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THE TORONTO WORLD

Advices From Paris State That When They Are Made Public They Will Thrill the Allied World--Franco-American Troops Take Fismes, Great Ammunition and Supply Depot--Fifty Villages and Towns Captured.

ALLIES TAKE FISMES CROSSING RIVER VESLE

German's Great Storehouse on Aisne-Marne Battlefield Has Fallen--Enemy Suffers Disaster When Thrown Against Flooded Water Courses--French Pass Beyond Aisne, Flanking Army of Crown Prince.

PARIS, Aug. 4.—The Town of Fismes, Germany's great storehouse on the Aisne-Marne battlefield, has been taken by the French and American troops, according to the French official communication issued this evening. The French also have crossed the Vesle at several points. The text of the communication follows:

"During the day we reached the Vesle to the east of Fismes. The enemy's rearguards opposed spirited resistance, especially between Mulseon and Champigny. Our light elements succeeded in taking a footing on the north bank of the river at several places.

"Fismes is in our possession. Northwest of Rheims we have won ground up to the Village of La Neuville, which the enemy is defending with great energy.

Paris, Aug. 4.—Allied troops have crossed the Aisne at several points between Soissons and Venizel. The German resistance is faltering on the left wing of the allied advance, while it is growing stubborn and desperate on the right wing, where the Germans still retain a foothold on the southern bank of the Vesle between Champigny and Jochery, northwest of Rheims.

The number of prisoners captured by the allies during the last two days will thrill the allied world when announced. The Vesle River, which was flooded owing to the recent heavy rains, has hampered the German rearguards, which were unable to ford the stream and had to fight for their lives. The most of these Germans were killed and the rest were made prisoners.

The Germans succeeded only at a great cost in getting behind the Aisne from Soissons to Conde-sur-Aisne, where the Vesle flows into the larger stream. They also lost heavily along the Vesle from the Aisne to Rheims. The booty reported taken by the allies is but a small part of what the enemy was obliged to abandon to the flames. The entire country along the battlefield has been lighted up nightly by immense fires consuming war material which had been laboriously transported across the Aisne and the Vesle for the great assault on Paris.

The Vesle and Aisne Rivers, swollen by recent heavy rains, constitute a sufficient obstacle to slow up the pursuit, which has been so close that the Germans have been obliged to fly precipitately, sacrificing almost everything else to save their artillery.

The French, who have gained a footing north of the Aisne at Soissons and have occupied St. Waast, menace seriously the flank of the retreating forces. In the race across the river the Germans, hampered by their equipment, will have to make a desperate drive if they are unable to stop the allies at the Vesle.

Paris, Aug. 4.—The allies continued their successful advance Saturday along a front of about 30 miles, toward the Vesle River. The text of the statement reads:

"During the course of the day our troops, driving back the enemy rearguards, continued their victorious march, on a front of about 50 kilometers in the direction of the Vesle River.

"On our left our line extends along the southern banks of the Aisne and the Vesle, from Soissons as far as Fismes, the outskirts of which the Americans hold.

"East of Fismes we have reached a general line north of Courville, Brancourt, Courcelles and Champigny.

"Our cavalry patrols are operating along the railroad between Soissons and Rheims.

"Our progress at certain points yesterday exceeds ten kilometers. More than fifty villages have been delivered on this day alone.

ALLIED SOLDIERS PASS THRU CHARNEL HOUSES

Paris, Aug. 4.—Allied forces in pursuit of the Germans have passed thru veritable charnel houses, strewn with the debris of war. Bodies of men and horses are mingled with broken down vehicles alongside of monster ammunition dumps, some partially exploded and others intact. Bodies of Germans found in clusters beyond the range of the allied artillery indicate that severe punishment was inflicted on the fleeing columns by the French, British and American aviators.

FLANKS OF ENEMY TURNED BY ALLIES

Paris, Aug. 4.—Both flanks of the German forces between Rheims and Soissons appear to have been turned. The French have forced a crossing of the Vesle west of Rheims. German reinforcements are reported arriving in the Soissons sector from the north. The allies continue their advance, according to latest reports, also it is held within prudent limits. The allied left wing has moved faster than the right and further progress in the Soissons region might expose it to a counter-attack from the enemy.

