17,000 German Prisoners Captured

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HOME EDITION
WEATHER: FAIR AND COOLER.

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HUN HORDES ARE RETREATING AS RESULT OF ALLIED BLOWS

BRITISH HAVE TAKEN MORLANCOURT

ALLIES HAVE TAKEN OVER 200 TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND SHORTENED FRONT BY 33 MILES SINCE JULY 18

With the American Army on the Vesle, Thursday, Aug. 8.—In their offensive since July 18 the Allies have regained approximately 1,500 square kilometres.

More than 200 villages and towns, including Soissons, Chateau Thierry and Fismes, are again in the hands of the Allies. The front has been shortened by 53 kilometres (about 33 miles).

According to information contained in documents in possession of the French and Americans, the Germans, in the rear-guard fighting during the retreat, used four more divisions than they had contemplated, using them to break the French line when the German offensive began. The enemy plans called for thirteen divisions to shatter the French and to cross the Marne between Dormans and Chateau Thierry.

Information gathered by the Allies is to the effect that in falling back the Germans brought into action at least seventeen divisions before reaching the Vesle. Additional reinforcements have been brought up since the Vesle was crossed. A division which was resting in Flanders is known to have reached the region north of Fismes on Tuesday.

BATTLE NOW RAGING MAY BE TURNING POINT OF WHOLE WAR

BRITISH AIRMEN BRING DOWN 15 GERMAN PLANES

Feeble Resistance Offered the Americans and British at Archangel.

London, Aug. 9.—In aerial fighting Wednesday, preceding the offensive in Picardy, British airmen accounted for 22 German machines, 15 of which were destroyed, says the official statement on aerial operations. Eighteen tons of bombs were dropped during the day and night.

The statement reads: "On August 7 observation was rendered difficult by ground mist. However, a considerable amount of reconnaissance and photography was carried out. Over 17 tons of bombs were dropped during the day with good effect and a large number of combats took place. Fifteen hostile machines were brought down and seven driven down out of control. Two of our machines are missing.

A ton of bombs were dropped during the night, when operations were hampered by bad weather. One of our night-flying machines is missing.

CANADA FIRE LOSSES FOR JULY $3,369,684

Toronto, Aug. 8.—The Monetary Times, estimate of Canada's fire loss during July, 1918, is $3,369,684, compared with June loss of $3,080,962 and $1,101,734 for July, 1917.

The following is the estimate of the July losses: Fires exceeding $10,000, $2,859,500; small fires reported, $70,660. Estimate for unreported fires, $439,524.

UNITED STATES CASUALTY LIST.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Names of 303 officers and men missing in action, and 90 killed in action, were contained in the United States army list, aggregating 468 names, made public today by the war department. A marine corps casualty list brought the total to 520.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 97; lowest, 70.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 77; lowest, 70.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COOLER.

Toronto, Aug. 9—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Today—Moderate winds; some local showers today, but partly fair and cooler.

Saturday—Fair, with moderate temperature conditions.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	60	52	Cloudy
Calgary	80	42	Fair
Winnipeg	84	58	Fair
Port Arthur	72	46	Fair
Parry Sound	78	62	Cloudy
Port Stanley	82	72	Fair
Buffalo	82	62	Cloudy
Toronto	90	70	Fair
Kingston	82	56	Cloudy
Ottawa	72	58	Fair
Montreal	72	58	Cloudy
Quebec	72	58	Cloudy
Father Point	62	44	Cloudy

Weather Notes.

Since yesterday morning showers and thunderstorms have been almost general in Manitoba, and showers have occurred locally elsewhere, except in Manitoba and the eastern parts of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

Great Importance Is Attached to Fight Along the Somme.

ALLIES HOLD INITIATIVE

British Press Lavish in Praise of Great Fighting by the Allied Soldiers.

London, Aug. 9.—The feeling here is that the importance of the successful new battle cannot be over-estimated. It is regarded as the turning-point of the year's campaign, and perhaps even the turning-point of the whole war. It was only a month ago that all the talk of the British military critics was whether the Allies could hold on in face of the great German offensive, which the German people had been told was to finish the war. The initiative has now been taken from the enemy, and within the month the Allies have engaged in two important battles with conspicuous success.

