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## War News.

### Messages Received Previous to 9 A. M.

#### BRITISH OFFICIAL—5,000 PRISONERS TAKEN.

LONDON, Aug. 1. Rain continued to fall all throughout the day. By a successful operation to-day on our new battlefield our lines were advanced slightly in the neighbourhood of the Zillebeke-Zandvoorde road. On the left flank of our attack our Allies gained further ground on the east bank of the Yser Canal. During the night our new positions east and northeast of Ypres between Westhoek and St. Julien were heavily counter-attacked by strong forces of the enemy. Our troops successfully resisted the enemy's repeated attempts to drive us from important positions on the high ground captured yesterday in this neighbourhood, but under the weight of his assault after stubborn fighting we were compelled to withdraw our advanced troops from the village of St. Julien. Fighting was particularly fierce for the possession of the village of Westhoek, of which we now hold the western outskirts. This afternoon the enemy again attacked in the neighbourhood of the Ypres-Roulers railway and at the second attempt succeeded in entering our advanced positions on a narrow front. Fighting continues. The number of prisoners the British captured in yesterday's operations is known to exceed 5,000, including 95 officers. A few guns and a number of machine guns and trench mortars were also taken, but the exact figures have not yet been ascertained.

#### GERMANS SUCCESSFUL (1)

BERLIN, Aug. 1. The fighting in Flanders has begun in a way that promised success to the German arms, says to-day's army headquarters statement, and further battles which must be expected are looked forward to with confidence. The Entente attack, it is declared, was intended as an annihilating blow at German submarines. The German counter-attack, which lasted all day yesterday, either drove the attackers out of the fighting zone or back to the foremost crater on the field, the statement adds.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

LONDON, Aug. 1. Telegraphing from the British Army headquarters in France and Belgium this afternoon, the correspondent of

Reuter's Limited says: The rain having almost ceased, and the sky grown perceptibly lighter, the guns are beginning to bark again—with greater volume.

#### GERMAN COUNTER ATTACKS FAIL.

LONDON, Aug. 1 (Official.) South of the Ypres-Comines Canal British minor operations during the night resulted in an improvement of our new line. Hostile counter attacks yesterday afternoon and evening against our new positions and LaBasse Ville and immediately north, in the neighbourhood of the Ypres-Roulers railway, another German counter-attack was crushed during the night by our artillery. The weather continues unfavorable for operations.

#### POSITIONS CONSOLIDATED.

PARIS, Aug. 1 (Official.) After our magnificent success yesterday our troops under a torrential rainstorm consolidated the positions which they had gained. The artillery to-day cemented our front in the Aisne region was continuous, east of Cerny a vigorous counter attack permitted us to make progress at several points and to take prisoners. On the left bank of the Meuse, in the region between Acoourt and Hill 304, the Germans after artillery preparation which lasted several days, attacked this morning the positions which we had conquered from them on July 17th. The enemy was only able to reach certain advance elements of our first line where he was stopped by our fire. There was nothing to report on the rest of the front.

#### REPULSE AUSTRIAN ATTACK.

ROME, Aug. 1. Early yesterday morning, says to-day's war official statement, the enemy attacked our advanced posts in Chiese Valley, between Falt Promonte and Cima Palone, after intense artillery preparations. He was driven back with severe losses. On the remainder of the front there was the usual artillery activity.

#### ROUMANIANS CLAIM SUCCESS.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 1. A telegram from Jassy says the Russo-Romanian advances between the Cassen and Futna Valleys have resulted in the enemy losing between

July 24th and 28th, 98 guns and about 4,500 prisoners. The enemy front was broken to a depth of between 17 and 20 kilometres.

#### BERLIN ISSUES OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

BERLIN, Aug. 1. An official statement issued by the Government says: The Times of London, and enemy agencies following it, are spreading reports about a conference alleged to have been held in the presence of the Emperor at Potsdam on July 5, 1914, at which political and military personages in Germany, and Austria-Hungary took part, and at which a plan was proposed to let loose the war. The Wolff Bureau is authorized to declare that the statements with all their details are pure inventions. Neither on the day named nor on any other day in July did such a joint conference occur either with or without participation of the Emperor. This we again declare, that the German Government abstained from any intervention in drafting the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia, and that the German Government was completely ignorant of the contents of the ultimatum before its despatch. The Times supports its false allegations on statements made by Deputy Cohn in the main committee of the Reichstag. The statement of the Deputy was immediately refuted in committee by the Government as incorrect.

