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The Toronto World

FRIDAY MORNING AUGUST 9 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,785 TWO CENTS

SIX-MILE ADVANCE MADE ON 20-MILE SOMME FRONT

CANADIANS ARE IN IT

Paris, Friday, Aug. 9.—(4.40 a.m.)—The number of prisoners taken by the French and British in Picardy now exceeds ten thousand, according to the latest news from the battlefield.

ENEMY TAKEN BY SURPRISE AND RAPID PROGRESS MADE

Cavalry Passes Thru Infantry and Beyond the Allies' Objectives, Riding Down German Transport and Limbers in Their Retreat, Capturing Villages and Taking Many Prisoners.

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 centre at Plessier, which lies southeast of Moreuil. It shows that goodly gains also have been made eastward over the front of 20 miles lying between Plessier and Morlancourt.

of British tanks, stormed the Germans on a front of over 20 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.

enemy maintained 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."

GERMANS FLEE PELL-MELL BEFORE ADVANCING ALLIES

All Objectives Set Attained in Remarkably Quick Time and Last Accounts Show That Progress Still is Being Made, With Germans Decisively Beaten Wherever They Turned to Fight.

The historic battleground 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 they have 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.

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

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 Crown Prince Rupprecht had formed his men for a drive toward the channel, that a retrograde movement by the Germans was not improbable.

BRITISH SMOTHER ENEMY INFANTRY

Advance Proceeds With Astonishing Speed All Along Line.

CANNOT SAVE GUNS Particularly Large Group of German Artillery Left Behind.

London, Aug. 8.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at British headquarters says that the hardest fighting occurred on the extreme northern and southern wings of the British advance, the passage of the River Luce and the capture of the southern woods particularly proving very tough operations which checked the advance a while.

British and French Troops Fight Their Way Thru Germans, Who Flee Before Advancing Infantry and Tanks, Leaving Guns Behind—Large Numbers of Prisoners Captured and Heavy Casualties Inflicted on Enemy.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 8.—Fighting their way thru the Germans at dawn on a front of over 15 miles astride the River Somme, British and French troops this afternoon had reached points from five to six miles inside lines which this morning belonged to the enemy.

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.

Fighting in Outskirts Of Important Villages

British Advancing on South Bank of the Somme, While French Gain Ground Further South.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 8.—The line between Albert and Montdidier, along which the allies attacked this morning, is about 25 miles from end to end, but the exact limits of the infantry fighting are not yet reported.

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 this particular case by the tanks 1,000 yards to the rear.

Company Limited

BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL DISARM ULSTER

Edward Shortt Announces Intention of Seizing Rifles in North of Ireland.

FIGHT THE HOT WEATHER.

Yesterday and the previous day marked the hottest days that Toronto has endured for some years and the probability is that the heat may continue.

Germans Admit British Gains.

Berlin, Aug. 8.—(Via London).—The English have forced their way into German positions between the Ancre and the Avre, according to a statement issued this evening by the German war office.