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British Enter Combles; French Are Near; More Saint John Homes Are Haddened

Khaki Troops Overcoming German Resistance in the Streets of the Town

Enemy Said to Have Withdrawn Some Guns Yesterday, Seeing That Place Could Not be Held; Was of Great Value to Them as Checking Advance of the Allies

British and French troops today reached the town of Combles, on the Somme front, after having virtually pocketed the place in a struggle of many weeks duration.

Attacking from the north, British troops have forced their way into the place and are overcoming the German resistance there. On the south the French have reached the edge of the town and have penetrated the cemetery. In addition they have further closed a small opening left in the Combles pocket by capturing all of the village of Freigourt, a mile to the east.

The Combles salient, doggedly maintained by the Germans, has long been a serious hindrance to the allies, hampering them in their offensive toward Bapaume and Peronne. Its elimination however, seemed imminent after yesterday's combined thrust by the Franco-British forces which carried them to Morval, on one side and Freigourt on the other, after leaving as a line of retreat for the Germans only a roadless gap a mile and a half wide, swept by the allied guns.

BEATEN, TOO, AT VERDUN While the great battle on the Somme front was at its height the Germans last night attacked the French lines at Verdun, driving in between the Thiaumont Work and Fleury to the east of the Meuse. Paris today announced that the French guns were effective in checking the German assaults.

Eight hundred unwounded prisoners were taken by the French in the fighting yesterday on the Somme front. There were forty-seven aerial engagements yesterday on this front. Five German aeroplanes were brought down and others were badly damaged.

Combles, a town of some 3,000 population before the war, had been rendered almost unrecognizable to the allies by their long continued encircling movement. It has been of notable value to the Germans, however, because as long as they cling to it, the Franco-British freedom of action in pushing their movements between Bapaume and Peronne on either side of it was hampered.

Turned into a strongly fortified position by German defensive ingenuity, it has been held fast like a rock in the course of a turbulent stream that has had to be blasted down before the channel was fully opened up. This process has been accomplished by long-continued and costly effort on the part of the allies. Driving in from the south, the French successively swept by Harecourt, Maucourt, Le Forest, and finally reached Freigourt, a mile to the east of Combles. More slowly, but none the less surely, the British have pushed their advance on the north of the German salient.

Yesterday came the combined effort. Only two roads remained over which the Germans could withdraw their men and guns. Attacking from the north, the British forces pushed on and occupied Morval, cutting the northerly road, running to Le Treux. Striking from the south, the French pushed their line to the Riviere of Freigourt, severing communication with Combles over the easterly road that stretches towards Salliy. The gap between Morval and Freigourt, a mile and a half in width, and reaching back toward Combles, was swept from either side by the combined artillery of French and British guns. It is not thought probable that any considerable force of Germans remained in Combles.

Yesterday, when it was becoming evident that the allied forces were achieving their object of closing in to the east of the town, the Germans are reported to have begun withdrawing guns from it.

REV. MR. THOMAS PAYS TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WHO GAVE UP ALL

Moncton, Sept. 26.—"No finer fellow went overseas," said Rev. H. E. Thomas, commenting on the death of Capt. C. E. Williams of Lakerville, Carleton county, who was killed in action. "He was eager from the first to go to the front."

MORE DISORDER IN THE NEW YORK CAR STRIKE

New York, Sept. 26.—Disorder again broke out early today in connection with the car strike. Elevated trains were bombarded with sticks and stones thrown from rooftops. Three persons were injured by flying glass when the windows of a Third avenue elevated train were shattered. Two arrests were made.

Vancouver Citizens Want Enforced Service Under Proper System of Selection

Vancouver, Sept. 26.—A large delegation of citizens waited upon Sir George E. Foster last night and presented a resolution approving "enforcing national service under a proper system of selection."

At the session of the Dominion Trade Commission Sir George and Dr. Reid considered a resolution for the appointment of a Canadian customs officer in New York.

ENEMY LOSES MANY MEN IN THE BALKANS

Further Retreat in Dobruja Fighting Announced

THEY ABANDONED 5,000 RIFLES

Venezelos Believed to Plan Manifesto to be Issued on Island of Crete—Constantine to Have One More Opportunity

New York, Sept. 26.—A news agency despatch from Bucharest says: "Tentative forces in Dobruja retreated on the left wing in Sunday's fighting after several lively engagements. The German and Bulgarian losses have been very great. One Romanian division picked up 5,000 rifles abandoned by the enemy."

In Transylvania the Roumanians have made a further advance in the Callian Mountains.

Paris, Sept. 26.—On the western end of the Macedonian front, to the east of Florina, the Bulgarians last night made violent counter-attacks. Today's official announcement says these assaults were checked by the French. West of Florina the Russians and French made a combined attack and took fifty prisoners.

