

## THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1918

Lt. Lyle McGowan Mohmands Made

Has Been Wounded Trouble In India

# Germans Stiffen Defence But Unable To Stem Tide

### (Undated War Lead By The Associated Press.)

The Germans have materially stiffened their defence against the British, American and French troops on the Picardy battlefront, but they have been unable to stem the tide of advance against them.

Although the forward push of the Allies has been slowed down somewhat they have made further important progress from the north of the Somme, where the Americans and British are fighting together, to the northern bank of the Olse river, where the French troops are engaging the enemy. The Americans and their British brothers-in-arms at last accounts were

sing closely upon Bray-Sur-Summe, aided by tanks and armored cars, which flicted heavy casualties on the enemy as he endeavored to retard their progress.

Across the river the Germans heavily engaged the British at Lihons and its ity, and at one point pierced the British line and gained the outskirts of Lihons. A counter attack, however, entirely restored the British line and the my retired to positions east and north of the village. Unofficial reports from London have credited the British with entering Chaulnes and the British cavalry with a penetration of the enemy's territory almost to Nesle.. These reports, however, have received no official verification.

By far the greater progress has been made by the French from the region nediately southwest and south of Roye, to the Oise River. Here they have driven their line well across the Roye-Complegne road and at Cambronne have reached the road leading from Complegne to Noyon. Since the capture of Montdidier the French have penetrated eastward to Tilloloy, a distance of about seven miles, and to Canny-Sur-Matz more than eight and a half miles, and through the hilly region southward to the Oise have averaged gains exceeding six miles, over a front of twelve miles.

#### NO SIGN OF THAT RETREAT ENDED.

The stiffening of the German defence does not, in the minds of observers in the battle front, indicate that the retreat of the enemy has ended. Rather, it is assumed that these manoeuvres are similar to those carried out over the Marne nt, when strong rear guards covered the retirement of the Crown Princess army northward. The smoke of large fires continue to be seen far behind the my's lines and the movement of long transport columns eastward are conidered evidence that it is the intention of the enemy ultimately to retreat so new lines of defence

Aviators have destroyed all the bridges across the Somme from the region of nne southward, and with the enemy's communicating lines either in the ads of the Allies or dominated by their guns, the retrograde movement necessarily must be slow. Therefore strong rear-guard actions are required to save

large numbers of men and guns and enormous quantities of stores from capture. The Allied troops gradually are encircling Roye, and its' capture, which seems imminent, will greatly heighten the difficulties of the Germans in falling

Intensive air fighting is proceeding over the battle lines. In Friday's battles thirty-nine German machines were destroyed and twenty-two driven down out of control. The British war office acknowledges that twenty-three British ma-chines are missing. Unofficial estimates bring the number of guns captured to more than 500

On the Vesle front the Germans on the northern side of the stream are reported to be entrenching and stringing barbed wires over the territory where they are facing the French and Americans.

HON. JOHN ROBERTSON

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