

ALLIES ADVANCING ON THE VESLE

French Reach the Aisne Between Soissons and Vanizel Will Compel Germans to Evacuate Vesle Line

MANY GERMANS WERE TAKEN AT SOISSONS

French Capture Large Portion of Garrison, While Remainder Fled Northward-- Allied Advance Was Continued Thru The Night

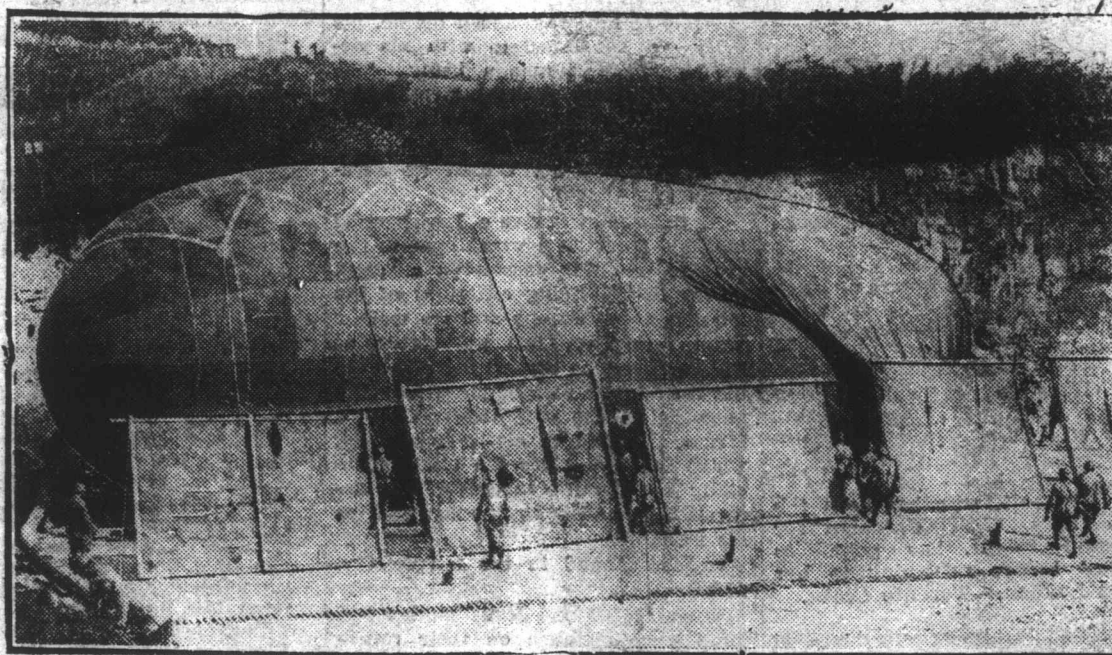
By Courier Leased Wire. PARIS, Aug. 3.—Throughout last night the Allies continued to advance toward the Vesle, the French war office announced today. East of Soissons the French have reached the Aisne between Soissons and Venihel. The statement reads: During the night the French troops continued their advance toward the Vesle. On the left the French reached the Aisne between Soissons and Venihel. The crossing of the Aisne east of Soissons virtually compels, if it has not been brought about before, the evacuation of the Vesle line. It is a dangerous menace to the line of the Aisne, as the direction in which the French crossed is pointed directly toward the important heights at the western end of the Chemin-des-Dames, which are less than five miles north of Venihel.

MANY PRISONERS PARIS, Aug. 3.—Havas Agency—Many prisoners were taken by the French at Soissons which was occupied at five o'clock Friday evening, one hour after the Germans had been driven from the suburbs. Those of the garrison not captured, escaped by fleeing northward. After the fall of Soissons, the correspondents adds, French headquarters received the names of villages and woods re-occupied by the Allies with almost monotonous regularity. "Plessier Wood," he continues, "which abuts on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road, was turned early in the day and the defenders surrounded. This wood was the center of the enemy resistance and the fight for it was extraordinarily bitter. Farther north the British troops crossed the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road, and pressing through the Croix Wood, were soon more than a mile east of Ville Montoire."

