

MONTDIDIER TAKEN BY FRENCH

Important Town at the Apex of German Salient Falls Total of 24000 Prisoners Are Taken by Allies

Maximum Advance of Present Offensive Now Thirteen Miles; French Continue Progress, Taking Several Towns and Other Positions of Importance

By Courier Leased Wire.

LONDON, Aug. 10.—Bulletin.—The important town of Montdidier, which was approximately at the apex of the German salient, south of the Somme, has been captured by the Allies.

The number of prisoners taken from the Germans in the fighting in Picardy has increased to 24,000 the war office announces.

American troops delivered an attack in the angle between the Somme and the Ancre, and achieved a considerable success. British and Americans captured the town of Morlan-court between the Somme and the Ancre.

Canadian and Australian forces captured Bouchoir, Meharicourt and Lihons, and have entered Rainecourt and Proyart.

The French forces captured Le-Tronquoy, Le-Frotoy and Assainville.

PARIS, Aug. 10.—Bulletin.—The French began a movement southeast of Montdidier last night, and virtually have that place surrounded, according to the official statement of the war office today.

The towns of Assainvillers and Rubescourt were captured, and the French reached Faverolles, less than two miles east of Montdidier. Northwest of Montdidier, the French have advanced east of Arvillers, six miles northeast of Roye, and have captured Davenescourt, two miles east of Pierrefont.

The war office statement reads:

The French troops operating on the right of the British forces continued their success throughout last evening, and last night. Our troops progressed east of Arvillers, and captured Davenescourt.

They attacked south of Montdidier between Ayencourt and Le-Frotoy, and occupied Rubescourt and Assainvillers and reached Faverolles.

ADVANCE THIRTEEN MILES

LONDON, Aug. 10.—When the French captured Beaufort, Friday, they had made an advance of thirteen miles eastward from Gaster. This is the maximum infantry advance of the present offensive thus far reported.

CONTINUE PROGRESS

With the French Army in France, Aug. 9.—By the Associated Press.—The French continue their progress northwest of Montdidier today, reaching the line at Courtemanche, Pierrpont Hangest, and increasing the number of prisoners to four thousand, including three Colonels with their complete staffs.

So quick did the infantry rush on with the supporting tanks that two colonels were caught while putting on their leggings. The soldiers captured manifested joy that the war was over for them. The officers showed ill-humor and grumbled because they had to walk to the rear, and could not ride.

The resistance of the enemy infantry and machine gun detachments appeared stronger today on the French sector. The reaction of the enemy artillery was relatively more feeble than on Thursday. The French took a number of guns, which at once were turned against the enemy. The booty captured by the French was large.

FOE IN FLIGHT

PARIS, Aug. 10.—Bulletin.—The retrograde movement of the Germans is being accelerated by the favorable progress of the new attack south of Montdidier.

BATTLE SPREADING

LONDON, Aug. 10.—Bulletin.—The Picardy battle is spreading to the south of Arras, the Pall Mall Gazette says this afternoon. Heavy fighting occurred this morning in the battle area, with the Allies making satisfactory progress, and taking large numbers of prisoners.

ONE HUNDRED MORE GUNS.

One hundred additional German guns have been taken by the Allies.

CANADIAN CAVALRY.

Canadian cavalry, which is operating close to Chaumes, report that the enemy is fighting strong.

CANADIANS BORE VALIANT PART

By Courier Leased Wire.

With the Canadian Forces—By J. F. B. Livesey, Can. Press Correspondent in France)—Although the full fruits of the great victory on the Somme are not yet gathered, enough is known at this time to place it among the imperishable deeds of arms of this war. The Canadian force held an honorable position in the Allied armies which attacked the enemy lines on a twenty mile front. The Canadians went over the top at twenty minutes past four on August 8 and sixteen minutes thereafter the first prisoners began to come. By 8 o'clock a large part of the initial objective had been taken. The victory has been notable for a number of things. For the first

time the Canadian cavalry itself on the same battle field with the infantry. For the first time, too, the Canadian forces employed tanks in large numbers, both of the heavy and "Whippet" varieties. Also it was the first time that Canadians had fought side by side with their brethren from Australia. The victory, however, is notable chiefly for the wonderful staff work that alone made it possible. There was no artillery preparation in the usual sense

of the world. The men went in immediately behind the barrage, and fought up with it as it lifted. The Boche was taken completely by surprise and prisoners were astounded to find they were surrendering to the Canadians.