"While recognizing that the real test of success in the new battle on the Amiens front is yet to come, the newspaper comment this morning dwells upon the importance of the operation as showing that the Allies still retain the initiative, and by such blows as yesterday's have reduced the likelihood of its recovery by the enemy. That Field Marshal Haig was able to surprise the German command is regarded as noteworthy.

Remarkable Victory.

"It was a victory of a very remarkable character," says the Times. "If the enemy, as Mr. Bonar Law suggested, intended to evacuate this country, it is an even more remarkable confession of defeat than the retreat to the Vesle, for nowhere has he fought harder than he did this spring for the possession of the ground which is the scene of yesterday's attack. The completeness of the surprise is all the more remarkable because the quickness of the enemy's reaction in the recent fighting on the Ancre showed he attached importance to this ground, and was suspicious of our intentions."

The Chronicle contends that the pushing of the enemy further from Amiens and the initial progress made on Thursday, are of very great moment, even if the Allies are unable to enlarge the extent of the ground recovered.

The Daily Mail says: "If, to the most satisfactory results attained, the gain of much ground should be added, the position of the Germans in the bulge toward Montdidier would become distinctly awkward."

The Daily News thinks the fact that Ludendorff should have been ignorant of the spot which the Allies would choose for an attack which was the logical sequence of recent events, is a measure of the completeness with which the initiative has passed from his hands.

The Daily Express declares that the German hope that the attacks of the Allies had spent themselves and that the enemy would gain time to stabilize his new positions beyond the Vesle have been destroyed.

CANADIAN DRAFTS ARRIVE IN ENGLAND

Ottawa, Aug. 9.—It is officially announced through the chief press censor's office that the following troops have arrived in the United Kingdom:

Artillery draft No. 15, Petawawa.

Engineering Training Depot Draft No. 86, Brockville.

Infantry draft No. 78, Niagara.

A. S. C. draft No. 93, Petawawa.

Infantry draft No. 80, 2nd Battalion, Ottawa; No. 88, 1st B. C. Regiment; part No. 89, Quebec Regiment; part No. 90, 2nd Quebec Regiment; draft Nos. 91 and 92, C. O. T. C., M. D. Nos. 4 and 5, Montreal and Quebec; V. A. D. nurses, Toronto; nursing sisters returning; surgeon probationers, naval service.

LONDONER GETTING MILITARY CROSS IN ENGLAND

Advertiser Illustrations.

Another of London's young men has been decorated for bravery, Pte. F. J. Hier, of the 18th Battalion. Pte. Hier, son of William Hier of this city, examines on the G. T. R., went overseas with the 135th Battalion, and was gassed last October, since when he has been under treatment in Scotland. Prior to enlisting he was employed in a grocery store, and he was just 18 years of age when he joined the colors.

The illustration shows Pte. Hier being presented with the Military Medal, "for bravery in the field," and the following report of the ceremony is from an English paper:

"An interesting ceremony took place recently at Jedfoot Forestry Camp, at the close of the church parade, when Pte. F. J. Hier, 18th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, was presented with the Military Medal 'for bravery in the field.' At the request of Capt. Richards, O. C. of the camp, Capt. Edmison, chaplain, congratulated Pte. Hier on his bravery, and presented him with the medal. On the call of Capt. Richards three hearty cheers were given for Pte. Hier. At the battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1916, volunteers were asked to keep a communication trench between two outposts. Pte. Hier and seven other men volunteered, and when all the other men had been killed or wounded, he held the communication trench alone."

CITY AND BAR OF MIDDLESEX PAY TRIBUTE TO SIR GEORGE GIBBONS

Flag Flying at Half-Mast On City Hall Today.

CONDOLENCE EXPRESSED

Board of Control Sends Letter and Bar Association Passes Resolution.

