

BRITISH GAIN EAST OF ANCRE RIVER

Success Won by British and French in Two Days Offensive Being Systematically Followed Up--British Heavy

UNDER A MID-SUMMER SUN BRITISH AND FRENCH DROVE FORWARD AGAINST GERMANS

Strategic Points on Highway Between Arras and Peronne Taken by the Allies, and Terrible Artillery Fire of British Crippled Enemy Defence.

Indications are Attackers Will Maintain a Steady, Methodical Pounding of German Positions.

take one under midsummer... By Special Wire to the Courier. New York, July 3.—The Herald publishes the following cable: London, Monday, July 3.—Under a blazing sun and in midsummer heat the men of the British and French armies yesterday continued their drive into the German front on the twenty-five mile line from above Hebuterne to below Fay. By early yesterday morning the Germans had brought all their available reserves up to the threatened district, and had begun a series of desperately fought counter-attacks. Except at two or three points the violence of the British artillery fire was so great that the enemy's demonstrations were literally smothered under a rain of projectiles and were able to offer only perfunctory opposition to the allied advance.

Fricourt Taken. While the battle raged all yesterday with undiminished fury along every mile of the line, it reached its greatest intensity in the vicinity of Fricourt, Commeucourt and Contalmaison, and along the River Somme, in the neighborhood of Cudlu. The Germans caught in their formidable defensive works at Fricourt held out all Saturday and until two o'clock yesterday afternoon when they abandoned their works, and the British entered the village. This served to straighten the new front somewhat and permit more active cooperation with the French, who were fighting through Carlu and into the woods east of that village.

Important Captures. The German struggle to retain Commeucourt, Fricourt and Contalmaison is explained by the fact that the three settlements are strategic points of unusual importance and stand as sentinels on the highway from Arras to Bapaume and Peronne. This highway has been one of the principal arteries of automobile and horse transport in the western theatre and has been used by both armies, since it diagonally crosses the fighting line.

Will Have to Retire. In the River Ancre sector, the resistance of the Germans has been so stubborn and so well conducted behind their concrete machine emplacements, their steel and concrete field works and their skillfully constructed trench system, that they still retain parts of their first line in spite of the ferocity of the British attack. The development of the Somme, the further south toward the clearing, is regarded as almost certain to compel a retirement here, however, for not only are they being hard pressed on the front, but their Commeucourt position has been exposed to a three-sided fire. With the British pushing forward from Fricourt, the French, who link up with them two or three miles to the south, continued their advance in the Somme marshes and on the left of the river. They occupied Frise yesterday, completing the occupation of Carlu, and east and southeast of Dompiere, made a net gain of more than a mile on a three mile front.

10,000 Prisoners. The day's operations brought the number of prisoners up to well above 7,000, and may reach 10,000 by the time they all pass to the clearing stations in the rear. Of these, the French have taken more than 5,000. The prisoners so far interviewed, have commented on the extreme violence of the bombardment which preceded Saturday's attack, and on the skill with which the artillery contributed to the advance, once the

British infantry was in action. Prisoners taken in the raids all last week but especially on Thursday and Friday, told of the barrier of fire erected between the first line trenches and the supporting positions, which for more than three days had prevented supplies and reinforcements being moved up to the front. It develops now that not only was the food service seriously crippled, but the munitions was impeded to such an extent that the light batteries posted well toward the front were left virtually without shells. Terrible Artillery Fire. To the effectiveness of the British fire on these posts is attributed the feeble answer returned by the Germans to the prefatory bombardment. The aerial service has its share of credit for this situation, for the aviators early obtained complete domination of the air, and in their raids on the German bases destroyed ammunition convoys, depots and trains, and aided materially in disrupting the entire supply organization.

Confident in London. While London remained keenly interested in the developments across the Channel yesterday, the enthusiasm manifested on the first news of the drive, gave place to a feeling of confidence and determination less loudly expressed, but not the less unmistakable. The nation has learned it is unwise to underestimate the German army and the defences it has constructed and perfected through nearly two years of occupation of northern France. No great advance like that carried out by General Brusiloff's Russian army is even hoped for. It is thoroughly understood now that the British army is engaged in an undertaking similar in many respects to that of the Germans at Verdun. At no time has there been contemplated or even considered possible a sudden advance which would carry through and breach the German front.

Steady, Relentless Pressure. On the contrary, the schemes of the Anglo-French leaders provide for a steady pressure back by all the great resources of the British army in guns and ammunition to slowly and methodically push back the front until the allied forces are within striking distance of one of the many important railway centres in northern France on which the German field organization is based. Campaign directed, is one of the most important of these, Douai, Lens and Valenciennes are similarly important points.

K's New Armies. Once anyone of these cities is reached and held, a complete realignment of the German front in France, and the evacuation of all of northern France to the left of the Meuse and the Scheldt, will be forced. To accomplish this task Britain has Lord Kitchener's new armies, numbering 1,000,000. This vast force has replaced almost entirely the original expeditionary force which won fame in the retreat from Mons and in the battle at the Marne. Backing this on the continent, is the enormous output of British ammunition and armament plants, and a large part of the output for the last year of the American arms industry.

