

CAPTURE OF GERMANS' ENTIRE FIRST SYSTEM OF DEFENCE ON FRONT OF NEARLY 8 MILES IS BRITISH ACHIEVEMENT IN 10 DAYS' CONTINUOUS FIGHTING

London, July 11.—The capture of the whole of the Germans' first system of defence on a front of 14,000 yards (nearly eight miles), after ten days and nights of continuous fighting, is announced in the official report from British headquarters in France. The number of prisoners taken exceeds 7,500.

Holding Contalmaison and Mametz Wood British Have Retaken Trones Wood.

Fourteen Thousand Yards of Enemy's First Defence and 7,500 Prisoners Fell to British Since Great Drive Began—Over 22,000 Germans Captured Since Battle of the Somme Began—Heavy Fighting on All Fronts With Verdun Again a Storm Centre.

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The text of the statement reads: "After ten days and nights of continuous fighting our troops have completed the methodical capture of the whole of the enemy's first system of defence on a front of 14,000 yards. The system of defence consisted of numerous and continuous lines of fire trenches, support trenches and reserve trenches, extending for various depths from two thousand to four thousand yards. It included five strongly fortified villages, numerous heavily wired and entrenched woods and a large number of immensely strong redoubts. The capture of each of these trenches represented an operation of some importance, and the whole of them are now in our hands.

"The German success in the recapture of Trones Wood after costly casualties was of short duration. Today we recaptured nearly the whole of this wood. All but the northernmost end is again in our hands.

"Apart from the number of guns hidden in houses and buried in the debris, etc., we have in the course of these operations brought in 26 field guns, one naval gun, one anti-aircraft gun and one heavy howitzer, while the number of German prisoners captured exceeds 7,500."

Another Good Day For the Allies.

London, July 11.—This was another good day for the Allies, who are making a steady advance on all fronts. A striking illustration of the difference in the relative positions of the Allied and Teutonic forces and of the remarkable change from the monotonous defensive trench warfare which characterized the Allied operations for so many weary months until the present summer, is found in the number of prisoners and guns taken. These for the battle of the Somme amount to 12,000 prisoners and 104 guns captured from the Germans, while the official figures for the Russian General Brusiloff's drive to the 20th of July are 271,850 prisoners, 315 guns and 84 machine guns.

Today's news is of sustained and heavy fighting on almost all the fronts, the Allies making consistent progress, with only occasional setbacks. The British have finally captured the fiercely contested town of Contalmaison after desperate day and night fighting and are now holding the town against all the German counter-attacks.

The importance the Germans have attached to this position may be measured by the fact that they recently threw the Prussian Guards into the fighting at this point.

The British are also in possession of the greater part of Mametz Wood, and have recaptured nearly the whole of Trones Wood. The British commander-in-chief, Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, thus summarizes the results of the ten days' operations: "Our troops have completed the methodical capture of the whole of the enemy's first system of defence on a front of 14,000 yards."

"The news from the eastern front is equally satisfactory from an allied point of view. The German official communication at least admits that the fighting on the Stokhod line is approaching Kovel on both sides of the railway, and claims that the Russians have been driven back near Hulevichs.

"Much comment was caused here today by the German denial of an alleged Russian claim that Pinsk had been evacuated, as no such claim has been made in the Russian official despatches.

"It is now clear that the Russian drive in the direction of Kovel has brought the German offensive at

Lutsk to a standstill and according to the Russian communication, the Germans have brought up strong reinforcements to defend the Stokhod line and Kovel. General Brusiloff, however, now has the impassable Pinsk marshes covering his right flank, and is in a position to outflank the German defenses of Kovel.

34,000 More Prisoners for Russians. The huge confagration, noted in the Russian communication, south of the Kovel railway, are regarded in Petrograd as having been caused by the Germans to cover their own retreat and impede the Russian advance, which is within twenty miles of Kovel. The capture of 34,000 prisoners by the Russians in the Stokhod and Galician battles from July 4 to July 9, seems to indicate that the Germans have been unable to throw reinforcements in sufficient strength to stem the Russian advance.

"According to a report from Berne, Switzerland, the Austrians are hurriedly transferring the Landsturm from Serbia and Montenegro in an attempt to hold back the Russians. The difficulties confronting the Central Powers in meeting the all-round attack are indicated in the Italian official statement tonight, in which it is stated that the Austrians have been obliged to recall to the Italian front troops which were about to be sent to the eastern front.

Heavy Fighting in Verdun Sector. Paris, July 11.—While relative calm prevailed on both sides of the Somme, according to the official communication issued by the French war office tonight, heavy fighting occurred on the right bank of the Meuse, in the Verdun sector. German forces succeeded in gaining a footing in the Damouloup battery and in some sections of the French line in the Fumin Wood. The text reads: "On both sides of the Meuse the day was relatively calm. Small detachment operations enabled us to clear completely the wood north of La Malsonnette, and to occupy some underground passages between Etrees and Belloy-En-Santerre. We made prisoners.

