

LENS AND QUEANT FALL TO BRITISH

Over 10,000 Prisoners Taken Yesterday, More Today Advance On Twenty Mile Front This Morning

BRITISH TAKE BOTH LENS AND QUEANT; PUSH BEYOND DROCOURT LINE AND OCCUPY TOWN OF PRONVILLE

YESTERDAY WAS ANOTHER DAY OF SUCCESSES

Notable Gains Recorded by Allies Along the Entire Front

SPLENDID PROGRESS Both French and British Forces Achieved Important Advances

EXPERTS DELIGHTED

By Courier Leased Wire Paris, Aug. 3.—Yesterday was another day of notable successes for the Allies, results of the first importance being attained in the face of stiff resistance to both the British on the left of the line and to General Mangin's French troops on the right.

The French military commentators were enthusiastic to-day over the breach in the Hindenburg line made by the British between Drocourt and Queant.

"Astounding as it may seem," says Henri Bidou in the Journal des Debats, "the enemy was once more taken by surprise. Only by accepting this as a fact can one account for the great number of prisoners which indicate the number of the forces engaged and the lack of the prolonged resistance which should have been the consequence of the presence of this important mass of effectives. Doubtless the German staff held the hope that the British, after several days hard fighting, would be obliged to rest."

In the newspaper Oul, Colonel Fabry advances the view that the battle is being directed on the German side by the local commanders who are being more and more left to their own resources by General Ludendorff. This, he argues, is a certain sign that confusion prevails along the German line and likewise of a scarcity of reserves, for, in losing its reserves the supreme command loses its best reason for interfering in the direction of affairs at the front, the critic points out.

All the commentators agree that the British success is likely to have widespread effects and that the German armies fighting before St. Quentin and La Fere will be obliged to accelerate their retreat for fear of the fall of what is characterized as the pivot of the whole line to the west of Cambrai, which would place them in jeopardy.

On the southern end of the line, the enemy is continuing to interpose an energetic resistance between the Ailette and the Aisne, profiting by the intricacies of the terrain which make the region one of the most difficult to attack and easiest to defend. Nevertheless, the British are making progress daily scoring advances which, while not great in themselves, are appreciable and continuous and are calculated to have a cumulative result.

Through the capture of Leully and Torney-Sorney the French have completed the capture of the plateau above Soissons. Leully in addition rises to a level with the Chemin des Dames, which is less than four miles to the east. One effect of the advance is to give a view over the whole country eastward, as far as Laon, an advantage which will have its effect in due time.

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, Sept. 3.—A shallow disturbance which was over the State of Kansas yesterday morning has moved to the lake region, causing showers over western and northern Ontario. The weather has been fine in Quebec and the Maritime provinces. Front has been in many parts of the western provinces.

Forecasts Wednesday Showers to-day, Wednesday fresh northwest winds, fair and cool.

LET'S GO! Whistles blew, bells rang and motorcycle exhausts popped at noon to-day until the centre of the town reverberated with the sound, when the news of the fall of Lens and the accompanying bag of prisoners, was made known. For nearly half an hour things buzzed as they have seldom buzzed before since the outbreak of the war. But the celebration is a more baragatelle to that which Mayor MacBride is planning for to-morrow night.

"We will have the pavement about the gore opposite the Armouries cleared," His Worship stated to "The Courier," and will have the Hydro Department turn on all the lights in that district. Then, after a general parade through the city, we will hold a jubilee dance, to celebrate not only the capture of Lens, but all the Allied successes of the past few weeks. And may there be more of them."

He requests all citizens to turn out for the occasion. Let's go!

VITAL GERMAN STRONGHOLDS ARE CAPTURED

Enemy Sought to Hold Several Points in Northern Defence Line

USED HIS RESERVES Massed Effort Failed to Check Onrush of the British

WEDGE INTO LINES

By Courier Leased Wire. New York, Aug. 3.—The Associated Press to-day issued the following: Strongholds vital to the German defences in northern France, in which they sought to hold with large reserve forces rushed forward at the last moment, have fallen before the rapidly advancing British forces. Driving throughout the Drocourt-Queant line, English and Canadian troops are pushing the Germans before them in the great battle of the present offensive, and one of the most important contests of the war.

The English have driven a wedge into the German lines with the taking of Dperigny and strongly fortified enemy positions northeast of that town. The Douai plain spread out before the invaders with no natural defences to overcome, such as have been surmounted in reaching their present line. In the same sector to the south, English and Scottish troops are advancing with Queant as their immediate goal, capturing many towns and villages, including Moreuil.