The flag on the city hall is flying at half-mast today in honor of the memory of Sir George Gibbons, who died yesterday in Montreal. The board of control this morning ordered that this public tribute should be paid. It also instructed the mayor and city clerk to send a letter of condolence to the members of Sir George's family.

The Middlesex Bar Association held a meeting this afternoon to pay its respects to the memory of Sir George. This it did in a befitting resolution, a copy of which follows below.

The body of Sir George reached the city at noon today from Montreal. It was taken to Ferguson's undertaking parlors, and this afternoon was taken to the Gibbons home at the corner of Dufferin avenue and Wellington street. It is expected the funeral will be held on Saturday afternoon.

Resolution by Bar Association.

Moved by J. H. Flock, K.C., seconded by Judge Talbot Macbeth.

The members of the Middlesex Bar Association record with the deepest regret the death of Sir George Gibbons, one of His Majesty's counsel, which occurred on the 8th day of August, 1918, at the city of Montreal. He completed his 70th year on the 2nd day of July last.

Sir George commenced his studies in this city in the office of the late Warren Rock, Q.C., and concluded them in the office of Miller & Miller, St. Catharines. He entered, in 1869, into partnership with the late Mr. Justice Hugh MacMahon. His early rise and success in the profession were phenomenal, as

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LONDON PHYSICIANS ISSUED SCORES OF LIQUOR PRESCRIPTIONS

License Board Says Four Gave 100 Each in a Month.

Toronto, Aug. 9.—The first monthly report to the Ontario license board from licensed liquor vendors on the number of doctors' prescriptions filled shows that in Hamilton nineteen doctors had issued over 50 each in a month, ten of them exceeding 100 prescriptions each. In London 12 doctors issued more than 50 prescriptions and four of them exceeded 100.

HAIG'S BLOW IS STRATEGIC PLAN TO HELP AMIENS

Success of New Drive May Compel Foe To Leave Montdidier Salient.

London, Aug. 9.—The battle blow delivered by Field Marshal Haig yesterday is regarded not as an attempt to break through, but as part of a great strategic plan which Marshal Foch is carrying out for the purpose of relieving Amiens and for recovering perfect freedom of manoeuvre. Marshal Foch, by an offensive pressure on the Germans, not merely embarrassed them in the desperate delaying battle they are fighting on the Vesle, in order to secure their retreat across the Aisne, but threatens their general position, for, if the drive is pushed far enough, it may compel withdrawal from the apex of the Montdidier salient, which threatens both Paris and Amiens.

Such a development, however, is pure speculation at the present stage. The results gained already are sufficiently remarkable in themselves, in view of the waterlogged ground, and the fact that the enemy was completely surprised in a sector which he thought it hardest to conquer, and which, as his recent counter-attack on the Ancre showed, he regarded as most important. Much gratification is expressed in London and Paris at the intrusting of Field Marshal Haig with command of the operation, which shows a new development in the principle of unity of command.

CHARGES THAT HYDRO IS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST HAMILTON

Hamilton, Aug. 9.—Charges that the Ontario hydro commission is discriminating against Hamilton were made before the board of control today, when the industrial commissioner submitted a letter explaining why Hamilton lost the National Abrasive Company. When the firm located here it had an assurance that it could get any amount of power required. Last winter it was compelled to operate at a loss because Hamilton could not supply the 5,000 horsepower required. The factory has moved to the Falls, where the hydro commission has allotted it a 5,000-horsepower supply. Could Hamilton have supplied this amount it would have lowered the city's peak load and reduced the cost of power all around. An immediate explanation will be demanded from the provincial commission.

MRS. SKEFFINGTON ARRESTED.

London, Aug. 9.—Mrs. F. Sheehy Skeffington was arrested in Dublin on Thursday, according to the Express.

A dispatch from Dublin on August 3 said that Mrs. Skeffington had arrived in Ireland after eluding the vigilance of the British police. She is the widow of Sheehy Skeffington, formerly editor of the Irish Citizen, who was shot by a British officer during the Sinn Fein rising in Ireland early in 1916. This officer was found guilty of the crime, but insane.