"On the right bank of the Meuse the Germans this morning renewed their attacks on the front of the Flury station, the Vaux Wood, Chapirey and Chenoy.

"After several fruitless attempts, which cost him heavy losses, the enemy succeeded in gaining a footing in

the Damouloup battery and in some sections of our line in the Fumin Wood. The bombardment is being maintained intensely in the whole region.

"On the left bank there was less artillery activity. The usual cannonading occurred on the rest of the front.

"In the region of the Somme our combats yesterday. Four enemy machines, seriously hit by our mitrailleuses, were compelled to plunge abruptly. One of our pilots was able to bring back his machine afterward to our lines and make a landing without accident.

"Our bombing squadrons have been active. On the night of July 10-11 two hundred and twenty shells were dropped on various railway stations where activity was reported, particularly on those at Han La Pore and Chaucny."

The Belgian communication: "In the region of Fervyse there was an artillery duel this afternoon. The German positions at Dixmude and Woumen were taken today under the fire of our heavy guns, which proved very effective."

RUSSIAN TORPEDO BOATS CAPTURE TWO GERMAN SHIPS

London, July 11.—Russian torpedo boats have captured the German steamers Lisabon and Worms, according to a report received in Stockholm from Skelleftea (a small seaport in Sweden, on the Gulf of Bothnia) and transmitted by Reuter's correspondent at Stockholm. The steamers were taken to Finland. The Russians detained the captain, pilot and twenty-four of the crew of the Worms, all of whom are Swedes. The remaining thirteen members of the crew of the Worms and all of the crew of the Lisabon have arrived at Skelleftea.

The steamers Lisabon and Worms are owned in Hamburg. The Lisabon is of 2,781 gross tons and was built in Rostock in 1909. The Worms was built in Newcastle in 1907 and is of 4,428 tons.

AN INTERIM SYSTEM OF GOV'T FOR IRELAND

Lord Lansdowne's Scheme for Administration After Martial Law is Abolished and Until New Government is Established.

London, July 11.—In the course of a discussion in the House of Lords today on the report of Baron Hardinge, head of the commission which investigated the Irish rebellion, and in which several members urged that Augustine Birrell, former secretary for Ireland, ought to have been censured as the one responsible for the Sinn Fein outbreak, Lord Lansdowne outlined a system for the provincial government of Ireland when martial law is abolished and until a new government is established.

Nobody would be allowed to carry arms without a permit, and there would be no grants of amnesty. A garrison would be maintained in Ireland strong enough to preserve order and special safeguards will be created for the loyalists in the south and west.

Lord Lansdowne said he understood the Sinn Fein movement was waning and that he anticipated the passage of a bill embodying the Irish settlement would occupy considerable time.

Lord Lansdowne thought that with 40,000 troops in Ireland under command of General Maxwell, in whom the government had unabated confidence, there was no fear of the situation getting out of hand. The government would give General Maxwell all the support to which he was entitled, and was quite prepared to extend his powers to meet any emergency.

The Official Gazette, tonight announces that Lord Castletown and Sir David Harrel, former under-secretary for Ireland, with Justices Cherry, Wylie and Pym, of the supreme court of Ireland, had been appointed, "Lord Justices for the government of Ireland during the vacancy in the office of the lord lieutenant."

The appointments are understood to mean that the lord lieutenantcy is placed in the hands of a commission until a new government is established in Ireland.

Asquith's Statement Generally Approved. London, July 11.—(Montreal Gazette Cable.)—The very general approval which is expressed in regard to Premier Asquith's home rule statement is another indication of the extent to which the external struggle has obliterated internal strife. With certain reservations, the London press

CAPTURE OF HILL 97 BRAVE PIECE OF WORK

French Crossed Four Lines of Trenches Without Stopping.

POSITION FINALLY WON WITH BAYONET

Enemy Had Strongly Fortified the Hill but were Unable to Check the Assault Made by Joffie's Men.

London, July 11, 4.30 p. m.—The capture of Hill 97, south of the Somme, with the farm called La Maisonnette on the summit, was a particularly brave piece of work on the part of the French.

After receiving the signal to attack, the soldiers crossed four lines of trenches virtually without pause, but it was then that the greatest difficulties had to be overcome.

The farm at this point was guarded by a whole series of barbed wire entrenchments defended by mortars, machine guns, automatic rifles and bomb throwers. Twice the assaulting forces penetrated to the farm. Twice they were thrown back, and when they got into the farm itself it was to find themselves in front of a number of machine guns.

A furious hand-to-hand combat followed, ending in a victory for the French. The extent to which the hill was fortified can be judged by the fact that on one earthenwork half way up the slope, 11 mitrailleuses in working order were captured, while 20 others had been destroyed by the French bombardment.

CHARLIE WHITE WINS FROM MATT WELLS.

Boston, July 11.—Charlie White, of Chicago, defeated Matt Wells, of England tonight in the fifth round of what was scheduled to be a 12-round bout. The Englishman's manager stepping into the ring and stopping the contest to save his man further punishment. Wells had the better of the first round, but after that White was plainly his superior and in the fourth round knocked his opponent to the floor three times.

acquiesces in the main argument that this is an opportune moment to remove the peril of future strife.