CURRIE'S WORDS TO HIS TROOPS

Sir Arthur Sends Message to Canadians on Fourth Anniversary.

Canadian Associated Press Cable London, Aug. 4.—The message of Sir Arthur Currie to the Canadian troops on the fourth anniversary of Britain's declaration of war is as follows: "Two things stand foremost in the minds of all Canadian soldiers overseas. We remember with solemn pride our gallant dead. We recall with satisfaction the record of our achievements in the long struggle, and count over the battle's names now forever linked with Canadian history. Ypres, Somme, Vimy, Hill 70, and Passchendaele are the saddest, yet proudest memories of our lives here, because they exacted noble life that was registered at the most triumphant height of 'heroism' to which Canadian manhood can rise, and then we turn our minds to the future with the confidence born of past success. With unshakable belief in the justice of our cause, with unflinching faith in God, who alone gives victory, we ourselves are fresh to the work in hand, the fight for freedom, righteousness and for humanity."

"Therefore with high purpose and enduring determination, let us carry on until the last light is over, and find victory."

"A. W. Currie."

ENEMY WITHDRAWS ON BRITISH FRONT

Germans Retire Between Montdidier and Moreuil On Avre.

ALLIES GAIN VILLAGES Hamel, Dornacourt, and Braches are Abandoned By Enemy.

London, Aug. 4.—On the British front the Germans have withdrawn between Montdidier and Moreuil, a distance of ten miles. The French hold the slopes down to the western side of the Avre River.

The situation around Albert is somewhat obscure, but the British have been closely following the enemy, and it is probable that the Germans have by now evacuated the eastern bank of the Avre. The village of amittel and Dornacourt are in the possession of the allies.

A French official statement says: "On the left bank of the Avre, between Castel and Meenil-St. Georges, the Germans were forced to abandon a part of their positions. We have occupied Braches and penetrated into Hargicourt. We have also advanced our line to the outskirts of Courtemanche. We took prisoners."

BRITISH SHOOT DOWN SEVEN GERMAN PLANES

London, Aug. 4.—The official statement on aerial operations issued tonight says:

"Rain and low clouds during the greater part of the day interfered with work in the air. Five tons of bombs were dropped by our airmen, and seven hostile machines and one balloon were shot down.

"In spite of a very dark night, five tons of bombs were dropped by us on the stations at Fives, southeast of Lille, and Steenwerck. Two day-bombing machines are missing."

GERMANS DRIVEN OFF. British Account For Hostile Raiding Party South of Arras.

London, Aug. 4.—The official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France tonight says: "A hostile raiding party was driven off this morning south of Arras, without loss to us. Our patrols captured a few prisoners during the day in the La Bassee sector. There is nothing further to report."

ALLIES CROSS AISNE RIVER NEAR SOISSONS

Are Ready to Harass Foe as He Attempts to Straighten Out His Line.

VESLE RIVER BATTLE

Germans, With Backs to Unfordable Flood, Either Fell or Surrendered.

The Germans' retreat continues unabated, with the allies everywhere in hot pursuit.

Apparently the situation now has resolved itself into a race for the northern bank of the Aisne River by the Germans, who have been evicted from strategic positions along the Vesle and directly east of Rheims, which seemingly renders necessary that they put the Aisne between themselves and their pursuers as quickly as possible in order to escape further large losses of men made prisoner.

Just how large this bag of captives is at present cannot be reckoned, but unofficial advices from Paris assert that when the figures are made public they will thrill the allied world. General Pershing, in his communication, says the Americans alone have taken 3,400 prisoners, and in addition 133 guns.