#### SLIGHT FALLING OFF IN SINKINGS.

LONDON, Aug. 1. Some falling off in the loss of British merchant ships by submarines is noted in the official summary issued to-night. Eighteen British ships of more than 1,600 tons were sunk by mines or submarines last week, and three vessels under 1,600 tons were sunk, but no fishing ships were lost. The previous week's losses were 21 over 1,600 tons, 3 under and 1 fishing vessel.

#### GERMAN FIGURES INACCURATE.

LONDON, Aug. 1. The figures of merchant tonnage sunk by submarines and mines, given by the Germans, are known to be inaccurate, said Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the Commons to-day. The Government, however, he said, has no intention at present of changing the form of the weekly statement of shipping losses

issued by the Admiralty. The form, he pointed out, had been decided upon by the Cabinet after careful consideration, and had been approved and adopted by Britain's Allies.

#### GREEKS STARVING.

PARIS, Aug. 1. Forty thousand Greeks have been starved to death in Eastern Macedonia, since the Bulgarian occupation began, according to authentic reports received by the Greek Government, says a Havas despatch from Athens, under Tuesday's date. The Bulgarians, added the correspondent, have carried on a systematic persecution of the Greek element of the population, looking to its extermination. They have inflicted all sorts of privations upon the Greeks hardening them with military work, and deporting them to Bulgarian localities.

#### ALLIES WITHDRAW FROM OLD GREECE.

ATHENS, Aug. 1. The withdrawal of Allied forces from old Greece, Thessaly and Epirus in accordance with the decision of the Balkan Conference at Paris, is being rapidly carried out. The last Franco-British troops left the Piraeus to-day.

#### HIS FIFTIETH MACHINE.

PARIS, Aug. 1. Captain George Guynemer, one of France's leading airmen, has brought down his 50th German airplane.

#### AMERICAN STEAMER SUNK.

LONDON, Aug. 1. The American steamship Montana, 2,730 tons gross, was sunk by a T-e-u-t-o-n submarine on July 31st; 22 survivors have been landed.

#### STRONG ATTACKS BY ENTENTE ALLIES.

BERLIN, July 31. Strong attacks by the Entente Allies have commenced along a wide front from the Yser to Lys in Flanders, says to-day's statement, issued officially by the German staff. The infantry battle in Flanders, the statement adds, is thus opened.

#### BRITISH-FRENCH NEW DRIVE.

LONDON, July 31. British troops, in conjunction with the French forces on their left, attacked the German positions along a wide front north of the River Lys at 3 o'clock this morning. The Allied troops, according to the British official statement, have captured their

first objectives on the whole front, and are reported to be making satisfactory progress at all points. A considerable number of prisoners have been captured by the French and British.

#### OBJECTIVES GAINED.

British Front in France and Belgium July 21.—A vast British force, augmented by French troops, at Ypres to-day launched against the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, between Dixmude on the north, and Capard, near Warneton, on the south, a terrific offensive, which, according to early reports, had carried the crushing Allies well beyond the shell-battered front line trenches of the Germans throughout this approximately 20 mile front, and in many places had rushed the second line of defences. Both the French and British had achieved all their first objectives, and the artillery was moving forward with schedule precision and the whole situation was satisfactory in every particular. In numerous places the Entente Allies encountered strong resistance and counter attacks from the desperate Tenthons. Between Dixmude and Boshinge the attacking forces are reported to have secured the two first lines of German trenches after progress fought over the most difficult terrain imaginable, due to marshes. The Germans made a firm stand in an endeavor to stem the onslaught. The British again captured LaBasse Ville on the Franco-Belgian frontier, which a few days ago they had occupied and then relinquished. The Germans made a heavy counter attack here in an endeavor to regain the position, but the British flung them off, and began consolidating the ground won.

#### BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORT.

LONDON, July 31. The official issued at the British Headquarters in France to-night reports the capture by the Allies of the following villages: LaBasse Ville, Steenstraete, Bixchoote, Verlorenhoek, Frezenburg, Saint Julien, Pilkem, Hooge, West-Loek, and Hollebeke, and more than 3,500 prisoners. The operations of the Allied troops began this morning in the neighborhood of Ypres, have been continued with success during the day, despite unfavorable weather. The enemy's positions have been entered and our line has been advanced on a front of over 15 miles from LaBasse Ville on the River Lys to Steenstraete on the Riv-

er Yser. Both of these villages are now in the hands of the Allies. On the extreme left, the French troops, acting in close co-operation with and protecting the left flank of the British forces, captured Steenstraete, and penetrated the German defences to a depth of nearly two miles. Having gained their objectives for the day at an early hour, they continued their attack with the greatest gallantry beyond their original objectives, and captured Bixchoote and the enemy's positions to the southeast and west of the village on a front of nearly two and a half miles, including Kerkerker Inn. During the afternoon a hostile counter attack was successfully repulsed. In the centre and on the left centre the British divisions penetrated the enemy's positions to a depth of two miles and secured crossings on the River Steenbeek, which constituted their final objectives. In the course of their attack our troops stormed two powerful defensive systems, carried by assault the villages of Vedrenhoek, Frezenburg, Saint Julien, and Pilkem and many strong, fortified farms, woods and organized localities. Further south in the right centre of our attack, after gaining the whole of their first objectives, which included the village of Hooge and Sanctuary Wood, our troops fought their way forward against very obstinate resistance from the enemy in the difficult country in the neighborhood of the Ypres Menin road, and carried the village of Westhoek, in the neighborhood where heavy fighting has taken place throughout the day and still continues. We have penetrated the enemy's defences to a depth of about a mile. A number of powerful counter attacks have been successfully repulsed. On the extreme right south of the Zillebeke-Zandvoorde road, our troops gained the whole of their objectives early in the day and captured the villages of LaBasse Ville and Hollebeke. In addition to heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, more than 3,500 prisoners already have been brought in, but no accurate estimates of our captures can yet be made.

#### FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT.

PARIS, July 31. The French to-day, acting in conjunction with the British, were highly successful, according to the official statement issued by the war office to-night. At small loss the French troops carried important German positions and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The text of the statement reads: Having crossed the Yser Canal during the night, our troops attacked at 4 o'clock this morning in conjunction with the British armies on their right. Formidable artillery preparation had completely levelled the German organizations and inflicted heavy losses on the defenders. At the end of the morning our

troops had carried two enemy positions in their dash and had spontaneously gone beyond the objective which had been assigned to them. They advanced on the road between Liserne and Dixmude and captured the village of Bixchoote and Kerkerker Inn. Our losses were exceedingly small. We captured important material, and took prisoners which have not yet been counted. The battlefield is covered with German dead, showing the magnitude of the enemy's losses. On the Aisne front the artillery fighting was particularly violent. Reports up to the present concerning the operations carried out south of La Royere emphasize the splendid attitude of our troops. On the entire front of attacks the objectives assigned having been exceeded, we have been able to clear out advance trenches which we found filled up with enemy dead. The number of prisoners taken exceed up to the present 210. Our losses were slight. About 11 o'clock in the morning the enemy made a counter attack against our trenches west of Epine De Chervigny, which was repulsed. The Germans, after intense bombardment of our lines, at Cerny and Hurtebise, attacked our positions east of Cerny on a front of about 1,500 metres with three regiments. Our counter attacks, immediately carried out, drove them back and permitted us to advance along the whole front.

#### ENGINEERS' GREAT WORK.

LONDON, July 31. A Reuter despatch from the British headquarters in France, after describing the victorious advance of the British, says the Yser was crossed in many places and the bridging work was prodigious. One division alone in the course of a single day succeeded in throwing 17 bridges across the river on its front. The accomplishment of the French troops, continues the correspondent, evoked the greatest admiration. They threw 29 bridges across the Yser, pushed on and repeatedly made deep advances.

#### THE BRITISH-FRENCH ASSAULT.

WASHINGTON, July 31. The British-French assault on the German right flank has made a profound impression here, because in the judgment of many American army officers it is directed at the most vulnerable point on the entire German front. A complete success for the Allies sweeping the German line back from the sea, along the entire Belgian coast, would be an immediate answer to U-boat warfare, as the main North Sea bases for the U-boat operations would be stamped out. Behind this achievement then would stand the possibility that the entire German line in France would be endangered by a flank attack.

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