Between the Struma and the Vardar the Serbs were successful, together with some skirmishing, especially on the left flank. The Italian expedition developed in the sector held by the Serbs.

Venezelos' Stealing Move. London, Sept. 26.—According to Athens dispatches received here, it is believed that a manifesto to the Greek people from Gannous, island of Crete, where he probably will direct the operation of a separatist government, besides Admiral Kondouriotis.

The correspondent went forward yesterday for two days from the crabs and Ginchy Wood where the British had fought for more than two months to gain. He walked for two days over an area which reverberated to the blast of great guns, picking his way between the bars of flame from the crashing batteries and moving around the rows of dead bodies.

On his return the correspondent decided that he would not pass through the lines of British guns of all sizes and calibre while he had any breath left. Every one of the guns was pointed in the direction of the enemy which took him past many batteries which for two miles were pouring out their share of the most intense of gun fire. From the ruins of some old German trenches, whence the battle raged, he saw a near view of the French gun breaching machine and with the mechanical precision of automatons.

British wounded said their great gratification was that it was becoming an easier task for the British to dig under the fighting front with no longer any trenches except those which are dug under fire.

General Moschopoulos commanded the Greek forces at Saloniki at the time of the landing of the Anglo-French expeditionary force. He ordered the troops to salute French and British officers and was generally reported friendly to a Reuter's despatch from Athens.

In August he was appointed chief of staff and he expressed the hope that he could strengthen the good relations between Greece and the Entente powers.

AMERICANS TO GET MORE N. B. LUMBER PROPERTY? Fredericton, Sept. 26.—It is reported today that an American syndicate which has been negotiating for the purchase of the Partington lumber property on the Nashwaak and Bertholmeau rivers will soon take over the property. Rumors that the deal has been closed cannot be confirmed here. The erection of a large pulp mill at Marysville is said to be among the possibilities.

The steamer Viking arrived here last night on her first trip of the season and left for St. John at noon today.

Premier Clarke and Hon. B. Frank Smith are here for a meeting of the provincial government this evening.

CHICAGO'S GIGANTIC POLICEMAN IS DEAD Chicago, Sept. 26.—Edward E. Martin, Columbia's biggest policeman and yesterday. He weighed 421 pounds and was six feet two inches tall. For years he was a member of the gambling squad where he was of great value in breaking down doors in raids by leaning against them.

Gallant City Lads Wounded In Big Combat; One Reported Killed



PRIVATE GEORGE GIVEN Killed in Action, September 11.

THIRTY ONE JOIN KILTIES' BATTALION ON OPENING NIGHT

Seven Counties Did Not Give Any Recruits—Newcastle Leads

Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 26.—The strength of the 29th Kilties is already nearing the 900 mark. The opening meetings of the recruiting campaign last night furnished the spectacular events of the campaign, and from now on it will be a more serious business, as the work of getting in the recruits must be pressed forward vigorously.

Reports this morning from every county showed the total number of recruits at last night's meetings to be thirty-one, and with the 180 odd on the Kilties' strength, before the campaign opened, the total number of New Brunswick Highlanders already enlisted is now almost 300. Newcastle led the list with 10 recruits.

At Oromocto, Gagetown, Andover, Yarmouth, Dorchester, Hopewell Cape and Hampton there were no recruits. This morning Lieut.-Col. Percy A. Guthrie left by automobile for Centerville, Carleton county, commencing his tour of the province. He is accompanied by Dr. A. W. Thornton, of the Dental Faculty of McGill, and Lieut. W. Ensign Howe, of Nova Scotia, a singer who accompanies himself on his guitar.

Colonel Guthrie will speak once in each county during the Kilties' opening campaign. He will be at Centerville tonight, at Grand Falls on Wednesday night, and at St. Leonard's on Thursday night of this week.

St. Drowned Oswego, N.Y., Sept. 26.—Six of the crew of the steamer Robert of Ottawa, were drowned when the vessel foundered in Lake Ontario yesterday, nine miles from here.

FUNERAL TODAY The funeral of Mrs. Z. O. Wilson took place this morning from her late residence, 104 Metcalf street. Services were conducted at the house last evening by Rev. Dr. Hutchinson and the body was taken to the Narrows this morning for interment.

Phelix and Pheridan WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis—Pressure is low from British Columbia to the Upper Lake region and higher over the North Pacific states. Showers and thunderstorms have occurred from British Columbia to the western portion of Ontario, elsewhere fine weather has prevailed.

Ottawa Valley—Moderate to fresh west to south winds, fair today, rising temperature. Showers and local thunderstorms today and Wednesday.

Fine; Then Showers. Maritime—Fresh northwest to southwest winds; fine and cool until Wednesday evening, then local showers. New England forecasts—Partly overcast tonight and Wednesday; gentle, variable winds, becoming southerly.

