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UNSETTLED.

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SWEEEPING ALLIED GAINS!

BRITISH AND FRENCH DRIVE IN ENEMY LINES SEVEN AND HALF MILES IN CENTRE AT PLESSIER

Field Marshal Haig Announces Also That Goodly Gains Have Been Made Eastward Over Front of Fifteen Miles Lying Between Plessier and Morlancourt — Operations Begin Early in Morning on Amiens Front.

Canadians, French, Australians and English Divisions, Assisted By Large Number of British Tanks, Storm Germans on Front of More Than Twenty Miles, From the Avre River at Braches To Neighborhood of Morlancourt.

London, Aug. 8.—Field Marshal Haig's statement concerning the new offensive by the British and French troops shows that the enemy line has been driven in about seven miles and a half in the center at Plessier, which lies southeast of Moreuil. It shows that goodly gains also have been made eastward over the front of fifteen miles lying between Plessier and Morlancourt. The statement says that no estimate can be made concerning the prisoners, guns and material captured, but that several thousand prisoners and many guns have been taken.

The text of the statement follows: "The operations commenced this morning on the Amiens front by the French First Army under command of General Debentry and the British Fourth Army under Sir Henry Rawlinson, are proceeding successfully. The assembly of Allied troops was completed under cover of night, unnoticed by the enemy.

At the hour of assault, French, Canadian, Australian and English divisions, assisted by a large number of British tanks, stormed the Germans on a front of over twenty miles, from the Avre River at Braches to the neighborhood of Morlancourt. The enemy was taken by surprise and at all points the Allied troops have made rapid progress.

At an early hour our first objectives had been reached on the whole of the front attacked. During the morning the advance of the Allied infantry continued, actively assisted by British cavalry, light tanks and motor machine gun batteries.

The resistance of the German divisions in the line was overcome at certain points after sharp fighting, and many prisoners and a number of guns were captured by our troops.

The French troops, attacking with great gallantry, crossed the Avre River, and despite the enemy's opposition, carried hostile defences. North of the Somme the greater part of our final objectives were gained before noon, but in the neighborhood of Chipilly and south of Morlancourt parties of the enemy observed prolonged resistance.

In both localities the fighting was heavy, but ultimately our troops broke down the opposition of the German infantry and gained their objectives. South of the Somme, the gallantry of the Allied infantry and the dash and their vigor had gained during the afternoon the final objectives for the day on practically the whole of the battle front.

Assisted by our light tanks and armored cars, cavalry passed through the infantry and beyond our objectives, riding down the German transport and limbers in their retreat, and capturing villages and taking many prisoners.

The general line reached by our troops runs from Plessier-Hoazierville to Beaucourt, to Caix, to Framerville, to Chipilly and to the west of Morlancourt.

No accurate estimate can be given concerning the number of prisoners or guns or the amount of material captured, but it is known that several thousand prisoners and many guns have fallen into our hands.

THREE STEAMERS ARE SUBMARINED

The Merak, Lake Portage (Americans) and British Steamer Berwind Sunk.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Aug. 8.—Twenty survivors of the crew of the American steamship Merak, sunk by a German submarine off the North Carolina coast, Tuesday night, were landed here today, accounting for all persons aboard the vessel.

The Merak, one of the former Dutch cargo vessels which were taken over a few months ago by the United States shipping board, was on her way from an American port for Chile, carrying coal.

Washington, Aug. 8.—German submarines operating off the French coast on August 2, sank the small American steamship Lake Portage and the British steamer Berwind.

A belated official report announced here today told of the sinkings with out details. The Lake Portage of 1,938 gross tons, was built last year at Duluth, Minn.

PRIEST DROWNED

Quebec, Aug. 8.—Rev. Phylome Jobin, Roman Catholic curate at St. Francois, Beauce, was drowned yesterday while bathing in Lake Legare, Temiscouata county. The deceased who was ordained priest in 1914 was 31 years of age.

THE RUSSIANS DECLARE WAR?

Stockholm Hears Through Berlin That Bolsheviki and Britain Considered No Longer At Peace.

Stockholm, Aug. 8.—The Russian government has issued a declaration that a state of war exists between England and Russia, according to a despatch to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, which prints it "with reservation."

The newspaper Pravda of Petrograd declared that the Russian republic must ally itself to Germany to carry on the struggle against Russia's former allies.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolsheviki minister of war, is reported to have issued an order in which the French, English and Czech-Slovak are declared to be enemies of Russia.

German Agreement

London, Aug. 8.—Great Britain and France will cooperate in the plan of the United States to send to Russia a commission of commercial, agricultural and legal experts and American Red Cross workers, Sir Robert Cecil, minister of blockade said in the House of Commons today.

After the occupation of Archangel by the allies, the Bolsheviki withdrew across the river Dvina and on August 4, were again driven out of their positions there, chiefly by shell fire, according to news received today.