ANOTHER LINK IN CHAIN

By Courier Leased Wire. Paris, Aug. 3.—Friday's splendid success is but a link in the chain of victories which have followed one after the other since General Foch launched his counter offensive on July 18. Rarely in war has a plan been followed out with such clockwork regularity, and military opinion here is lost in admiration of the splendid genius which conceived it and of the mastery with which it is being carried out. The Allied victory is hailed generally as being equal to the first victory of the Marne, as a strategic masterpiece. What the consequence of yesterday's victory will be cannot be gauged. The enemy cannot hold the Vesle line, it is believed, but must recross the Aisne, since by the recapture of Soissons, the Allies are able to debouch on both sides of the river and take him in the rear. The enemy appears to be perfectly aware of this, and also of the necessity of getting out quickly if he wishes to avoid unpleasant accidents. In accordance with practice he already has set fire to the bases at Fismes and Braisnes and a dozen other villages. The smoke which pierces the horizon is believed to show that the enemy knows that he can no longer use these places. The German retreat began Friday morning after the fall of the Tardenois line, brought about by the storming of the Hartennes Plateau by the troops of General Mangin the night before. General Bethelot on the east entered Ville-en-Tardenois and advanced on both sides of the Ardre Valley. The Americans in the Ardre valley toward the Vesle down the Orillon Valley, while from Hartennes the French debouched into the Crise Valley, taking in the rear the previously impregnable route of Brunoy.

Little by little the movement quickened. The Dormans-Rheims road was left three miles behind, and Gueux, Polisy, Venilly, Coussancourt and Coulonges were passed at a bound. The forest of Nesles was cleaned out and Dole Wood entered. The German retreat began Friday morning after the fall of the Tardenois line, brought about by the storming of the Hartennes Plateau by the troops of General Mangin the night before. General Bethelot on the east entered Ville-en-Tardenois and advanced on both sides of the Ardre Valley. The Americans in the Ardre valley toward the Vesle down the Orillon Valley, while from Hartennes the French debouched into the Crise Valley, taking in the rear the previously impregnable route of Brunoy. Little by little the movement quickened. The Dormans-Rheims road was left three miles behind, and Gueux, Polisy, Venilly, Coussancourt and Coulonges were passed at a bound. The forest of Nesles was cleaned out and Dole Wood entered. The German retreat began Friday morning after the fall of the Tardenois line, brought about by the storming of the Hartennes Plateau by the troops of General Mangin the night before. General Bethelot on the east entered Ville-en-Tardenois and advanced on both sides of the Ardre Valley. The Americans in the Ardre valley toward the Vesle down the Orillon Valley, while from Hartennes the French debouched into the Crise Valley, taking in the rear the previously impregnable route of Brunoy.



GREAT CARE IS TAKEN TO HOLD OBSERVATION BALLOONS WHILE THEY ARE BEING INFLATED. This picture shows a French Observation Balloon being made ready for ascent. It shows how carefully these "big sausages" are hidden. A chalk pit or hill cut away is used, and the balloons are also camouflaged by large screens.

SITUATION TRANSFORMED ON THE RHEIMS BATTLE FRONT

By Courier Leased Wire. London, Aug. 3.—The advance of the entire Allied line in the Soissons-Rheims salient is commented on here with elation, although not without reminders that the Allies yet have a long way to go. Official and soldier testimonies are regarded as revealing a transformed situation, coinciding with the arrival of American troops so strong as to give the Allies a numerical advantage in reserves, and justifying high hope for the future. The altered situation is attributed to two main facts, that the American strength is beginning to tell with great effect and that the Allies are reaping

an increasing advantage from unity of command. General Foch's skill receives many tributes, but none warmer than that given in its speech at Belfast by Viscount French, for that given in a speech at France, who describes General Foch as the finest soldier the war had produced, adding: "He has given an exhibition of military genius which probably will cause his name to rank in history among those of the world's greatest commanders." The newspapers devote much space to the anniversary of Great Britain's entry into the war and the preparation for the services of commemoration and intercession on Sunday for which

the immediate outlook on the front has furnished hope, that a little while ago would have seemed almost too sanguine. Commenting on the anniversary the Times says: "We are passing through a period of upheaval in which many things are being done for the first time. The French revolution, the rise of Islam or the downfall of the Roman Empire. In America's results have been the clearest and most immediate. Her people have risen to the height of her destinies and in rising have realized for themselves that Germany has made them a nation as she has made us an empire in a truer and larger sense than before."