The Times says that the war has made civil war unthinkable, and hopes that this new solidarity of the ministers will mark the end of some mischievous attempts to make unnecessary trouble. It also warns against attempts to confound this special emergency measure for Ireland with the normal development of self-government in the dominions overseas.

The Telegraph in a guarded editorial, finds the lack of enthusiasm to be the best proof that no party gain has been obtained by either side.

The Morning Post alone is irreconcilable. It talks about Asquith's soft soap, and asserts that the proposal, so far from bringing peace, can only bring a sword to Ireland.

In a letter to the Post, Canon Osborne Troop expresses the hope that the union may be perpetuated, but if home rule must come, he suggests that the Canadian plan of provincial and federal governments be adopted.

RUSSIANS SOON POUNDING AT THE GATES OF KOVEL

All Natural Barriers Passed Czar's Armies Will Soon be Attacking Recently Constructed German Fortifications Before the City—Launching Sledge-Hammer Blows Before Vladimir Volynski.

PRISONERS TAKEN BY RUSSIANS IN PRESENT DRIVE NUMBER 266,000

Petrograd, July 11, via London (7.10 p. m.).—The total approximate of prisoners taken by the Russians during General Brusiloff's operations up to July 10 amounts to 5,620 officers and 266,000 men, the war office announced today. Guns to the number of 312 and 84 machine guns have been captured.

Petrograd, July 11, via London.—The Russian drive against the German line on both sides of the Kovel-Sarny railroad had the desired effect of stopping the German offensive against Lutsk from the directions of Kovel and Vladimir-Volynski, enabled the Russians to take the offensive and to drive the enemy across the Stokhod to the northwest and westward towards Vladimir-Volynski.

The unexpected Russian advance north of the Kovel-Sarny railroad carried the Russian line to the Stokhod river, which has been crossed at several points, in spite of the best defence the Germans were able to offer. At the present writing, according to the military critics, there now remain no more natural barriers between the Russian lines and Kovel in the shape of rivers and swamps. It is predicted that early news may be expected of assaults upon the recently constructed German fortifications before Kovel.

Official Statement. Petrograd, July 11.—The official statement today says: "Fighting in the Stokhod region continues. The enemy, having received reinforcements, brought up powerful artillery and is offering a desperate resistance.

"On the Krizava-Pondoul-Moldava front, northwest of Kimpolung (southern Bukovina) considerable enemy forces have been thrown back by us after violent engagements at various points. The enemy, unable to resist our coup de main, took flight.

"Enemy airmen attacked the station at Zamiric, on the Minsk-Baranovichi railway line, and dropped sixty-six bombs.

"On the Black Sea one of our machines was brought down.

"Caucasus front: In the direction of Balurt, during the night of July 9, our scouts succeeded in securing a night and took possession of a Turkish machine gun, after having killed all the gunners.

"Further south we captured by assault most powerfully organized Turkish positions, which we consolidated.

"We took prisoner thirty officers and 350 men. In the direction of Diarbekir, in the region of the Boyrukova Valley, our advance guard easily repelled a Turkish offensive, taking prisoners and booty."

Germans Drawing Men from Balkans. Berne, Switzerland, via London, July 11.—Nearly one hundred military trains conveying some 60,000 troops passed through Temesvar, Hungary, in the past few days transporting Landsturm, used in the occupation of Serbia and Montenegro, to Transylvania to oppose the Russian advance. It is reported also that German officers command Bulgarian troops have been recalled.

The Austrian Version. Vienna, via London, July 11.—The official statement issued today says: "Near Zobrene on the Casarossa we repelled to the Russian fire. Attacks made by superior forces near Sokul broke down in our entanglements. The enemy vainly endeavored to bring his fighting masses to a standstill by turning the fire of his own guns and machine guns upon them.

"Near Hulevichs, on the Stokhod the enemy was repulsed by German and Austro-Hungarian forces after bitter fighting. Several other attacks in the Stokhod region failed completely."

Teutons Desperate. Petrograd, July 11, via London, July 12.—An official communication this evening tells of the progress of the campaign along the line of the Stokhod river. It says: "In the region of the Stokhod the fighting continues, the enemy displaying the greatest desperation. Enemy airmen continually make flights behind our lines, attacking our troops with bombs and machine guns.

"The remainder of the front is without change."

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Uprising Against the Turks In Arabia; Kunda, Port on the Red Sea, Taken by the Arabs

Cairo, Egypt, July 11, via London, July 12.—Arabs have captured the town of Kunda, Arabia. They also have taken the fort.

A despatch from London, under date of June 22, said that reports had been received there of a serious uprising against the Turks in Arabia.

The rebels, under the command of the Grand Sheriff of Mecca, the chief magistrate of the Holy City, were reported to have captured Mecca, Jiddah, the chief seaport of Arabia, and Taif. The rebels were said to have proclaimed the independence of the Arabs from Ottoman rule.

Kunda is a port on the Red Sea, 200 miles south of Jiddah.