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## SMASHING FRENCH VICTORY AT VERDUN

### Italians Take 7500 Prisoners ELEVEN-MILE ADVANCE MADE CANADIAN PATROLS PUSH FURTHER INTO LENS AND 4000 PRISONERS TAKEN

#### HON. ROBT. ROGERS RESIGNS

Minister of Public Works Leaves Cabinet After Difficulty Over Union Government, Which Now is Probable, With Hon. Arthur Sifton, T. A. Crerar, J. A. Calder and J. G. Turriff as Members.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Aug. 20.—The event of the day has been the resignation of Hon. Robt. Rogers as minister of public works. Mr. Rogers had no statement to make to the press today and the prime minister was equally reticent. It is presumed that a statement will be made in the house tomorrow and that the correspondence will be laid on the table. It is learned, however, that the resignation was delivered to the prime minister Saturday morning and that it was contained in a lengthy letter, which arraigned the government's delay in passing and enforcing the conscription law. The first effect of the letter was the final passing of the conscription bill in the house on Saturday afternoon; and this was followed by a lengthy conference between Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Rogers, in which the former, it is said, requested the minister of public works to withdraw his resignation. Late Saturday night word was given out that the difficulty between Sir Robert and Mr. Rogers had been patched up. The latter attended a cabinet meeting this morning, but during his absence a number of clerks were busy occupied in removing his private papers and effects from the public works department. The Bone of Contention. The real bone of contention is said to have been union government. Mr. Rogers favored the proposal for a coalition with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but opposed the subsequent overture to conscription Liberals, which, it is said, in his letter of resignation, he characterized as "undignified negotiations." Finally on Saturday morning the letter of resignation was delivered. In the negotiations that followed, it is said the prime minister assured Mr. Rogers that unless some negotiations he had under way came to a head within 48 hours he would abandon any further attempt to unite with the conscription Liberals, and prepare for a straight party fight in the coming campaign. This suspended the resignation in the air over Sunday, but early this morning, it is said, Mr. Rogers received a note from the first minister accepting Saturday's resignation. Union Government Soon. In the house this afternoon many of the conscription Liberals were absent; the majority of the members, including both party leaders, were outside the chamber. At the Chateau Laurier conferences were being held, in which Sir Clifford Sifton, Premier Arthur Sifton of Alberta, Hon. J. A. Calder of Saskatchewan, T. A. Crerar of Winnipeg, president of the United Grain Growers, Limited; H. W. Wood, president of the United Farmers of Alberta, and J. G. Turriff, conscription Liberal, M.P. for Assiniboia, took part. While no definite announcement has been made, there is a general impression that some cabinet reorganization may be announced almost immediately, and it is said that T. A. Crerar, Premier Sifton and Mr. Turriff may enter the government.

#### INEFFICIENCY CAUSED BY YOUTHFUL SOLDIERS

Germans Claim That Boys Cause Regiments to Become Demoralized.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 20. The examination of German prisoners taken by the British continues, and out of 940 questioned more than 25 per cent. were found to belong to the 1918 class. Non-commissioned German officers relate how they are hampered by the demoralization of the younger recruits with whom they are supplied. They say they cannot rely upon these youngsters, and similar complaints are heard about the inefficiency of the young German officers in the battle of Flanders. The demoralization of certain German regiments at Langemarck and Polygon Wood last Thursday was complete; and this was due, according to captured non-commissioned officers, to the preponderance of eighteen-year-old youths in the ranks.

#### CANADIANS REACHED ALL APPOINTED GOALS

Troops Carried Out All of Operations as Planned Beforehand.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, Aug. 20.—The Germans announced with great impressiveness that the goal of the Canadians was not reached in the recent drive. The people of Canada may rest assured that the operation was carried out practically as planned, and that the German report was more than usually mendacious.

#### Defences on Both Sides of Meuse River Penetrated to Depth of Mile and a Quarter, With Ten Important Positions Captured—Aeroplanes Take Prominent Part in Battle.