GERMANS ARE RETREATING AS THE RESULT OF LOSING 17,000 PRISONERS IN FIRST 2 DAYS OF THE BIG ALLIED OFFENSIVE

"WE ARE SMASHING THROUGH"

London, Aug. 9.—As he was leaving London last night for Neath to attend the Welsh national Eisteddfod, Premier Lloyd George expressed great satisfaction with the news from the front, remarking: "We are smashing through."

FOCH'S NEW OFFENSIVE MAY PARALYZE RUPPRECHT'S ARMY

Allied Commander-in-Chief Is Directing New Stroke Toward the "Squeezing Together" of Two Sides of a Salient.

Paris, Aug. 8.—Marshal Foch has struck the Germans on a new front and French opinion, lay and professional, is lost in admiration of the manner in which the blow has been carried out. Military observers agree that the new stroke may have important consequences. The present manoeuvre is similar to the counter-offensive north of the Marne, in that it is directed toward squeezing two sides of a salient. Ahead of the front which the Allies already have reached lies the Peronne-Roye highway, and they are gaining rapidly toward it.

This road has the same importance to the present battle as the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road in the battle for Fere-en-Tardenois. If the Allies reach it all the German troops south of a line through Montdidier, Lassigny and Noyon would be placed in as serious a predicament as those on the Marne on July 18. That would be the first and immediate consequence.

Montdidier Surrounded.

Quite apart from the ultimate effects, the first day's fighting relieved Amiens from the German menace. Montdidier has been surrounded, and it will be possible to re-establish the great northern railroad through Amiens, the lack of which has seriously handicapped the Allies during the past four months.

As to the more remote effects without seeming to be premature, it is held here that the new offensive is likely to paralyze the armies of Crown Prince Rupprecht, which would be obliged to bolster up von Hutier. Consequently, Rupprecht may have to abandon the operation he had apparently prepared in Flanders. In addition, the mere announcement that the new battle is due to the initiative of the Allies will be a sad blow to both the German army and the German public.

WILL TELL OF PART FRENCH-CANADIANS HAVE TAKEN IN WAR

Hon. Dr. Beland Will Address Big Gathering at Louisville, Que.

Valleyfield Junction, Que., Aug. 9.—"I will make declarations at Louisville on Sunday regarding the part played by French-Canadians in this war which will clear away a great many misunderstandings on the part of the English-speaking people in Canada," said Hon. Dr. H. S. Beland, M. P., yesterday. He was staying for a few hours at the house of his sister, Madame Nadeau, at Valleyfield Junction, six miles from St. Joseph De Beauce, his own home. "I have been out of the world for so long that I do not know what Canadian politics are," he continued, "but I do know what wonderful work our boys are accomplishing in France and I will tell the world." Dr. Beland will go from Quebec City to Three Rivers, and thence to Louisville, to visit his mother, arriving there on Sunday night. A joint celebration is to be given by the people of both cities there.

NO MORE VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENTS IN THE U. S. ARMY OR NAVY

Temporary Suspension Made To Prevent Disruption of Industry.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 9.—Voluntary enlistment in the U. S. army or navy was suspended completely yesterday to prevent disruption of industry pending disposition of the bill proposing to extend draft ages to include all men between 18 and 45 years. Orders were issued by Secretaries Baker and Daniels directing that no voluntary enlistments be accepted until further orders.

ALLIED SUCCESS DUE TO COMMAND BEING CENTERED IN ONE GENERAL

Enormous Amount of War Materals Taken in Latest Offensive.

Paris, Aug. 9.—The Allies' success Thursday in forcing the Germans to retire on the defensive on a new and important sector is welcomed joyfully by the press. They attribute the success in great part to the fact that the Allied command is centred in one man.

The Matin says that an enormous amount of material has been captured. It has not yet been listed, but is known to include a great number of guns of every calibre.