George Given, although not living under the empire's flag when war was declared, heard his country's call and answered. Now, after only a short period of service at the front, he lies beneath the soil of France or Flanders, another who has given his life bravely and cheerfully for the sake of those who remain at home.

Private Given, who was in his twenty-fourth year, was a son of David Given of St. James street, besides his father he leaves two sisters, Mrs. R. B. Mitchell of St. James street, by whom the word was received and Mrs. Louis Mullin of Fairville, and three brothers, David, in Norton, and Charles and John of this city. He left St. John about five years ago and, at the outbreak of war, was working in the state of Washington.

Leaving his position there he made his way across the border and enlisted at Red Deer, Alberta, in the 98th overseas battalion in July, 1915. He sailed from St. John with his unit Easter Sunday in April last and had been at the front but a comparatively short time. The brief official message merely conveyed the news that he had been killed in action, but that is probably an error.

J. A. Chandler Wounded. Grenadier J. A. Chandler who is reported in the official list as wounded and whose place of residence is given as St. John, is a son of H. A. Chandler, formerly divisional surveyor for the C. P. R. with headquarters in St. John, and now resident engineer in Woodstock, Jack, who is twenty-one years of age, was engaged in the engineering department in Woodstock before enlisting. When war was declared he took a course of instruction and qualified as a lieutenant. His appointment did not come soon enough to suit him so he resigned his commission and enlisted in the ranks of the 26th battalion. Since arriving in England he apparently was transferred to the artillery. His father was an artillery lieutenant in the militia and served at Partridge Island for some time after the outbreak of war.

Eugene Woodrow Wounded. Victor J. Woodrow of St. Market Place, West St. John, has received word from Ottawa that his son, Driver Eugene F. Woodrow, supply services, was admitted to No. 2 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne on September 18, suffering from wounds in the right leg and thigh. Driver Woodrow, who was nineteen years of age only this month, left St. John with No. 1 company, C. S. C., under Major McKeen and this is his first injury. Before enlisting he was employed by Northrup & Co., South Wharf.

Corp. J. Edward McKinney James McKinney of the customs staff received word today that his second son, Corp. J. Edward McKinney, had been wounded. A card from the wounded soldier merely said that he was being removed to the base hospital and was doing well. A letter added that he has been wounded in the groin by a high explosive.

Corp. McKinney was with an imperial unit. He was in the mechanical transport of the Army Service Corps, the only Canadian in it, and was permitted to wear his Canadian army badges. Corp. McKinney was in charge of the motor truck of the fire department here before enlisting. A host of friends will learn with regret that he has been wounded. He has a brother also at the front.

R. S. Robinson. Word was received here yesterday from S. T. Robinson, who is now in Belgium, that his brother, R. S. Robinson, had been wounded. These brothers crossed in March with the 67th Western Scots of Victoria, B. C. and are sons of J. R. Robinson, a former resident of St. John.

Pte. W. Cummings. Mrs. Cummings of 92 Forest street has received a letter from her son, Pte. W. Cummings, who is in No. 2 General Hospital, suffering from an injured knee cap, resulting from a kick by a horse. He wrote on Sept. 8, that he would soon be all right again. The weather, he says, is getting cold. Pte. Cummings was with the Div. Amm. Column.

Murray Fogarty. A letter has been received from Private Murray Fogarty of the 90th battalion, who was recently wounded and is at present in a hospital. He is expected to return to the trenches within a short time. Private Clarence Fogarty of the 26th is a brother.

Moncton Man Killed. Pte. William Day of Moncton, was killed in action on September 15. At the outbreak of the war he was in Regina and enlisted with a western regiment. His wife, a daughter of Lena of Moncton, and three children now in Regina, will come to Moncton in a few days. (Continued on page 12, third column.)

MORE MEN NEEDED COMMON COUNCIL

The first matter on the order of business for the weekly meeting of the common council on Tuesday afternoon is the consideration of Commissioner Russell's recommendation that the city engage an engineer to make a complete survey of the harbor. This proposal has been on several occasions but has been deferred for further information.

The amendment to the sidewalk opening by-law, providing new regulations for an amended scale of charges, submitted by Commissioner Fisher, may be acted on today.

There is a report on the finances of the public works department which has not been dealt with and this may call for some action.

If the commissioners have had an opportunity to inspect Market square to see how the proposed changes would suit, the plans may be submitted for ratification.

FREDDIE WELSH IN A BOUT IN CALGARY Calgary, Sept. 26.—Freddie Welsh and Kid Scanlon of Edmonton boxed six rounds here last night with no decision.

SAMPSON DID IT, BUT—

ENTENTE

ITALY FRANCE

ENTENTE