Captured Fismes. After hard fighting, the Americans and French have succeeded in taking from the Germans the important town of Fismes, and Germany's ammunition and supply depot, midway on the railway between Soissons and Rheims, while to the east at a number of places along the Vesle River, the French have crossed the stream, driving the enemy north-eastward. East of Soissons allied troops have negotiated the passage of the Aisne to the northern bank of that stream, where they are in a position to harass the enemy as he endeavors to straighten out his line in conformity with that running north-westward.

So fast has been the retreat of the Germans in the centre that already some elements of their forces have succeeded in reaching the northern bank of the Aisne and getting within range of their big guns across with them. All things considered, the Germans, and even cornfields have been set afire in order to prevent the allied troops garnering the ripened crop.

A Sanguinary Battle.

The fighting along the Vesle River was of a sanguinary character as long as it lasted. With the river at freshest and the Germans unable to ford it, they stood with their backs to it and gave battle for their lives. A majority of them were killed and the remainder were made prisoner. One of the most important manoeuvres north of the Vesle was the penetration by the French to the Village of La Neuville, which releases the German hold on the northern outskirts of Rheims and seemingly delivers the cathedral city from the German menace.

Situation Around Amiens.

With the Germans now thoroughly vanquished thus far on the Soissons-Rheims salient, eyes are being turned to the regions in the northwest on both sides of Amiens. Here the French and British are keeping up their hard pressure against the armies of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and have forced them on two highly important sectors to retreat.

Amiens and the old Montdidier sector the Germans have fallen back across the Avre River over a wide front, while the United States forces in the region of Albert, a similar retrograde movement has been made across the Ancre.

Just what bearing these new offensives will have on the fighting front to which the Germans ultimately retreat for a stand in the Aisne region, cannot yet be forecast, but should the line prove able to press back the line for any material gains eastward, it is not improbable that it would dislocate the entire German line in the south.

MOB TRIES TO STORM TWO POLICE STATIONS

Batons Are Used Freely and Twenty-Six People Are Attended to at the Hospitals, While Ten Arrests Are Made—Returned Soldiers Demand Release of Those Arrested Friday Night.

The rioting, which was begun on Friday night, when many restaurants and other places were raided by returned soldiers with a large following of civilians, including many women and children, was continued on Saturday night, the main attempt on this occasion being one to storm No. 2 police station, where those arrested on Friday night were being held. The police were prepared for the rioters, and made a stand near the station. There was a stiff fight which lasted for some time, when batons were freely used. The returned men had armed themselves with wooden weapons, and these they used to some extent. The police, however, did not confine their efforts to the men with weapons, women, children, a blind man, and newspaper reporters, and others whose business had taken them into that part of the town coming in for more of their attention than those who were armed. Ten arrests were made and 26 casualties were taken to the hospital.

Sunday night was on the whole quiet, at an evangelist's meeting at the corner of Dundas and Yonge, reference was made to the affair, and a collection was taken on behalf of those now under arrest. T. Mathe-

son, one of the speakers at this meeting, expressed sympathy with the returned men and censured the civic and government authorities. It was arranged at this gathering to have a meeting in Queen's Park today at 10 o'clock, before the community singing begins, in order to augment this fund and to discuss the subject further.

Toward midnight last night a crowd of between two and three hundred gathered at the corner of Queen and Bathurst, with the intention of smashing the Allies Confectionery store there. Three or four policemen were on hand, however, and they managed to hold the crowd off. The patrol wagon was telephoned for, and on its arrival with reinforcements, the gathering melted away.

It is said that the returned men are not thru yet, and it is claimed that plans have been made for further such activities on this evening. On the other hand, the police say they are now fully prepared for any more, and the military authorities are planning to cope with further disturbances.

It was rumored through Toronto yesterday that one man had been shot, and that his wound had proved fatal, but this report was groundless. No shots whatever were fired on Saturday night.

Crutch Cases First.

