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SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 24 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,800 TWO CENTS

DEFEATS SPELL DISASTER FOR RETREATING GERMANS

British Advance Two Miles on 30-Mile Front, Taking Important Villages and Thousands More Prisoners—Only Two Miles From Bapaume Junction—Thiepval Ridge Threatened From the Rear—French Cross Divette and Make Gains

HAIG DOMINATES BAPAUME FRENCH MAKE GOOD GAINS

By Taking Achiet and Bihucourt British Troops Command Important Town, While French Drive Continues From the Matz River.

OVER the 50-mile battlefront from the region of Arras to the north of Soissons the German armies are meeting with defeat which apparently spell disaster. Everywhere the British and French forces have continued on the attack, and the enemy has been singularly worsted. And the end of his trials is not yet in sight.

To the British over the 30 miles of the fighting zone from the Coleul River, southeast of Arras, to Lihons, south of the Somme, numerous towns have fallen and enemy territory has been penetrated to a depth of several miles. Where the French are fighting between the Matz River and the territory north of Soissons additional goodly gains have been made in the development of Noyon and the general manoeuvre which seeks to crush or drive out the Germans from the salient between the Somme and the Ailette and to put into jeopardy the entire German line running to Rheims.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans brought up large numbers of fresh reinforcements in an endeavor to stay the progress of Haig's armies, their efforts were without avail. Where

they were able momentarily to hold back their oncoming foes the Germans finally were forced to cede the ground demanded. And they paid a terrible price in men killed, wounded, or made prisoner for their temerity.

The entire Arras-Albert road has been crossed by the British. The strongly held positions where the Germans saw disaster facing them if they fell were stormed and captured and the British passed them going eastward. Notable among these places were Achiet-le-Grand, where bitter fighting has been in progress for several days; Boyelles and Gomecourt, northeast of Albert. The taking of Achiet, and farther east the Town of Bihucourt, gives Haig a dominating position over Bapaume, from which the railway and highway runs eastward to Cambrai. Farther south the old fortress of Thiepval is surrounded on three sides and its capitulation must follow.

Friday night saw the British standing well to the east of Albert, and south of the Somme they were holding Chaignolles and Chaignes and had thrown out forces eastward to out-

flank Bray on the south and Chaulnes on the north.

Midway of the battleline south of the Somme around Roye there has been little fighting, the allied commander evidently reasoning that with both wings of his offensive—near Arras and Soissons—working smoothly in the movement which is likely to compel the Germans to seek refuge behind the old Hindenburg line, ground soon will have to be given here automatically in order to save large numbers of men, guns, and supplies from capture.

With the continuation of the French drive from the Matz River, around the bend in the line to the north of Soissons, however, particularly north of Soissons, the Germans still within the lower portion of the old salient apparently are on dangerous ground. The French are still busily engaged in their drive in this region. They have crossed the Divette River near Ervicourt and at several other points have forced the Ailette and the Oise and north of Soissons are standing east of Bagnoux and to the west of Crecy-au-Mont. A swift turning movement across the Oise from the latter region would be likely to hasten havoc with the Germans in this sector.

FRIDAY WAS MOST DISASTROUS DAY EVER EXPERIENCED BY THE GERMANS

British Take Five Villages Enemy Has Lost Wide Stretches of Ground on 30-Mile Front, Numerous Towns, Thousands of Men Made Prisoners and Large Quantities of Materials and Guns.

London, Aug. 23.—On a front of about six miles, from the southeast of Albert to the neighborhood of Grandcourt, east of the Ancre River, the British have pushed forward and gained ground after heavy fighting, says Field Marshal Haig's communication from headquarters tonight. South of Grandcourt a German counter-attack was repulsed.

The advance of the British was to a depth of two miles, and large numbers of Germans were killed or made prisoner. Five villages to the north of Achiet-le-Grand were captured, and the British pressed on eastward from them, says General Haig's statement.

The Town of Achiet-le-Grand has been captured by the British, and also Bihucourt, just to the southeast of Achiet-le-Grand, and about 2 1/2 miles from the railroad junction of Bapaume.