The Canadian soldiers never went into action with more irrepressible eagerness and determination not to be refused, than they did Thursday. Though tired from a march that permitted little rest before the battle, they went over the top with the unbeatable spirit of the men who fought and died at Ypres on the Somme and in a dozen glorious fields. It was a clear starry night with the faint light of dawn touching the eastern sky. Of a sudden, with one deafening pulse, the roar of guns broke out. Far to the right was the flicker of the French seventy-five's and of the American field guns and heavies. Immediately on the Canadian flank the Australians put up a great show in a sector where they had fought for several days past. Beyond them the Imperial troops were in action.

Fortunately, on the first day's fighting, as the dawn increased, the visibility became poor. A dense fog swept down the valleys. While this was protection against machine gunners, it greatly increased the difficulty of the troops finding their way over unknown ground. In the first day's fighting, the Canadian losses were not very heavy. One unit had heavy losses in its first attack, but succeeded in taking its objective after the tanks had come to its reinforcement. Owing to the poor visibility, there was little fighting in the air on Thursday over the Canadian sectors.

A CELEBRATION

The news continues to be so good from the front, said Mayor MacBride this morning, that a demonstration is in order. We have waited four long years for some genuine cheering, and it is about time to have it unbottled. Accordingly I ask automobiles to meet at the Armouries at 8.30 tonight, and thence parade to Alexandra Park, where a band will be in attendance. I hope all citizens of Brantford will join in making the event a hummer.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Aug. 10.—Since yesterday morning rain has fallen in Saskatchewan and the Maritime provinces. Lakes and the Georgian Bay.—Fair and warmer. Sunday.—Moderate to fresh south to west winds. Fair and decidedly warm, but showers or thunderstorms in some localities.



ANGLO-FRENCH TROOPS CONTINUE IN THE ASCENDANCY ON ENTIRE BATTLE FRONT

Army of Gen. Hutier is in Full Retreat From the Montdidier Line BATTLE RAGES

By Courier Leased Wire.

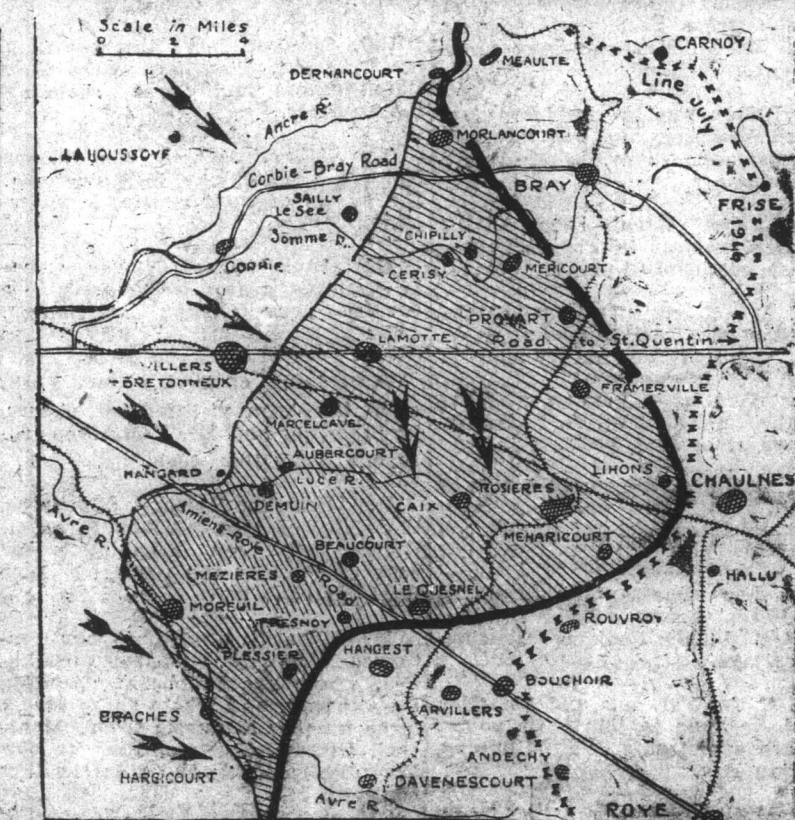
Paris, Aug. 10.—The German army of General Von Hutier is retreating from the Montdidier line.