With the resumption of hostilities on Saturday night, came the first serious clashes with the police. The soldiers were intent on rescuing the men who had been taken into custody on Friday night. With this end in view, about 200 returned soldiers started down Yonge street on Saturday on their way to No. 1 police station. At Albert street the parade formed in fours at the command of a bugle, all crutch cases marched in the front ranks, and by the time they arrived at Court street, the parade had been augmented to about 3000. The crowd was so large that they not only packed Court street, but extended out an Allied Toronto street, north and south. The crowd surged up to the station in response to the bugler's "Advance." When it was seen by the police that the crowd would not disperse quietly, about twenty issued from the doorway of the station and charged into the mob with batons drawn. The street, and adjoining streets were quickly cleared of the dense crowd. No arrests were made here.

Women Provide Missiles.

After the fight at Court street the raiders turned their attention to No. 2 police station on Agnes street, first indication of trouble coming at 8:30 p.m. when a crowd of about 250 soldiers, small boys and women came down Teravay street from College street. The police had lined up at the corner of Teravay and Dundas street and refused passage on Agnes street. Seeing that they were to be in their attempt to reach the station the crowd drew off and commenced to pelt the police with stones, glass and bottles. No other method availing, the police again charged with batons drawn. The crowd quickly dispersed and this time the police made several arrests. Of the prisoners taken the largest number were small boys who had been caught throwing stones. The stones were brought up to the attackers by women who carried them in their aprons and in the charge some of these women were rather roughly handled. P. C. Crowley of No. 11, division received a nasty cut in the cheek from a piece of jagged glass thrown by the boys. The following are the arrests made: Ernest Higgins, 75 College street, also returned man; Henry Harrington, 272 East Queen street, age 16; Benny Kosky, 361 Church street, age 16; Baker Naval, 19 St. Alban's street, age 18; eight boys, Calgary, Calgary police claim that when Ross was taken in charge he had three stones concealed in his clothing, a law displacement reaches 6,500,000 tons, against 2,500,000 in August, 1914. During that period about three quarters of a million tons have been lost, but at the present day the growth of the fleet shows an increase of 160 per cent.

British Admiralty Makes Public Some Facts and Figures Regarding Navy.

London, Aug. 4.—Upon the fourth anniversary of Great Britain's entry into the war the secretary of the admiralty has made public some facts and figures which throw an encouraging light upon the naval situation of the allies.

The British navy, apart from the American forces which form an integral part of its fighting strength, consists at the present time of warships and auxiliary craft whose total displacement reaches 6,500,000 tons, against 2,500,000 in August, 1914. During that period about three quarters of a million tons have been lost, but at the present day the growth of the fleet shows an increase of 160 per cent.

Sixty per cent of the personnel, an original 146,000 officers and men have grown to 394,000.

As to the means of defence against submarines, figures are now available which show that the convoy system has played a large part in overcoming the submarine menace to the ocean communication of the allies. Whereas in the period from April to June of last year, before the convoy system was established, British steamers sailing to and from the United Kingdom in the main overseas trades suffered losses thru enemy action of 5.41 per cent of their total number, the figures since then have steadily diminished, until in the period from March to June of this year, during which 92.8 per cent of the ships were convoyed, the losses had dropped to 1.23 per cent of the total number of sailings in these trades.

American troops which reached Europe by July 27 of this year totaled well over one million. Nearly half of these were carried by American ships, and the United States furnished them 40 ocean escorts and 325 escorts of destroyers.

The total tonnage of ships of all nationalities conveyed in all trades since the introduction of the convoy system is 61,691,000, of which 373,000, or approximately 61 per cent, has been lost while in convoy.

Since Aug. 4, 1914, the British navy has transported nearly 20,000,000 men to different destinations, two million animals, and 110,000,000 tons of naval and military stores.

The men lost thru enemy action during the transportation year, the proportion of one to every 9000 carried.

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A member of the crew of the U-boat stated that he had seen the only four submarines operating in the waters, but more were expected later, and other statements easily recognizable as German propaganda.

All but the captain were taken below in the hold of the submarine, while the captain remained above. Altogether they spent five hours in San Diego, off the Atlantic coast some time ago. They also claimed they were on the lookout for a West Indian liner.

It looked as tho the submarine carried a crew of about 70, and she mounted two guns, the calibre of which, according to the Germans, was 5.9.

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