyon, and eight on the station at Thionville. Another squadron dropped 33 bombs on the station at Brielleux."

penetrated the German trenches at various points on the front between Souchez and Ypres, in each case inflicting casualties on the garrisons before withdrawing. One raiding party captured sixteen prisoners.

Work of Aeroplanes.

"Yesterday, in spite of a high wind, a large amount of successful work was done in the air. An important railway station was attacked with powerful bombs. A large number of other bombs were dropped on depots, railway junctions, trenches and other points of military importance in the region of the front."

"Considerable aerial activity occurred today during the battle, but full details have not yet been collected. Our machines attacked a railway train on the line between Douai and Cambrai. One of our aeroplanes descended to below 900 feet, and succeeded in dropping a bomb on trucks, which exploded. Other pilots saw the whole train in flames and heard further explosions."

Take German Labyrinth.

"On the night of our attack we have captured a German labyrinth of trenches on a front of seven miles to a depth of 1,000 yards, and have stormed and occupied the strongly-fortified village of Montauban and Mametz."

"In the centre of our attack on a front of four miles we have gained many strong points, while at others the enemy is still holding out, and the struggle on the front is still severe."

"North of the Ancre Valley, according to the official statement, the British have not been able to hold sections of the German line in their first attacks made. Two thousand German prisoners have been taken."

The text reads as follows:

"The heavy fighting continued all day between the rivers Somme and Ancre and north of Ancre to Gommeourt inclusive. The fight on the whole of this front still continues with intensity."

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## FRENCH FORCE WAY INTO SECOND LINE OF FOE'S TRENCHES

Unwounded Prisoners More Than 6,000.

## LOSSES ARE VERY SMALL

Frise and Curly Captured—German Counter-Attack Repulsed.

PARIS, July 2.—11:38 p.m.—South of the Somme the French have forced their way into the second line of the German entrenchments at a number of places, and have captured the village of Frise and the Merecourt wood, according to a statement issued by the French official tonight.

The number of unwounded prisoners taken in the two days' battle is now taken to be more than 6,000.

The text of the statement follows:

"North of the Somme the battle continued all day to our advantage in the region of Hardecourt and Curly. East of this latter village we have carried a quarry which had been powerfully organized by the enemy."

Frise Had Fallen.

"South of the Somme we have obtained a footing in the second line of German trenches at numerous places. Between the river and Assevillers the village of Frise has fallen into our hands and also the Merecourt wood, further east."

"The number of unwounded prisoners captured by the French soldiers during the two days' fighting, and who have been counted, is more than 6,000, of which at least 150 were officers. Some cannon and other materiel has also fallen into our hands. Thanks to very complete and efficacious artillery preparation and thanks also to the aid of our infantry our losses have been very small."

French Capture Curly.

At Arras yesterday the French had taken prisoners 5,000 Germans, according to the official statement issued today by the French war department.

In the course of the night French troops captured the village of Curly, seven miles east of Albert. The village was held by the Germans, and the French were obliged to retreat there in disorder.

The text of the statement follows:

"North of the Somme the fighting was fierce during the night. The Germans launched violent counter-attacks against our new positions at the approaches to Hardecourt. Our curtains of artillery fire and infantry fire inflicted important losses upon the enemy who was forced to retreat in disorder, leaving in our hands 200 prisoners of whom six were officers."

Pursuing our advantage upon the right bank of the Faviere River we captured after a spirited fighting the village of Curly, which we have entirely occupied.

Maintain All Positions.

"South of the Somme we have maintained all the positions conquered by us yesterday, and accomplished some progress between Hardecourt and Assevillers in the night. Our curtains of artillery fire and infantry fire inflicted important losses upon the enemy who was forced to retreat in disorder, leaving in our hands 200 prisoners of whom six were officers."

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