Thousands of prisoners passing to the rear testify to the superiority of the British attack. The various and number of units represented by them indicate the haste with which the Germans rushed reinforcements into the battle in an effort to stave off the disaster of a completely broken line in the defences protecting the cities of Douai and Cambrai. These cities, if taken by Field Marshal Haig, would deprive Germans of two of their most important bases of supplies in northern France.

On the Lys front the British forces continued to gain ground in the direction of Estaires. Here it seems probable that the Germans plan to fall back to a line through Armentieres with the defence of the Hindenburg in their rear, which the British must break through before reaching Lille. On the French section of the front battle line, the Germans are in retirement northeast of Soissons. The entire Soissons plateau is now in the hands of the Franco-American troops under command of General Mangin. The French are advancing in the direction of the city.

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Breaking of Famous Drocourt-Queant Line One of Worst Disasters, For Foe, of the Entire War; Sensational Success for Allied Arms

By Courier Leased Wire. LONDON, Sept. 3.—The sensational breaking of the famous Drocourt-Queant switch line is announced as follows:

A series of important Allied advances with great captures of men and material has made an immense impression here, and while too great confidence that the success can be maintained is deprecated, and while the expectation is general that the enemy will make the most desperate efforts to recover the position, the blow is regarded as one of the worst disasters inflicted upon the Germans during the whole war, and one which must cause their high command the deepest anxiety.

The belief is general that the switch line is the main system of German defense, and that there is nothing so strong behind it. Consequently its loss, if it became final, opens the widest possibilities.

Its loss would involve the evacuation of the French coal field, perhaps even of the Flanders coast, says The Mail, and would imperil the German hold on Douai, Valenciennes and Cambrai, which are essential to Hindenburg for maneuvering his armies. The switch line is the piston of the whole German front, and its breach means that we have forced the enemy to a struggle of man against man, which he had used all of his ingenuity to avoid.

The Telegraph also noting the danger to the important German centres of communications says: "If the Germans cannot stand before Douai, Cambrai and St. Quentin, they can stand nowhere this side of the German frontier. If it is possible for them to fight harder and throw in reserves at a swifter rate than they have done in the last few days, they will do so. We doubt the possibility of their accomplishing either."

Other commentators remark that the Germans now pretend that they are retiring according to plan, and are convinced that the retirement will be compulsorily carried much farther than they evidently intended.

CANADIANS AGAIN TO FORE IN YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING

Troops From the Dominion Went Into Attack Yesterday, Supported by a Heavy Artillery Barrage.

By Courier Leased Wire. With the Canadian Forces, Sept. 2.—By J. F. B. Livesay, Canadian Press Correspondent.—Supported by what is said to have been the greatest artillery barrage put on in this war, the Canadians, after the seeming desultory fighting of the past few days, went into action in force this morning with other British troops south of the Scarpe. The kick-off was at five o'clock, and by half past six the enemy line was pierced at several points opposite to us. Our left stormed Dury and in the center pushed out along the Cambrai road as far as the outskirts of Villers-les-Cagnicourt. Our right penetrated the wood of Cagnicourt, and thrust itself into the village. These points lie well behind the Queant-Drocourt lines. Our own losses in the first day's fighting were light. The enemy was overwhelmed by the volume and intensity of our fire, our counter-battery work smothering his return fire. The men went in quietly confident, taking their time to secure the victory of which they were sure. Thousands of prisoners came in during the day, and our men say they encountered heavy machine gun fire, but that as soon as they stormed the trench system the enemy surrendered.

A British force on our right also rushed forward. The weather was clear and cold, and the roads were in fair shape. The pursuit was pushed forward by tanks and the machine gunners.

The honors of the first day went to an Ontario battalion, which made an advance over hard going of one thousand yards, marring up seven hundred and sixty prisoners, most of whom were captured in dugouts.

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CAPTURE OF QUEANT IS ANNOUNCED TODAY

Town Forming Southern Support of Famous German Switch-Line Before Cambrai and Douai Has Fallen to British

By Courier Leased Wire. LONDON, Sept. 3.—The capture of the town of Queant, the southern support of the famous German switch line before Cambrai and Douai, is announced in an official statement from Field Marshal Haig to-day.

Along this line the enemy was heavily defeated in his prepared defences and is retiring on virtually the whole battle front. The British forces are reported to have entered the towns of Pronville, Doignes, and Hagucourt. In storming the Drocourt-Queant line the Canadians assisted the English troops and carried everything before them. The British, formal Doignes and Vehn unoccupied.

