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TUESDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 3 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,810 TWO CENTS

CANADIANS BREAK NEW GERMAN LINE

In Fierce Battle Raging Since Dawn, Which Will Prove to Be the Most Important of the War, Drocourt-Queant Line is Pierced on Six-Mile Front, Villages Captured and So Many Prisoners Taken That Roads Are Jammed With Them.

WHOLE FRONT IS SMASHED FOR 30 MILES

LONDON, Sept. 2.—The strongly fortified German system of defense, known as the Drocourt-Queant line, south of the Scarpe River, was carried on a wide front today, in an attack by Canadians and English troops, aided by tanks, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued this evening. The text of the statement reads:

French troops are continuing their advance east of Crecy-au-Mont and Juivigny and have occupied Neuilly and Terny-Sorny, northeast of Soissons, according to the French war office announcement tonight.

"This morning Canadians and English, accompanied by tanks, attacked astride the Arras-Cambrai road and carried on a wide front that portion of the powerfully organized defensive system known as the Drocourt-Queant line, which lies south of the River Scarpe.

"The enemy was holding his trenches in strength, and opposed determined resistance to our advance. On the whole front of the assault this resistance was broken, with great loss to the enemy. The Canadians have taken Dury, Villers-les-Cagnicourt and Cagnicourt, and have made progress beyond these places.

"Noreuil is taken. On their left, English battalions fought their way forward through the German defenses northeast of Eterpigny. On the right of the attack English and Scottish troops pressed forward beyond Hiencourt-les-Cagnicourt in the direction of Queant, and captured many strongly fortified positions, including the Village of Noreuil.

"South of this point also our troops made progress, and early in the afternoon repulsed a heavy counter-attack which the enemy launched in great strength east of Vaulx-Vraucourt.

"The English reached the outskirts of Beugny and have taken Villers-au-Floss. There was sharp fighting throughout the day about Le Transloy. In this locality also hostile counter-attacks were repulsed, and the English captured the village.

"Between Sailly and Peronne English and Australian divisions have driven the enemy from St. Pierre-Vaast Wood and captured the Villages of Allaines and Haut-Allaines.

"East and southeast of Peronne repeated German counter-attacks were beaten off by the Australians with heavy loss to the enemy. Several thousand prisoners were captured during the course of the day.

"Our patrols have made further progress in the western outskirts of Lens. On the Lys front our troops

Canadians Gain 12,000 Yards Capture 3781 Unwounded Prisoners, 60 Field Guns and Hundreds of Light Guns.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, Sept. 2.—From August 26 to September 1 the Canadians have advanced 12,000 yards from their jumping-off point facing Arras, over a shell-ear, wire-strewn, honeycombed country. They captured 3781 unwounded prisoners, more than 60 field guns; howitzers, with heavy and light machine guns and mortars in hundreds.

continue to gain ground, and are in close touch with the enemy."

French Take Villages. The text of the French War Office statement says: "During the day our troops, who last evening crossed the Canal du Nord opposite Nesle, advanced to the east of the canal, and have gained a footing on the western slopes of Hill 77; we took prisoners.

"Between the Ailette and the Aisne we continued our progress on the plateau east of Crecy-au-Mont and Juivigny, despite the enemy's stubborn resistance. We occupied Neuilly and Terny-Sorny, and have advanced north of Croisy."

Over a front of thirty miles from the region of Arras to Peronne, Field Marshal Haig's forces have literally smashed the German front.

The southern portion of the famous Drocourt-Queant switch line, which had been heralded as the impregnable bulwark of the German defence in the north, has given way under the violence of the British onslaught over its entire front from the Scarpe River to Queant, a distance of virtually ten miles, and Monday night saw the Canadian and English troops who carried out the manoeuvre hard after the defeated enemy some three miles to the eastward.

Thousands of prisoners have been taken from the strongly resisting enemy, who at last accounts was fighting violently as he gave ground toward the Canal du Nord.

By this victory seemingly is ended the menace of the Hindenburg line to

War's Biggest Victory

"We Smashed Thru Nearly Everywhere Along the Front of Attack," Says Reuter's Correspondent.

At British Army Headquarters in the Field, Evening, Sept. 2.—Reuter's correspondent cables:

The British attack this morning was conducted by the armies of Generals Horne and Byng on a front south of the Scarpe to nearly as far as Queant. This was one of the greatest battles, and there is even reason to hope it will prove one of the most memorable victories of the war.

The attack was launched at 5.40 a.m., after a short intense bombardment, which was effectual in cutting wire, and by 7.30 our troops had broken apparently right thru the famous Drocourt-Queant switch line, with its fortified system two thousand yards deep.

We smashed thru nearly everywhere along the front of the attack. Two hours later it was rumored that groups of our motor machine gunners had been seen upon the bank of the Canal du Nord, which is nearly five miles eastward of the nearest point of the switch line.

around Peronne, where the Australians successfully withstood violent attacks and have taken several thousand prisoners. Between Peronne and Bapaume the Germans also have imposed strong opposition to the British, but the St. Pierre-Vaast Wood, Le Transloy and Allaines and Haut-Allaines all have been successfully carried.

On the southern end of the front to Soissons the French have made another important crossing of the Canal du Nord, this time east of Nesle, which places them well on the road to Ham, the last remaining important junction point in the Somme-Oise sector, with lines leading from it to St. Quentin and La Fere.

North of Soissons equally important progress has been made. Here, where the Americans are in line with the French, gains have been made on the plateau east of Crecy-au-Mont and Juivigny, and the villages of Leully and Terny-Sorny have been taken, notwithstanding stubborn resistance.