Co-operation Among Entire Forces. But observers here find even more encouragement in the evidence of Entente co-operation. For the first time since the war began a general offensive is being carried out on all fronts and under a well organized, co-ordinated allied strategy. There is the greatest accord between London, Paris, Petrograd and Rome, and the results of that accord are becoming increasingly apparent.

Guns Now Outclass German 42 Centimetre Kind

British Bombarding Thiepval and Have Gained Ground of a Higher Elevation to the North of Fricourt--The Number of Prisoners Taken Exceeds 4000 Men

By Special Wire to the Courier.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, July 23.—(via London)—A further advance has been made by the British forces to the east of the Ancre River. To the north of the town of Fricourt the British have pushed forward and have gained ground at a higher elevation.

Fighting continues intense on virtually the whole British front. Above the Ancre there has been no important change.

The British have heavily bombarded Thiepval. At La Boisselle severe fighting is proceeding.

North of Fricourt the British have pushed their positions forward to higher ground.

The situation here is promising for the British.

A heavy shelling of Montauban by the Germans continues. The British appear to be well established in the town.

The number of German prisoners taken in the south so far exceeds 4,000. The weather continues favorable.

FOLLOWING UP THE SUCCESSES. LONDON, July 3.—The marked successes won by the British and French in initiating their great offensive along the western front are being systematically and successfully followed up.

Heavily pounding the German second line south of the Somme, the French have captured two lines of trenches along a three-mile front and taken the village of Herbecourt, two miles northeast of Dompiere.

ON THE ROAD TO PERONNE. The captured village is on the road to Peronne, which town is apparently the immediate objective of the French forces in this sector. It is five miles distant from the furthest thrust of the French advance.

To the north the British are pressing for Bapaume, where numerous main highways join. Having taken Fricourt, which formed a salient desperately held by the Germans to check the British advance on either side, General Haig's forces now command the terrain toward Bapaume.

FIERCER FIGHTING ON THE ANCRE. North of the River Ancre the British have met the most determined German resistance, and their advances here have not been so marked as between that stream and the Somme. Nevertheless they are declared to have maintained, in conjunction with the French, the initiative all along the line of the grand offensive.

GREAT BRITISH GUNS NOW. LONDON, July 3.—(New York Times cable).—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Paris says: "I am credibly informed that the British heavy guns now absolutely outclass the German or Austrian famous 42-centimetre guns which the German command sprang as a surprise at the outbreak of the war.

"The British supplies of munitions are so great in the present offensive the question of economy of shells does not enter into account.

"The French people have heard with pardonable satisfaction that the British asphyxiating gas has proved deadlier than any the Germans have invented."

PROGRESS OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES

Paris, July 3.—The reserves which the Germans rushed up to the Somme region to check the Franco-British offensive began to make themselves felt yesterday afternoon and last night, according to latest reports received here. The fighting, reaching a pitch of exceptional desperation, but nevertheless the German efforts to check the allied advance failed. The Franco-British allies, these reports say, retain the initiative unimpaired, and, as the result of the day's fighting have materially advanced their line and strengthened their hold on what they had previously won.

Peronne the Next Objective. The capture of Carlu, especially in view of the rapid progress made south of the Somme, represents a great step forward for the village bars the road leading to the only points where the river can be passed. The French troops have now before them on their road to Peronne, their goal, a series of hummocks, each of which is crowned by a village, ending in a narrow plateau. The British on their part have made steady progress towards Bapaume, which is an important centre on account of the intersection there of the main highways which apparently are their objective.

News Coming in Slowly. London, July 3.—News of the Anglo-French offensive came in very slowly to-day, but while people were

anxious for information, they showed no disappointment at the delay. The authorities and the press gave warning that patience would be necessary, as the advance must be slow, owing to the nature of the fortifications erected by the Germans in the twenty months they have been in possession of the territory attacked. Places such as Montauban, Fricourt, La Boisselle, Serre and Mametz, which the British took, and like the villages further south captured by the French, bristled with machine guns. There are many other similar positions which must be overwhelmed if the French and British infantrymen are to continue to push forward.

Remain in Dug Outs. The artillery, it is true, demolishes most of the defence works, but the Germans remain in dugouts during bombardments and come out with machine guns to meet the attackers. Consequently much hand-to-hand fighting occurs. Furthermore, there is activity in the North. Meanwhile the troops on the northern end of the western front are not inactive. On the Belgian coast, British monitors are throwing shells across the sand dunes to keep the Germans in their trenches. The French captured heavy artillery and took more prisoners. The statement says 39 German battalions participated in the fighting and that 31 of

heavy gunfire and the raids of infantry detachments, the Germans are kept busy from one end of the line to the other and threatened attacks at every point warn them against sending reinforcements to the Somme region.