DECISIVE MOMENT

Washington, Aug. 10.—The startling rapidity of the British-French advance in Picardy, coupled with new successes in Flanders and on the Vesle, produced an impression among some officers here that one of the decisive moments of the war, perhaps the beginning of the final battle, was rapidly approaching.

On the basis of such reports as were available, the German High Command seemed to stand face to face with a vital decision. It is believed that the German army reserves must be rushed to meet a possible battle.

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THE GREAT ALLIED GAIN SOUTH OF THE SOMME RIVER. This map indicates the great advance in Picardy following the offensive launched Thursday, yielding 24,000 prisoners. Rosieres, Lihons, Memarcourt, Le-Questel, Fresnoy and Plesier are among the villages taken.

Cavalry Skirmishers Well in Advance of Line Held by Infantry FOE RETREATS

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, Aug. 10.—Anglo-French troops continue in the ascendancy, according to the latest reports from the fighting front in Picardy.

The line as marked out in the official statements, is that which is held solidly by infantry, cavalry skirmishers being well in advance of it and preparing the way for further progress.

The Germans are relying on machine guns to stem the Allied tide, not wishing to risk their artillery, which is bound to be captured under even the slightest mischance. The enemy is defending himself with desperate courage where the position affords means, and the officers are shooting down any soldier who shows symptoms of quitting.

At this stage of the battle military observers here say, the problem facing the rival commanders is easily defined. Thus Marshal Foch struck skillfully at the point where the army groups of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and the German Crown Prince John, obliging the enemy to hurriedly reorganize the higher command and to place the armies of General Von Der Marwitz and Von Hutier under one chief. This operation has temporarily thrown the Germans off their balance and it is their object now to regain it. The task of the Allies is to throw the Germans still further off their balance. In a retreat Von Hutier would be obliged to use three high roads and two railroads which converge on Roye like the spokes of a wheel. Beyond the town a retreat would be dependent upon two roads towards Ham and the Somme, one direct and the other by way of Vesle. From these geographical details it will be seen that Von Hutier in a retreat would be forced to squeeze his heavy artillery and convoys through Roye. It would be like putting them through a rolling mill for the French advance troops, who are six miles north of Roye, while the centre of the German front is eleven miles south of that town.

NEW FRONT.

London, Aug. 10. (Reuters cable to Can. Press)—Reuters correspondent at French headquarters; cables under date of Friday evening as follows: "The front formed as a result of the French advance of today is a large curve from Courtemanche to Housies and about eleven miles from Morlan on the west bank of the Avesse opposite Morlan whence the French started yesterday morning. The enemy is naturally holding the flank of our attack in the region of Montdidier more obstinately than the center. The columns of 3 German regiments and their staffs were captured as a result of yesterday morning's surprise before the officers had time to finish dressing. One killed, but French soldiers ran him down and brought him back.

SUB COMMANDER DEAD.

London, Aug. 10.—Lieut. Commander Schweiger, who commanded the submarine which sunk the Lusitania, is dead. His death occurred in September, 1917, but has only been admitted by the German admiralty now, according to reports received here. Last September Schweiger was in command of the U-83 which was destroyed by British mines near Heligoland.