Paris, Aug. 20.—Smashing French victory on the Verdun front is recorded in the official report issued by the war office tonight. The French have captured the enemy defences on both sides of the Meuse River over a front of more than eleven miles, penetrating the German line at divers points to a depth of a mile and a quarter. More than 4000 unwounded German prisoners have been taken. The text of the statement reads: "On the front north of Verdun our troops captured on both sides of the Meuse, enemy defences on a front of 18 kilometres and to a depth which exceeded two kilometres at certain points. On the left bank of the river we held in particular, the Avocourt Wood, the two summits of Le Mort Homme, Corbeaux Wood and Cumières. On the right bank we have occupied Talon Ridge, Champ, Champ Neuville, Hill 344, Mortmont Farm and Hill 304 north of Louvemont. "On the right our troops have advanced considerably in the Bois des Fosses and the Bois de Chaume. "The number of unwounded prisoners taken is more than 4000. "The Germans carried out violent counter-attacks in the Avocourt Wood and against Le Mort Homme and Hill 344, but our fire everywhere broke down their efforts and inflicted heavy losses. Our aviators took a brilliant part in the battle, turning their machine guns at a low height against enemy concentrations and contributing also to the repulse of counter-attacks. "Our pilots brought down eleven German aeroplanes on the battle front, while two other enemy machines were brought down by our special guns. "Advance Was Rapid "The Temps says that in one hour and twenty minutes after the French infantry advanced to attack at Verdun this morning the first objective had been attained and German prisoners were going to the rear. "No adjective can give an idea of the infernal action of the artillery, which lasted three days. Hill 304, Dead Man Hill, and Talon Ridge were plowed up completely by our fire. The enemy was obliged to abandon his first line, but our attacking columns, with undiminished spirit, passed from trench to trench, reducing all living combatants to submission. "Our aviators signalled our advance. It was tragic and overwhelming. "The following official statement was issued here this afternoon: "In Belgium there was violent artillery fighting in the region north of Bixchoote. "In Champagne our batteries effectively bombarded German defences. We made several raids, and brought back prisoners from the enemy lines. "Magnificent Spirit. "On both banks of the Meuse this morning our troops attacked the German positions with magnificent spirit. According to early information the new battle of Verdun is developing on a front of 18 kilometres, from Avocourt Wood to the region north of Bezonvaux. Numerous prisoners are being taken in the rear. The bravery of our troops is beyond all praise. "In the region of Badonvillers we easily repulsed an enemy attack. There was rather spirited artillery fighting in upper Alsace."

#### THE GERMAN VERSION.

Berlin, Aug. 20, via London.—The German official communication issued this evening says the French attacks in the Verdun region were everywhere repulsed, except in the Avocourt Wood and at Le Mort Homme, and that the battle is now going in favor of the Germans. The statement follows: "The battle before Verdun is going in our favor. On the western bank of the Meuse the enemy only succeeded in penetrating our defensive zone at the Avocourt Wood and on Le Mort Homme, Eisen where his repeated assaults were everywhere repulsed. "East of the Meuse the enemy was either completely repulsed before our fighting positions or driven back in counter-attacks. The reckless bringing up of masses of infantry on a front of more than 20 kilometres against our strong fighting forces cost the French exceedingly heavy losses. "Elsewhere no fighting operations on a large scale are in progress, either in the west or east."

#### CANADIANS PRESS ON INTO LENS OUTSKIRTS

Patrol Fighting Thruout Day Wins Additional Positions in French Coal City--Much Aerial Work Done.

London, Aug. 20.—The British official communication issued this evening follows: "The enemy this morning endeavored to launch another counter-attack against our new position north of Epehy. His troops were observed as they were moving into position to assault and were dispersed by our artillery before the attack could develop. "Patrol encounters, in which we made some progress, took place thruout the day on the northwestern outskirts of Lens. A hostile raiding party entered our lines early this morning east of Armentieres. Two of our men are missing. "Yesterday hostile aircraft worked in large formations well behind their own lines and endeavored unsuccessfully to hinder the work of our bombing, photographic and reconnaissance machines. Our bombing operations were continued. An enemy train was wrecked and much damage was caused to hostile aerodromes, dumps and stations. The work, in co-operation with our artillery, was carried out with good effect and many photographs were taken. "In air fighting, two German aeroplanes were downed, four others were driven down out of control and one other was shot down inside our lines by anti-aircraft guns. Six of our machines are missing."



Canadian Red Cross motor train removing men wounded in the fighting to hospitals in the rear. —Official Canadian Photograph.

#### TANKS SCORE GREAT VICTORY BY TAKING STRONG POSITIONS

Infantry Had Little to Do Except Assemble and Care for Prisoners as Iron Monsters Advanced--Whole of Desired Territory Was Cleared With Only Fifteen Casualties.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press. British front in France and Belgium, Aug. 20. British tanks scored another victory in the capture of German positions yesterday morning in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Poelcapelle road, north of St. Julien. It was a tank show from start to finish, and the infantry in this case played the part of supernumeraries in support of the leading actors, while large numbers of the enemy troops added a final melodramatic touch by surrendering almost by fleeing in terror as the heavy heroes lumbered onto the stage and "reached for their smoking guns." As recorded in the official communication the British captured German defences along a mile front to a depth of 500 yards. Among the strongholds occupied were the famous Triangle Hill and Cockcroft farms, the sites of exceedingly strong concrete and steel machine gun redoubts which menaced the infantry advance. Went Out at Dawn. It was dawn when the tanks lined up and waited for the signal to go over the top. The British artillery, rendering no less of a service to the tanks than to the infantry, by the past, poured a preliminary stream of shells into the German lines, then followed by a barrage ahead of the tanks, which started forward, looking for all the world like great dragons which had rolled out from one of Hans Andersen's conceptions into the gray morning light that shrouded the battlefield in the "cock pit of Europe." Behind them came the infantry, ready to do the cleaning up of the remaining enemy after the tanks had finished their part. But there was little for the infantry to do except assemble and care for the prisoners as the tanks progressed. There was hard fighting at several positions, such as the three redoubts mentioned but it was always brief. The tanks wheeled into position and turned a heavy fire on the fortifications, and the Germans were either killed or surrendered. The German casualties were heavy. Great numbers of Germans were seen fleeing terror-stricken as the tanks appeared in the distance and a considerable number threw down their arms and surrendered without offering resistance. The tanks cleared the whole territory desired, and then trundled back home. They suffered no damage and the casualties for the operation totaled fifteen. This has been the most striking incident of the latest fighting along this front. Air Full of Planes. There have been intense artillery bombardments and the air services on both sides have been unusually active. Last night the air was full of British and German planes, which bombed their way into each other's territory amidst picturesque but awesome flashes from breaking shells and long white rays from searchlights. The French engineers have encountered considerable difficulties amid the marshes into which the French have advanced on their left, but work is proceeding with marvelous rapidity. Up to date the French have captured about 28 German guns since this offensive began on July 31, and the machine guns taken are innum-