Hostile Forces

The hostile forces so easily overcome at Archangel numbered about 8,000 men, comprising 1,500 armed Maximists, 400 Laps, some 900 Germans, and 5,000 workmen. Large quantities of rolling stock and stores were captured by the allies, as well as two heavy batteries.

The German forces north of the Gulf of Finland, have been recently reinforced and are estimated to number 50,000, mostly inferior troops. These forces are being concentrated for an advance against the Murman railways, along which there has been some skirmishing.

THREE SHOT IN DRAFT BATTLE

Military Police and Slackers Clash Near Ormstown, Que.

Montreal, Aug. 8.—In a pitched battle between military policemen and alleged draftees and slackers near Ormstown today, Frank Robidoux was wounded, and his brother, George, and a military constable were shot. The wounded men were all brought to the hospital and placed in the Royal Victoria Hospital. They will all recover.

The fight took place when the military surrounded the house where Frank Robidoux was living and attempted to arrest him. Five military policemen were engaged by the Robidoux brothers and their friends armed with shot guns.

NO PEACE FOR THE GERMANS SAYS BALFOUR

True Obstacle To Peace Is Hun Policy of Universal Domination.

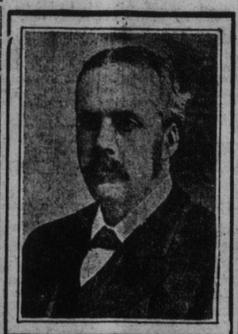
FOREIGN SECRETARY TALKS TO PACIFISTS

Way To Eradicate Heresy Is To Show War Not Always Successful.

ABOMINABLE DOCTRINE OF GERMAN EMPIRE

Pernicious Belgian and Russian Policies Condemn Teutons.

London, Aug. 8.—(Canadian Press Despatch from Reuters' Ltd.)—Replying to the arguments of pacifists the British Foreign Secretary, Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, said in the house of commons this afternoon that the true obstacle to peace was that educated Germany unitedly upheld the grossly



IMMORAL HERESY THAT A POLICY OF UNIVERSAL DOMINATION WAS THE TRUE POLICY OF ANY NATION WISHING TO BE GREAT.

immoral heresy that a policy of universal domination was the true policy of any nation wishing to be great. The heresy originated from the facile war successes of Germany and the way to eradicate it was to show Germany war did not always elude to success. Germany visibly practised these abominable doctrines and no German statesman had ever declared his intention of restoring Belgium which even the most extreme pacifist in the house of commons was determined should be done.

German Sea Theories

Balfour said that the carrying out of German theories was even more strikingly exemplified on her eastern frontier where she steadily and remorselessly was endeavoring in every way to bring the peoples there under her economic and military domination.

Germany had cynically and audaciously re-arranged the map of Eastern Europe regardless of national or ethnic limitations that without German support the whole fabric would fall to pieces. He would not conceive of the Allies tolerating any peace which would leave that state of things unremedied and enable Germany to amass an enormous increase of power for waging war in the future.

Rearranged Map

Germany had cynically and audaciously re-arranged the map of Eastern Europe regardless of national or ethnic limitations that without German support the whole fabric would fall to pieces.

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THE CANADIANS, AUSTRALIANS, ENGLISH AND FRENCH MAKE A MIGHTY DRIVE ON THE SOMME

ENEMY FLEES IN CONFUSION

Big New Drive Gives Promise of Seriously Menacing Entire German Front From Near the Sea To Rheims.

(By The Associated Press.)

The historic battle ground between Amiens and Montdidier again is the scene of a mighty contest. This time the British and French are the aggressors and under their fierce onslaughts in the first day's battle the Germans penetrated deeply into the German positions over a front of more than twenty miles, reaching from the region of Braches to the neighborhood of Morlancourt.

Following short but intensive artillery preparations and aided by misty weather the Allied attack took the Germans completely by surprise and they fled almost everywhere pell-mell before the tanks, motor machine gun batteries, cavalry and infantry sent against them. All the objectives set for the Australians, Canadians, Englishmen and Frenchmen were attained in remarkably quick time, and at last accounts Thursday night, the Allied forces were still making progress. Wherever the enemy turned to give battle he was decisively defeated.

Thousands of Prisoners

Thousands of Germans were made prisoner. Large numbers of guns were captured. Great quantities of war materials were taken and a score or more of villages and hamlets were re-occupied. In addition heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy.

At its deepest point the penetration of the German line was about seven and a half miles eastward from Villers-Bretonneux to Framerville, while from two to five miles were gained all along the front from northwest of Montdidier to the region around Morlancourt. The fighting extended north to Morlancourt to the Albert sector, but no official details concerning it have been received.