They pressed our attacks vigorously and successfully today on a front of thirty miles from Lihons to Mercatel. South of the Somme we carried the Villages of Herleville, Chaignes and Chaignolles, with the woods lying between the villages and the river.

"In the course of an advance of over two miles into German positions great numbers of Germans have been killed and prisoners taken.

"On the left of the battlefront we stormed the Villages of France today—Erville, Hamelin-court, Boyelles and Bolry-Becquerelle and made progress east of these villages.

"On our right centre we advanced against German positions on the east bank of the Ancre from southeast of Albert to the neighborhood of Grandcourt and gained ground after heavy fighting. A counter-attack was repulsed south of Grandcourt.

"We have captured Achiet-le-Grand and Bihucourt and the ridge overlooking Iries. We continued our attacks this afternoon. Several thousand prisoners were taken and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy."

WITH the British Army in France, Aug. 23.—Victorious on a battlefront of twenty-three miles, extending from the Coleul River on the north, across the Ancre and Somme Rivers, almost to Lihons, the third and fourth British armies under Generals Byng and Rawlinson at mid-afternoon were vigorously following up their successes of today, which apparently has been one of the most disastrous days ever experienced by the Germans.

The enemy has lost wide stretches of ground, numerous towns, thousands of men made prisoner, and large quantities of materials and guns. He also again has had heavy casualties.

Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, the German commander, has thrown his men in before the advancing British armies in an effort to stave off the inevitable, but only to have them mowed down again and again by storms of metal which poured from the British guns. One entire enemy battalion was annihilated during the fighting.

Dead Germans in great numbers are scattered everywhere over the battlefield. As an example, four hundred enemy dead were observed this morning on one small piece of ground over which the battle had swept.

Confusion Hinders Enemy.

With all this fierce fighting, and notwithstanding the fact that the British at many places have fought over open ground against an enemy protected in "pot holes" and strong points of other kinds, the British losses everywhere seem to have been extraordinarily light. This probably is due to the confusion the Germans find reigning behind their lines as they are fighting a losing battle, which for them hourly grows more disastrous.

Crown Prince Rupprecht today had strengthened his line at many places, but this, instead of stopping the British, simply meant that the Germans suffered bigger losses.

During the night and this morning the front upon which the battle was being fought yesterday was widened appreciably both to the north and the south, while the ground in the middle between Albert and Bapaume—surrounded by Albert and Bapaume—had been fairly quiet, suddenly was drawn into the whirl.

From the northern edge of the battlefield to the south the situation at least reports seemed to be as follows: New attacks from the River Coleul end south carried the British across the Albert-Arras railroad embankment. The British apparently hold Bolry-Becquerelle and Boyelles and have passed beyond the Arras-Bapaume road.

On to Ervillers.

The troops just to the south, who for two days had been fighting for and afterwards from the embankment, stormed forward and reached Hamelin-court and are pushing on toward Ervillers, St. Leger and Croisilles. Airplanes reported that British tanks had crossed the road between Ervillers and St. Leger, while some infantry was reported to be less than 1000 yards west of Ervillers some hours ago. At about that time an airplane reported that the Germans had disappeared from their positions north-west of St. Leger and between that

town and Hamelin-court, and that the fighting British found time in the midst of their task to cheer heartily.

Apparently the hard pressed Germans, rather than suffer more here, where they have met with some of their heaviest losses, decided to get out. This locality was one of the places where the Germans had doubled their strength.

Began in Night.

The fighting to the south of this region began in the night, when strong British forces assailed Gomecourt just a few minutes before the Germans had anticipated launching an attack at the same place. Gomecourt was British at daylight. As it happened, the British upset all the enemy plans, and after killing many Germans and capturing 500 in the Town of Gomecourt, turned their forward movement and at last reports were pushing steadily onward.

Gomecourt, by reason of its terrain, apparently was considered the pivot of a turning movement, for, once having taken it, the British sent troops swinging down south in the direction of Bapaume. The Germans on this portion of the battlefront were badly disorganized. There were Germans all over the place, but they seemed to have no ideas of counter-attack. Some apparently did not even know exactly where they were.