CANADA'S RECORD IN FOUR YEARS OF WAR CREDITABLE ONE

Dominion Has Given Over 450,000 Men to the Empire's Cause—43,000 Make the Supreme Sacrifice—Ten Thousand Distinctions Won—Canada Now One of World's Arsenals.

Ottawa, Aug. 3.—Canada's achievements in the four years of the war are briefly reviewed in the following statement given out by the Director of Public Information. Canada entered the war with a regular army of only 3,000 men. At the beginning of last month she had sent overseas no less than 390,000 soldiers, and on the same date there were in this country about 60,000 men being trained for service in France. This makes a total army of over 450,000. This is much less than the total enlistment of Canadians in this war, for many of those who volunteered for service overseas were discharged before leaving the country as the strict medical examinations weeded them out.

Canadian soldiers to the number of 43,000 have given their lives to the cause. Of these 27,040 have been killed in action; 9,280 have died of wounds; 27 have died of disease; 5,342 are presumed to be dead. The names of 113,007 soldiers have appeared in the casualty lists as wounded or ill. Between 30,000 and 40,000 of these have returned to duty; about 60,000 have been sent back to Canada as unfit for further service; 4,224 Canadians are still in German or neutral military prisons, and 334 are set down as missing.

In supplying munitions to Great Britain and the allies Canada has become one of the world's great arsenals. Before the war few of us knew what a shrapnel shell looked like. It is a remarkable fact that in the case of shrapnel for the 18-pounder gun, no less than 65 per cent. of the output for the British army for the last six months of 1917 came from Canada. Most of these were complete rounds of ammunition, which went direct to France. Of the other shells our munition factories contributed the following proportion of the total required for the British forces during this period: 42 per cent. of the total of 4.5 inch shells; 27 per cent. of the total of 6 inch shells; 20 per cent. of the total of 60-pounder high explosive shells; 15 per cent. of the total of 8 inch shells; 16 per cent. of the total of 9.2 inch shells. Shells Produced, 60,000,000 Pounds. The extent to which Canada has produced munitions of war can be shown by the following figures: Total production of shells up to recent date, 60,000,000 pounds; total production of explosives and propellants for cartridges and shells, 100,000,000 pounds; total production of airplanes, 2,500; total value of orders placed in Canada by the British Government, \$1,200,000,000, of which amount \$500,000,000 has been sent to the British Government for this purpose by the Dominion of Canada.

There have been at one time employed in this work 50,000 men and women. In external trade Canada is conspicuous, so far as possible, on a par with the world's great powers. Canadian exports are largely confined to those articles which are necessary to Great Britain and the allies. Foodstuffs, raw materials as well as manufactured munitions, clothing and textiles, leather, vehicles, and other commodities having a direct bearing on the war, are being exported in growing quantities. The statistics for the fiscal year 1917-18 show that our exports in these important articles have increased over the average of three years before the war by more than 400 per cent. Canada is doing her share in shipbuilding. Contracts have been placed in the Dominion for 112 vessels, with a total tonnage of about 450,000. Most of these will be launched during 1918. Food imports impressive. In the supply of food to the Allies, Canada has made an impressive showing. Her annual net export of wheat and flour for the support of the Allies is valued at \$100,000,000. Continued on Page Four

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FOE IN FULL RETREAT ON THIRTY SIX MILE FRONT

Retirement not Likely to Halt South of the Aisne River-- Numerous Towns, Including Soissons and Ville-en-Tardenois, are Occupied by Allies on Three Sections of the Salient

By Courier Leased Wire. PARIS, Aug. 3.—It seems the enemy did not expect to be chased from Soissons. There were no indications that preparations had been made for retirement, and there were no fires discovered anywhere. On the left on Friday, French cavalry and tanks kept in close pursuit of the enemy, and inflicted heavy losses. BRITISH OFFICIAL. LONDON, Aug. 3.—Paris patrols brought in a few prisoners last night in the Loere sector in the Flanders salient, according to the official statement issued by the war office today. The statement adds that other prisoners were captured by the British as a result of a raid east of Diekebusch Lake, near Ypres, and that the German artillery has shown some activity north of Bethune. British patrols last night pushed their way forward in the Albert sector, north of the Somme, and occupied parts of the German front line, the war office announced today.