The advance of the Allies in the center places them well astride the railroad leading from Villers-Bretonneux to the important junction at Chaunelles, where lines radiate north-eastward toward Peronne and southward through Roye to Compiègne. The railway running northward to Bray was crossed when the Allies took Framerville.

Menaces German Front

Well out on the plains and pressing forward, seemingly with great rapidity, the present offensive of the French and British gives promise of seriously menacing the entire German front from near the sea to Rheims. If the drive should proceed eastward to any great depth it cannot but affect the armies of the German Crown Prince now fighting between the Aisne and the Vesle and possibly make impracticable a stand by them even north of the Aisne along the Chemin Des Dames.

Under the pressure of the offensive the menace to the channel ports also seems, for the moment at least, to vanish. Already there have been signs to the northward from the positions where the Crown Prince Rupprecht had formed his men for a drive toward the channel that a retrograde movement by the Germans was not impossible. With the armies of his imperial cousin on the Soissons-Rheims salient badly shattered and unable to hold him aid when his own forces north of Montdidier are in a rather precarious position as a result of the new offensive, it is apparent that Rupprecht will have to defer his campaign to cut off the cross-channel service.

On the Vesle

On the Vesle front little fighting occurred Thursday except in the process of the line-straightening operation. Continued on Page Two.

Prussians and Bavarians of Crown Prince Rupprecht's Army Flee Before Advancing Infantry and Tanks, Leaving Many of Their Guns and Seven Thousand Prisoners Behind Them—Heavy Casualties Inflicted on the Enemy, While Losses To the Allies Excessively Small.

Attack Was Made At Dawn Thursday on Front of Over Fifteen Miles Astride the River Somme on the Historic Battle Ground Between Amiens and Montdidier—Allies Capture Many Villages and Big Guns in Their Sweeping Rush.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 8.—(By The Associated Press.)—Fighting their way through the Germans at dawn on a front of over fifteen miles astride the River Somme, British and French troops this afternoon had reached points from five to six miles inside the lines which this morning belonged to the enemy.

The Prussians and Bavarians fled before the advancing infantry and tanks, leaving many of their guns behind them. Large numbers of prisoners have been taken both by the British and French and heavy casualties undoubtedly have been inflicted on the enemy.

Thus far everything has been accomplished with excessively small losses to the Allies.

Of one entire British corps, for instance, two hours after the attack began, only two officers and fifteen men of the ranks were reported as casualties.

Enemy in Danger

The artillery has followed up the storm troops closely and now is hurling shells down upon the enemy forces which taken by surprise and fiercely attacked, must be in a more or less crippled condition. It is believed that reinforcements are on the way to help them.

What tomorrow holds for the enemy cannot be forecasted, but the outlook is not a promising one under present conditions. Moreuil and the country front adjoining Villers-Aux-Erables have been taken by the French, while the British have captured the Doto and Hamel Woods and Marcelcave after hard fighting and pushed a considerable distance beyond.

Especially hard fighting was experienced, and is still in progress, on the left flank of the fighting front in the neighborhood of Morlancourt.

Began At Four A.M.

North of the attacked zone the barrage began at four o'clock this morning and lasted four minutes. Tanks then rolled forward and with them the infantry swarmed toward the enemy lines. These lines were reached and passed as a mist started to roll in. All along the line, except possibly northward on the left flank, very little enemy shelling was experienced after the attack got well under way.

Nearly all the country already fought over and that now in front of the Allied forces is low and rolling, and especially adapted to open warfare. One new German division which had just arrived in the line before the attack was launched was told to expect local attacks.

Prisoners Surprised

Prisoners taken from this division said they had heard nothing of a general attack being contemplated. Where the tanks and the armored car batteries pressed forward on the rolling country there was much agitation among the enemy. A report came back that a British tank, probably one of the fast little whippets, had been

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Infantry Goes Over

Slightly north of here the British batteries moved forward so rapidly that they were up and firing in their new positions thirty minutes after midnight when the infantry went over the top, followed at first in this particular case by the tanks 1,000 yards to the rear.

At six o'clock the weather was so thick that objects twenty yards away were hardly visible and the British were not slow to take the opportunity to plunge through under its protection. About 5:45 the first prisoners began coming back. They were unharmed and looked clean, as if they had just come off parade, showing how complete had been the surprise. The British pounced on them before they had the slightest chance to give battle.

The prisoners that arrived later were not so clean, and they came rearward carrying wounded on stretchers.

Thunderous Roar

The British army, which had started off with a thunderous roar, by seven o'clock had quieted down to a virtuous silence. This was because the artillery had ceased firing while it was being advanced to keep up with the infantry and the tanks. It was the tanks which by seven o'clock had rolled ponderously into Cefisy, driving out the enemy, and a few hours later, in a difficult manoeuvre, took the wood opposite.

The tanks crossed the Avre and did excellent work here, too, with the infantry. On the peninsula between the

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