Especially Severe.

The fighting south of Gomecourt today was especially severe. Incidentally this movement out in around the rear of Achiet-le-Grand. At the same time the British here, having launched another frontal attack on the enemy's stronghold, were again in hard fighting. While the battle was raging here British planes were helping the fighters on the ground by heavily bombing or using machine guns against the enemy. Among other things obtained were several direct hits on a building at the rear of which were a number of touring cars. The building apparently was a German headquarters.

South of Achiet-le-Grand the British did not start today's operations so early as farther north. The New Zealanders here stopped work to let a German counter-attack develop. They "played dead" until the advancing enemy infantry was almost on top of them. Then they put down a heavy machine gun barrage just at the rear of the Germans, who surrendered in a body rather than be killed in their tracks. This happened just north of Miramont. Many of the prisoners were non-commissioned officers and all of them appeared to be glad that they had been captured. When asked about the Austrians, the prisoners expressed the greatest contempt for their allies as soldiers, saying they were no good whatever.

Thiepval Menaced.

Slightly to the south the British have crossed the Ancre River and started back in the general direction of Courcellette. Already they are reported to be southeast of Grandcourt. This move menaces from the rear the German stronghold at Thiepval, which is an old fortress.

At Albert the British pushed forward toward Tara Hill, at the back

of that town. An airplane report of about noon said that the British troops held the entire position. About the same time German shells started breaking on Tara, while British shrapnel could be seen bursting some distance on the other side of it, showing where the enemy had been driven. Considerable numbers of prisoners were taken in this locality.

The British troops seem to be progressing well up the road from Albert to Bapaume. Welsh troops are participating in the fighting in this neighborhood.

South of Albert, Meaulte appears to be in British hands, having been captured early in the day. Thence the line extends southeasterly, with a break where the Germans, last evening managed to take Happy Valley, just northwest of Bray, by throwing in fresh troops of the 25th division, which apparently were brought up for this special purpose.

The Germans suffered severely here during the first attack. The fighting was very heavy. Since then the Germans have been constantly heavily fired upon.

Happy Valley a Shambles.

Happy Valley truly is a shambles. Its name belies it. South of the Somme the Australians were most successful in the part they played in today's battle. They easily attained all their objectives and apparently hold Chaignolles, Chaignes, and Herleville, and are pushing eastward of these villages a little distance to make sure of holding them. In this region 32 German officers and 1500 men of other ranks were made prisoner. Eleven of the captured officers were from one regiment.

The Germans offered heavy resistance at Chaignolles, but, with the assistance of tanks, the Australians hammered thru the enemy and swept on, leaving the town and its environs filled with dead Germans.

Fight for Ridge.

On the ridge south of this town there also was fierce fighting, which almost reached the hand-to-hand stage before the Australians made it clear to the Germans that they were not to be stopped and shoved over the ridge and onward.

Just now large numbers of guns are roaring away all along the line. At some places they are steadily hammering; at others it is rolling up into intense drumfire, telling where the fighting is going on. The German shells seem to be coming in from long distances. Evidently their guns have been moved backward for safety. The German artillerymen apparently have not the greatest confidence in the ability of their comrades in the infantry to ward off the blows being delivered against them.

All day long streams of wounded, principally Germans, as well as great numbers of enemy prisoners, were flowing towards the rear. The day was cooler than yesterday, and the British soldiers were refreshed by it. It was slightly cloudy, but the air was full of British airplanes. A number of German planes were shot down over the battlefront during the day, each falling bringing cheer from the British.

CHEMIN DES DAMES FRONT IS THREATENED BY MANGIN

Fate of German Troops Between the Vesle and Aisne Remains Uncertain as French Advance.

Paris, Aug. 23.—The latest advance of General Mangin's army, while not completely turning the Chemin des Dames position, menaces it seriously, and the fate of the German troops between the Vesle and the Aisne remains uncertain, according to military observers here.

It is decidedly against Noyon that the principal effort of the French armies at present is being aimed. Noyon is menaced from the northwest and northeast, and also from the south, and the enemy is reduced to fighting from its left flank, from which the guns are pouring a tremendous fire incessantly.