These gains, if they are continued, seemingly cannot but result shortly in the enemy withdrawing northward from the Vesle River positions, he holds, and reconstituting his entire front to Rheims.

They're Still Going. With the British Army in France, Sept. 2.—The British have pierced the Drocourt-Queant line. In a fierce battle, which has been raging since dawn and which will probably prove to be one of the most important of the war, Canadian and English troops, at last reports, had at one point driven in about five kilometres, or a little more than three miles, and were still going.

The fighting was as furious as any since the war began, and increased in intensity as the British battled their way forward, meeting the ever-growing resistance of the enemy, who had put in every available man and was rushing up reserves at the rear.

Thousands of prisoners have been captured, the roads to the British rear are literally jammed with them.

There has been fierce fighting in Dury, which has been taken by the British, and Mount Dury, which the Germans held in great strength, and stormed. The British went on after killing enormous numbers of the enemy. The Germans died fighting here, as elsewhere.

Cagnicourt Wood and Cagnicourt

174,500 Labor Day Attendance at the Exhibition Breaks All Records.

There were 174,500 people at the Exhibition yesterday. On Labor Day last year there were 153,500.

On Labor Day, 1913—the biggest attendance until yesterday—there were 154,000.

Yesterday's attendance makes a new record, and beats the 1913 record by 20,500. It is 69,000 better than any day this year to date.

128,302 Prisoners Taken Since July 15, Allies Also Have Captured 2069 Guns, 1734 Mine Throwers and 13,783 Machine Guns.

Paris, Sept. 2.—The allied forces on the western front have taken a total of 128,302 prisoners since July 15, it was announced in an official statement today. In the same period 2069 guns, 1734 mine-throwers and 13,783 machine guns were captured.

On the French front 75,900 prisoners and 700 guns had been captured by the French since July 15, it is announced today.

have been captured and Bois de Bouche, to the southeast, is reported also to have been occupied. There has been heavy fighting in Bulsey, northeast of Queant, where large numbers of prisoners have been captured, and similar progress has been made against the northern end of the Drocourt-Queant line for some distance.

All during the night there was very heavy fighting around the British positions, which were almost jammed up against the great German defence system. Files of dead Germans was one of the results. During one enemy attack a sergeant with a machine gun killed 60 Germans who tried to rush him.

Started at 5 A.M. It was soon after 5 o'clock in the morning that the massed British cannon broke loose with a roar that was heard for miles 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 by far the strongest he has put down since the British offensive began.

The instant the British appeared the Germans in many cases jumped up out of the trenches and held their hands high above their heads. In some cases, however, the advancing British met with a hail of machine gun bullets, but notwithstanding this they pushed on. Quickly the first line was overcome.

From all along the line came reports

"WE ARE STILL ADVANCING" Great Progress Made on 23-Mile Front Despite Heavy Counter-Attacks by Fresh German Divisions.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—Reuter's learns that the line in Flanders runs thru Voormezele, immediately west of Walverghem, thru Neuve Eglise and Steinwercke to the east of Estaires and Lacoutre. The German retirement is continuing.

Considerable progress has been achieved along the whole 23-mile front from the Scarpe to the Somme. The Drocourt-Queant switch line has been finally smashed in on a six-mile front. We penetrated from the western edge of Etaling to the western edge of Cagnicourt, thence approaching Queant.

This afternoon we are still advancing. To the south the enemy's counter-attacks drove us out from Soisdevaux. We captured Le Transloy, advancing upon Roquigny, and captured the government farm due east of St. Pierre-Vaast, together with St. Pierre-Vaast Wood, and are fighting in the Villages of Molains and Allaines, northeast of Peronne. The enemy is heavily counter-attacking between the Scarpe and the Somme. Seven enemy divisions are located on a seven-mile sector, and all are composed of good material, judging by the prisoners, who are very numerous.

It was the Canadians who broke in the Drocourt-Queant switch line.

there and were about to deliver a powerful assault against the British positions, were overcome.

Furious Fight Goes On.

The British attack had as its jumping-off place the positions close to the German defenses reached several days ago. A furious battle, involving extensive possibilities, is in progress. Bulsecourt, Thiescourt and the surrounding territory were well in British hands at the time the advance began. The Germans are known to have brought up reinforcements here, and it is reported that all five of the heavily-wired trench lines of the enemy defence system are strongly garrisoned.

A break thru this line here will take the British into the open country and menace the Hindenburg line from the rear and the flank.

The attack was launched on a considerable front at 5 a.m. with strong British forces. The Germans had tried repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, to eject the British in the fighting of the past three days from the positions whence today's drive was started, as advantageously near the famous German defensive system.

Another attack was launched by the British this morning in the region north of Peronne.

Mopping Up Peronne.

Australian troops, having crossed the Somme, capturing Peronne, are mopping it up, during the course of which there has been brisk fighting in the streets. They have captured other towns and positions in the same neighborhood and one force is pushing northward astride the Canal du Nord. A last reports it had reached Allaines, on the east side of the canal, and the high ground opposite on the west bank.

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.

Another force is pushing eastward, following generally the course of the Cologne River from Peronne. More of the Peronne-Bapaume road has been taken.

There has been heavy fighting in Sailly-Saillies, where 100 prisoners were taken and another large group of Germans killed by the British. Other forces are pushing forward down the Hirondeille valley and are close to Noreuil, which also is being approached from the north of Longatte. This force is engaged in overcoming heavy resistance.

Headquarters Taken.

Early this morning the British began operating in the area northeast of Houdencourt. 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 250 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 estimate al-


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