#### ITALIANS TAKE 7500 MEN IN VIOLENT ISONZO FIGHT

Determined Attempt Being Made to Break Thru to Trieste, Which So Far Has Met With Great Success.

London, Aug. 20.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says that according to reports received from Austria, the battle now raging on the Isonzo front of the Austro-Italian theatre of war is averted as the most violent ever fought there. The Austrians and Germans, the Italians are making an attempt to break thru to Trieste. A colossal number of new guns have been brought into the fight, for which the Italians had been preparing for weeks. Yesterday Italian aviators dropped proclamations over the Austrian lines saying that the bombardment would be continued for many hours.

#### BATTLE IS PROCEEDING

Rome, Aug. 20.—The Italians in their offensive on the Isonzo front, begun yesterday, have crossed the Piave River and already taken 7500 prisoners, it was officially announced by the war department today. Guns and machine guns have been captured by the Italians, and the Austrians have suffered serious losses. The infantry battle continues vigorously. The statement follows: "A battle is proceeding on the Julian Alps front. Yesterday morning, after a bombardment of 24 hours, during which our artillery shelled the enemy positions with ever increasing intensity, masses of our infantry commenced the advance toward their objectives. To the north of Anhovo (7-12 miles north of Gorizia), after having brilliantly overthrown technical difficulties and the resistance of the enemy, numerous pontoons were thrown across the Isonzo and our troops passed over to the left bank of the river. From Piava to the sea, after having crossed the first line of the enemy, which had been destroyed completely, our troops brought pressure to bear upon him. Repeating strongly and being supported by considerable artillery and a large number of machine guns, the enemy offered desperate resistance. Enemy's Losses Serious. "Altogether 208 airplanes indefatigably participated in the battle, attacking repeatedly with bombs and machine guns the troops assembled to the rear of the enemy's positions. The infantry action vigorously continues, while the artillery also is proceeding energetically with its work of destruction. "The enemy's losses are very serious. The booty reported up to the present is very considerable. Some guns and a large number of machine guns are in our hands. Up to last evening more than 7500 men and about 100 officers passed into our collecting stations."

#### COMINGS AND GOINGS

The fall weather is on its way, and Dineen's Fall Hats for men have already arrived. It is a case of welcome, while the coming of all the new and Panama reduced to one-half price. The red and blue all the select imported English straw and genuine Panama, for which Dineen's are famous. 140 Yonge Street.

#### BILLION DOLLARS ASKED FOR SHIPS

U. S. Shipping Board Contemplates Big Construction Program.

Washington, Aug. 20.—A billion dollars probably is the sum asked of congress by the shipping board for completion of its 15-month building program. Contracts soon to be placed for a great fleet of 25,000-ton steel ships, under construction, it was learned today, will cost about \$500,000,000. The program is the first in the history of the United States, and the request for the appropriation will be urged.

#### AIRPLANE TAKES FIRE TWO BURN TO DEATH

Buffalo Men Perish While Experimenting With Smoke Bombs.

Buffalo, N.Y., Aug. 20.—Charles A. Wall, Jr., and Richard H. Mead were burned to death here late this afternoon when an airplane in which they were experimenting with smoke bombs caught fire in the air. Both men were dead when the destroyed airplane fell to the ground. Wall was a civil engineer in training for aviation service. Mead was aviation instructor who came to Buffalo recently from the training camp at Mineola, L.I.

#### HUN SOCIALISTS TO MEET

Copenhagen, Aug. 20.—The Socialists of the central powers will meet in Vienna, August 29, to discuss the international situation.

#### UNWRITTEN LAW RECOGNIZED IN ENGLAND FOR FIRST TIME

Lieut. Douglas Malcolm Acquitted on Charge of Murdering Bogus Count Who Was Too Friendly With Soldier's Wife.

London, Aug. 20.—The "unwritten law" whereby a man may kill his wife's seducer was recognized by an English jury today, almost for the first time since the abolition of the English practice of the "countess's defence." The countess in question was Lieut. Douglas Malcolm, who shot and killed a foreigner, Anton Baumburg, styling himself "Count De Borch." Lieut. Malcolm, who was a wealthy young merchant before the war, returned on leave from France

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