Jaris, July 3.—The French offensive south of the Somme, in conjunction with the British drive, continued last night with complete success, the war office announced to-day. The French occupied two lines of trenches of the second German position on a front of five kilometres (three miles). The French have captured the village of Herbecourt. East of the Meuse on the Verdun front, the Germans captured Damouloup redoubt, but the French soon after regained possession of it. The trenches of the second German position captured by the French extend from Maricourt wood, which is in possession of the French, as far as the edge of Aseville. The village of Herbecourt, taken by the French, lies between these two points. Further south the French made progress towards Aseville and Estrees. North of the Somme the Germans made no attack on the positions previously taken by the French. The French captured heavy artillery and took more prisoners. The statement says 39 German battalions participated in the fighting and that 31 of

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Russians Holding Grimly to Lines on the Styr, While Bukowina is Over-Run

German Forces Push Back Muscovites Five Miles at the Most, But in South, Russians Put Enemy Back to the Carpathians.

By Special Wire to the Courier. London, July 3.—As the result of one week of most costly on slaughts on the Russian lines between the Styr and the Styr Rivers, the Austro-German forces have advanced their battle front at the most five miles eastward to wards the Styr, and that only in some sectors, says a Reuter's despatch from Petrograd. Military authorities, the correspondent adds, are confident that the Russians are firmly holding the enemy on this front, pending the development of General Letchitzky's sweep through Bukowina, notwithstanding that strong German reinforcements are entering the field. Meanwhile the Russians have progressed fifteen miles southwestward of Kolomea and the Austrians there are hard pressed to cover their retreat to the Carpathian Mountains.

MURDER COMMITTED NEAR SIMCOE; A BERNARDO BOY SHOOT A FARM HELPER

Upon Returning From Church Both Went Away From the House and a Quarrel Ensued; in the Struggle Rifle Which the Boy Was Carrying Went Off, Killing the Man Instantly

Simcoe, July 2.—Robert Henry Beecher, a clever young Bernardo boy, aged 16, who has lived for some seven years with Miss Ada Barr, on her farm near Forestville, and has attended Port Rowan High school for two years, lies in goal here charged with the murder of John Simons, who was engaged to work the Carr farm. The tragedy took place at 4 o'clock at Miss Carr's home, and exactly five hours later High Constable Murphy of St. Williams handed the youth over to turnkey McNally at the goal, on a remand from John Cope, J. I., of St. Williams. Squire Cope, after warning the boy and explaining to him the serious nature of his position, received what was virtually an admission of shooting Simons. On returning from church the two went out with a 22 rifle, for some target practice. Miss Carr is reported to have said that they got into a quarrel about something and Simons attempted to take the loaded rifle from the boy. The gun was broken in the struggle and discharged. Simons got the charge and died instantly. Squire Cope informs your correspondent that the boy said: "I shot him." On arrival here Beecher was in a state of physical and nervous collapse. The tragedy occurred in South Walsingham, a few miles south of the scene of the Shoup murder, which occurred on May 12th, 1915. Constable Murphy informed the authorities at the goal that Beecher took an interest in church work and taught a Sunday school class. Dr. Meek of Port Rowan will hold an inquest to-morrow. Beecher is slated for a hearing before the magistrate at St. Williams on Friday, unless the date is changed on account of the presentation of the colors to the 133rd on that day. Your correspondent called Squire Cope's attention to the matter but he thought there would be no conflicting interests. Forestville is the first stop out of Pt. Rowan on the Grand trunk branch line from Simcoe to the lake.

GETTING READY FOR CAMP BORDEN

Advance Party of 125th Left Saturday for That Point.

HAVE ARRIVED THERE SAFELY

Impressed With Camp and Care Taken of the Men.

The advance party from the 125th battalion, under Capt. Sager and Lt. Oxtoby, and accompanied by Buglers Gus Hogan and W. Hockley, left Brantford in good order Saturday morning, entraining quietly at the G. T. R. station. A night letter telegram was received this morning from Capt. Sager by Lt. Col. Cotcliffe, reading "This is some camp. No black flies. All the kitchens are built with wire netting." All preparations are meanwhile being made for the departure of the battalion proper to-morrow morning when a special train of 20 passenger coaches will be on hand, with the necessary freight and baggage cars. Lt. M. E. Verity, together with one man detailed from each company, will remain in the city for a few weeks in order to continue recruiting

Provisions in Liverpool. Liverpool, July 3.—Following are the stock of provisions in Liverpool: Bacon, 49,000 boxes; hams, 15,400 boxes; shoulders, 11,000 boxes; butter, 1,900 cwts; cheese, 29,700 boxes; lard, 8,400 tierces, of prime western, steam and 5,120 tons of other kinds. DETECTIVE CHIEF DEAD. By Special Wire to the Courier. Montreal, July 3.—The death has occurred at Banff, Alberta, of Silas H. Carpenter, former chief of the Montreal detective force, at one time Edmonton chief of police, and later superintendent of an internment camp in the west. The Minister of Finance announces a further credit by Canadian banks of \$25,000,000 for the purchase of war munitions by the imperial munitions board.

THE BRITISH BERYARY