BOLSHEVIK ARREST ALLIED DIPLOMATS

Acting Consul General in Moscow, Together With British And French Emissaries, Are Placed Under Arrest

By Courier Leased Wire.

LONDON, Aug. 10.—Robert H. B. Lockhart, acting consul general in Moscow, and six Britishers attached to his staff, and several French diplomatic agents have been arrested in Moscow by the Bolsheviki, says the Daily Mail. The newspapers attributes to the foreign office a statement that there is no reason to believe it is true that the British at Archangel shot representatives of the Soviet, and adds: There was some shooting before Archangel, incidental to the landing operations, but this could only have been in reply to shots fired at our forces by the Bolsheviki forces. It is possibly a reprisal for our landing at Archangel, and in the Murmansk region.

LONDON, Aug. 9.—Delayed.—The Evening News says that J. O. Wardrop, the British consul at Moscow, was arrested along with R. H. B. Lockhart. Messrs. Lockhart and Wardrop remained in Moscow, when the diplomatic staff went to Archangel.

SITUATION TO-DAY

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Aug. 10.—Enemy counter-attacks in the Morlanecourt sector, which followed the Allied success, were beaten off in intensive fighting.

The text of the War Office statement reads: "Yesterday afternoon and evening the advance of the Allied armies continued on the whole front from south of Montdidier to the Ancre.

"French troops, attacking south of Montdidier during the afternoon, captured Le-Tronquoy, Le-Frotoy and Assainvillers, threatening Montdidier from the southeast. Over 2,000 prisoners were captured by our Allies in this sector.

"Canadian and Australian divisions have taken Bouchoir, Meharicourt and Lihons and have entered Rainecourt and Proyart.

"In the evening English and Americans attacked in the angle between the Somme and the Ancre and met with immediate success. By nightfall all the objectives had been taken, including the village of Morlanecourt and the high ground southeast of it. Counter-attacks launched by the enemy in this sector were beaten off after sharp fighting.

"The prisoners captured by the Allies since the morning of August 8 exceed 24,000."

(By the Associated Press)—Their main positions east of Amiens struck by the Franco-British thrust, the Germans continue to retreat with the Allies in close pursuit.

Enemy resistance on the extremities of the attacking front has been broken and latest reports from the battle front say the enemy is retreating eastward in great haste. Aerial observers say the Germans are in full retreat eastward across the Picardy plain towards the old Hindenburg line. German ammunition dumps are being blown up.

The Allied line has now been driven forward in the center more than 11 miles and the maximum advance

FEEL CITY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGES

Special Committee to Adjust Flood Claims Take This Stand

CASE TO BE TRIED

The claims of citizens on Jubilee Avenue for damages by reason of flooding have been under investigation by the special committee appointed by the Council to deal with flood claims who have interviewed the different owners and have heard their statements in reference to the matter, and have also visited the ground and made investigation of the facts so far as they can be ascertained.

The property owners appear to be convinced that the demand was caused by the fact that the valve at the foot of Jubilee Avenue which was installed there for the purpose of preventing water backing up into the sewer from the river, when there is high water in the river was closed when it should have been open.

The most careful investigation has convinced the committee that this is not the fact and that on the contrary the valve was open when it should have been open and closed when it should have been closed. In other words, the valve was operated properly for the purpose for which it was installed.

Under these circumstances the committee do not feel that the city is responsible for the undoubted loss and inconvenience when the property owners suffered by reason of the high water. Under the extreme conditions which existed, it would seem to be impossible to prevent the flooding of property on this street.

In view of the fact that the property owners feel that they have a grievance against the city and are prepared to recommend that a trial be had of the question of liability as early and with as little expense as possible, and will be prepared to accept the result of a test case on the question of liability in the several cases in which the facts are the same. This is of course subject to the test case being one that will be subject to appeal so that either party will have the benefit of the opinion of a Court of superior jurisdiction.