The situation in the southern part of the battlefield is said to be extremely interesting, but nothing more can be said for the moment.

CAMOUFLAGED SUB OFF COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA

U-Boat Which is Preying on Commerce in North Atlantic is Painted With Large, Wave-Like Lines.

By Courier Leased Wire. GLOUCESTER, Mass., Sept. 3.—The German submarine operating among the fishing fleet off the Nova Scotia coast is camouflaged with large wave-like lines, according to Captain Manuel Quadros, of the American fishing schooner Rush, sunk by the U-boat a week ago. The submarine commander told the fishermen that there were American magazines and newspapers on the U-boat, and he accused the newspapers of distorting the truth about the submarines. He said that when his vessel left Germany it was under instructions to sink only three masters, but that because of the attitude of the American press, orders had come to the U-boat by wireless to sink everything in sight.

GERMANS IN RETREAT ON FRONT OF FIFTY MILES

By Courier Leased Wire. NEW YORK, Sept. 3.—The Associated Press today issued the following: On a front of virtually 50 miles, from just below Ypres to a point near Peronne on the Somme, the German armies are in retreat.

This retrograde movement is not a voluntary one on the part of the enemy, but has been forced by the series of unremitting hammer blows inflicted by Marshal Foch in the past six or seven weeks. It now has been accelerated by the notable victory won by Field Marshal Haig yesterday in breaking through the strong defensive lines protecting the railway centres of Douai and Cambrai, and threatening to outflank even the main Hindenburg line south to St. Quentin.

Already the taking of 10,000 prisoners by the British in their advance is reported, and the German casualties in killed and wounded are declared to have been notably heavy as their thickly-massed forces felt the force of the British blow.

So pronounced and so speedy is the German retirement movements that it seems as if the enemy, if he has not met with a disaster, is perilously on the verge of one. In what appears like an effort to escape in time, the scope of the German retreat, which had been proceeding somewhat leisurely both north and south of the Somme has been markedly accentuated north of that river.

In this movement the important French coal mining city of Lens at the gates of which the British ponderously vainly virtually still further south the retreat. Continued on page two

More Than 10,000 Prisoners Taken Yesterday MORE TODAY

By Courier Leased Wire. LONDON, Sept. 3.—Bulletin—The British have captured the city of Lens.

The town of Queant also has been taken. Lens was evacuated by the Germans, the British moving in. More than 10,000 prisoners were taken by the British yesterday.

Additional prisoners were taken this morning. In their push beyond the Drocourt-Queant line, the British have advanced to a point just to the west of Buisy, two and a half miles northeast of Queant, and occupied Pronville, a mile and a half southwest of Queant.

The British also hold Doignes, elu, Berthincourt and Roquegnay, representing an advance to a maximum depth of four miles on a twenty-mile front effected this morning.

In Flanders, the British forces have captured the town of Wulverghem, two miles southeast of Kemmel.

Contrary to expectations, the enemy has not reacted heavily with a view to the recapture of the Queant-Drocourt line, but has left the British in undisturbed possession of it.

Bulletin, London, Sept. 3.—(Canadian Press via Reuters)—The British have occupied Lens, Wulverghem, Queant, Pronville, Doignes, Vehn, Berthincourt, Roquegnay. This represents an advance to a maximum depth of four miles on a 20 mile front this morning.

MANGIN'S ADVANCE. French Army Headquarters, Monday, Sept. 3.—(Canadian Press dispatch from Reuters Limited)—Mangin's correspondent cables: General Mangin's advances between the Ailette and the Aisne is the most important so far. He has reached the Ailette, the Canal Du Nord and Bethincourt and has advanced a mile to south Lully. The line now passes through the plateau of Bethincourt to the north of Crau on the Soissons-Mauberge road. The center of the enemy, Great Fiches are observable to the north of Lafeux. These are probably enemy dumps.

FRENCH OFFICIAL. Paris, Sept. 3.—(Archery actions on the Somme front and further south between the Oise and the Aisne are reported in the official statement issued at the War Office to-day. The text of the statement reads: "During the night there were artillery actions on the front of the Somme and between the Oise and the Aisne."

British Official. The text of the war office statement reads: "Our operations carried out yesterday south of the River Scarpe, were completely successful. The enemy was heavily defeated in his prepared defences of the Drocourt-Queant system, with the result that he is retiring this morning, along practically the whole battle front."

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ARRIVALS Arrive Brantford 8:30 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 5:50 p.m. Arrive Brantford 8:30 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 5:50 p.m.

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