The army of Gen. von Hutier may be considered outflanked on its rear and right flank, declares the military expert of the Matin. The bulk of his forces are spread out in an arc of a circle from the Avre to the Oise. He has no other road of retreat than through Nesle and Ham, which are 30 kilometres away, and the Allied armies are marching towards his essential lines of communication. Marshal Foch and Gen. Petain, says Marcel Hutin in the Echo de Paris, are entirely satisfied with the progress made. The Germans, he adds, sustained enormous losses Thursday and left thousands of bodies on the battlefield.

Premier Clemenceau on Thursday went to the scene of "important military operations. He returned at midnight.

TO RELEASE DRAFTEES

Montreal, Aug. 9.—Lieut.-Col. F. W. Hibbard, assistant judge advocate-general, states that steps are being taken by the military authorities here to release Strulovitch and Blanshay, two draftees, who claim to be Russians and whose release under writs of habeas corpus was recently ordered by Justice Monet, on the ground that they were aliens, and not subject to the operation of the military service act.

Enemy Is Leaving Huge Stores of War Material In the Battle Area As He Retires—Morlancourt Is Captured By British—Canadians and Australians Capture Majority of Hun Prisoners.

ALLIES BAG 17,000 PRISONERS.

London, Aug. 9.—Battlefront, by the Associated Press).—More than 17,000 prisoners had been captured by the Allies in the Somme drive up to noon today, according to advices this afternoon. More than 200 guns also have been taken.

GERMANS ARE RETREATING.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 9.—The Germans are blowing up their ammunition dumps in the battle area. This is considered an indication that they are preparing to retreat.

An enormous quantity of stores and ammunition has been abandoned by the Germans in their hasty retreat.

London, Aug. 9.—Fourteen thousand prisoners and guns too numerous to mention have been taken in the British drive on the front south of the Somme, says today's war office report. The cavalry is still pursuing the enemy.

The Allied progress is continuing.

The French have taken Fresnoy-en-Chaussee, while the British have reached a point east of Le Quesnel and Caix.

The Germans put up a vigorous resistance north of the Somme, the statement shows, and there was heavy fighting between Chipilly and Morlancourt.

The Germans are evacuating their positions in the Lys Valley, on the Flanders front. On the Lys front the British now hold **Locon, Le Cornet Malo Quentin, Le Petit Pacaut and Le Sart.**

Above the Lys region, on the front north of Kemmel, the British carried out a local operation last night in which their line was advanced somewhat on a front of more than 1,000 yards.

CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS TAKE THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS

With the British Army in France, Aug. 9.—Allied airmen have blown up many of the bridges over the Somme River, and the enemy's retreat is seriously embarrassed. The British cavalry has rounded up many prisoners, but the larger part of the 14,000 so far taken were captured by Australians and Canadians.

TANKS AND CAVALRY USED.

London, Aug. 9.—Advices from the battlefront south of the Somme today report British cavalry, armored cars and tanks, in advance of the infantry, to have reached within a mile of the Chaulnes railway junction.

From Lihons, the line runs southward to Mehariccourt, southeast of Rosieres. This represents a total maximum advance of eleven miles.

It will be impossible for the Germans to hold their Montdidier positions, it is believed here. It is also believed that the advance on the Picardy front makes Amiens secure against an enemy attack, and has removed the threat against Paris.

BRITISH CASUALTIES ARE BUT THREE-FIFTHS FOE'S PRISONERS

With the British Army in France, Aug. 9.—The British casualties since the beginning of the present drive are but three-fifths of the number of prisoners counted up to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

BRITISH CAPTURE MORLANCOURT.

The British have captured Morlancourt, on the northern end of the Somme battlefront, and the infantry line now runs from that point southward to a point southeast of Moreuil. This represents an infantry advance to the maximum depth of seven miles in the centre along the Amiens-Chaulnes-La Fere railway. Along the whole front the average advance of the infantry is from five to six miles.

"WHIPPET" TANKS HARASS HUNS.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 9.—Cavalry patrols, accompanied by swift "whippet" tanks, are reported by airmen far out ahead of the infantry advance. The infantry, at many places, was apparently checked only by sheer physical inability to push any further.

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