Along the whole of the battlefront from Albert to Coucy-le-Chateau the fighting has been waged most furiously, especially against the armies of the British Generals Rawlinson and Byng, on the extreme left wing, which is encountering the Germans' most desperate resistance. It seems that the Germans are withdrawing before the armies of Generals Debeney, Humbert and Mangin without counter-attacking, apparently being satisfied not to lose contact with the French troops while retiring.

A Great Success Byng's Attacks Succeed With Light Casualties, But Heavy Losses to Germans.

London, Aug. 23.—General Byng's attacks of the past two days are regarded here as having been a great success, although the enemy tried tactics of withdrawal in order to avoid battle. But the Germans lost more than 3000 prisoners, besides great numbers killed or wounded, and the total British casualties, according to latest reports, have been well below the number of German prisoners taken.

FRENCH CROSS OISE
EIGHT MILES OFF NOYON

Paris, Aug. 23.—French troops have crossed the Oise River and the canal at Manicamp, eight miles east of Noyon, and are in the outskirts of the village of Morlaucourt, on the north side of the Oise, a mile and a half from Noyon station, according to despatches to newspapers here.

FOCH RECEIVES BATON AS MARSHAL OF FRANCE

Distinguished Gathering Witnesses With the French Army in France, Aug. 23.—Marshal Foch received his baton as marshal of France today from President Poincare in the presence of Premier Clemenceau, Georges Leygues, minister of marine, Louis Loucheur, minister of munitions, General Petain, the members of the marshal's staff, and the representatives of the allied armies.

THE BIG DAY FOR MEN'S HATS.

What about a new Hat to wear at the Canadian National Exhibition? The Dineen Co. are today laying out plans for a specially large list of sales. Their new fall importations are all opened up, which includes the very latest from old London, as well as the latest products from New York. Christy's London Hats (soft or stiff), \$5.50, \$6.00 and \$7.00. Henry Heath's Special (soft or stiff), \$6.00. Hilgate & Co.'s Special (soft or stiff), \$5.00. Splendid line high-class Canadian-made Hats, \$3.50, \$4.00 and \$5.00. Men's Hats, like every other article of merchandise, are going up in price, and it is well to bear this in mind. The next shipment may be higher. Special Bargains in the Basement—odd sizes about half-price. Dineen's Store closes at 6.

ALLIES CAUSE DAMAGE IN RAID ON COLOGNE

Bombs Kill Five Persons, According to German Admission.

Amsterdam, Aug. 23.—Five persons were killed and two persons badly injured and considerable damage was done to private property by bombs dropped from allied airplanes on Cologne early Thursday morning, according to an official announcement in Thursday evening's Cologne Gazette, a copy of which has been received here.

The announcement says: "Cologne was attacked shortly after one o'clock this morning by several airplanes. About ten bombs were dropped. Five persons were killed and two were badly injured. Considerable damage to private property resulted, but there was no military damage."

The Best is Yet to Come

Germans Will See Many More Victories for the British, Who Are Striking as Never Before.

Paris, Aug. 23.—The newspaper correspondents at the front lay stress on the magnificent enthusiasm with which the British are attacking and overcoming the enemy. They point out that the British opposed stout resistance when the Germans counter-attacked, and, when they saw that the enemy was staggering under the shower of blows, increased the punishment without giving him time to look around.

The British are striking as never before, the correspondents say, and are wresting from the enemy, piece by piece, the villages and fields taken by him since March 21. Each of the British partial attacks has finished with victory for them. The Germans will see many more such victories, the correspondents declare, when the British have thrown themselves into a real offensive with constantly accumulated reserves, which their prudence declines to use up in small parcels.

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ARGAINS

of C.O.D. or Footwear. \$4.45. recode and apes, Havana calf leathers, solid rub- 1/2 to 10. To- at \$2.69. prices for boots days. Made Blucher out. e, McKay sewn to 3. To- Shoes, \$2.69 of season, strap pumps; longed Colon- dies; black, kid; gunmetal leers; medium Goodyear welt in soles; low, panish heels, the lot. To-

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