London, Aug. 2.—French troops have entered the town of Soissons, the western anchor point of what remains of the famous salient, and all along the 36 miles of curving battle line from Soissons to Thillois, which lies about three miles west of Rheims, French, British and American troops have pushed in the entire enemy front and sent the Germans backward everywhere in precipitate retreat. On the battle front the allies, by quick and forcible methods of onslaught have deeply indented the German defence line for splendid gains, which seemingly foreshadow the necessity of the eventual retirement of the force of the German Crown Prince to more tenable ground in the north. The plains behind the northwestern portion of the battle front now are entirely dominated by the allied big guns. In the south the French have negotiated almost all of the hill and forest country and are encroaching perceptibly toward the Fismes railway, while on the east the British and French are almost astride the Rheims-Soissons railway, and have their guns now so placed that the enemy is sure to be sorely tried as he endeavors to press back and gain a haven of refuge along the Vesle river.

May Retreat to the Aisne. Just how far the retreat of the Germans will go cannot at present be forecasted, but with the northern line swinging northward in conjunction with that on the east toward the Vesle, and with the French dominating the Aisne eastward from Soissons, it is not improbable that the Germans may be compelled to take refuge north of the Aisne. Numerous towns and hamlets have been captured by the allied troops during the latest fighting, and at some points they have advanced from two to three miles. South of Soissons the entire Crise river has been forded by the allied troops; northeast of Fercen-Tardenois the allied line has been pushed well to the west of the region of Grand Rozy, and the town of Saponay has been taken. In the centre, the Nesles Wood is being swept clean of Germans by the French cavalry, and American and French troops are pressing the Germans hard north of Serzy and the hamlet of Nesles. Close on Enemy's Heels. Farther eastward almost to the gates of Rheims, combined forces of British and French everywhere are sorely harassing the enemy. In this latter region, in addition to Thillois, the village of Ville-en-Tardenois is in allied hands and the French now are on the heels of the Germans two and a half miles north of the Dormans-Rheims highroad over a front of nearly four miles. Altogether, the situation for the allied troops at present is a most promising one for complete success in riding the Soissons-Rheims salient entirely of the enemy. Throughout the latter phases of the battles the Germans have not shown their stamina of previous days, and

Plans had been made to strike hard blows against the retreating German rear, but the German War Council evidently had decided that the time was inopportune to fight, for when the news spread forward it was only to follow upon the heels of the retreating enemy. At a few places there were sharp encounters, but they were nothing as compared with the terrible engagements that previously had been fought or which were expected. The French cavalry operated near Dravegny, about 2 1/2 miles north of Coulonges, with the American infantry close behind, while another detachment of mounted French troops opened the way a short distance to the west, with French infantry and American foot troops close up. The penetration by the French and Americans to the region of Dravegny would place them only a scant 5 miles southeast of Fismes, on the railroad line midway between Soissons and Rheims. To the westward the French reached the southern borders of the Loupelle, Mareuil and Ailly woods, and the French cavalry to the southern borders of the Molnes Wood. Occasional bursts of machine gun fire challenged the advancing line, but it was apparent early in the movement that the Germans had done. The stiffest fighting encountered was in a little piece of ground east of Chamoy. Few Prisoners Taken. Through wheat fields and over wooded trails soaked with the rain that fell almost all day, the Americans moved slowly and cautiously, but almost continuously, over farms and past villages, among them Coulonges and Cohan. To the westward another force of Americans also was Continued on Page Four

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Aug. 3.—Since yesterday morning showers have occurred very locally from Alberta to Quebec and generally in the Maritime Provinces. Lakes and Georgian Bay—Moderate north to east winds, fine and cool. Sunday—Moderate east to southeast winds, generally fair, a few scattered showers by night, not much change in temperature.



"Zimmie"

SALE... ER & SON... Railway... N. Railway... Various small advertisements and notices.