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THURSDAY MORNING AUGUST 29 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,805 TWO CENTS

# FRENCH TAKE 40 VILLAGES

## Big Force of Germans Faces Immediate Destruction by French and Australians Between Nesle and Peronne Crossing—British Advance Further Eastward North of Bapaume --Enemy Retreat to La Fere is Threatened by Forcing of the Oise Line.

# Canadians Almost Thru Hindenburg Line

## FRENCH APPROACH NOYON GERMANS RUNNING FASTER

### Fall of Railway Centre Only a Matter of Hours if French So Elect--Enemy Retirement Far More Speedy Since Fall of Chaulnes and a Halt on the Oise is Not Now Expected.

With the French Armies in France, Aug. 28.—The German retreat north of the Aves River has been far more speedy since the fall of Chaulnes than previously. Vigorously pursued by French troops and harassed by their own mustard gas shells, which they left behind and which are being fired from German guns by French gunners, the enemy is making haste to cross the River Somme in the region of Nesle and the Canal du Nord.

**FRENCH OFFICIAL**  
PARIS, Aug. 28.—In a swift advance today, covering more than six miles at certain points, the French troops south of the Somme recaptured forty villages, the war office announces to-night.

Roye is still inaccessible for occupation. The Germans were not able to use all the gas projectiles they brought to the present front, and large dumps of them fell into French hands. They are now being fired at the enemy from some hundreds of German guns the French first army has taken since Aug. 5.

The left bank of the Somme has been reached between Cizancourt and Nesle, as well as the west bank of the Canal du Nord, between Nesle and Noyon, over the greater part of its course.

American troops in the region of Juvigny repulsed numerous German counter-attacks and broke up an enemy attempt to cross the Vesle south of Bazoches.

The French third army also attacked this morning and occupied Dives and pushing eastward to Vauchois, less than half a mile from Noyon, the fall of which appears to be only a question of hours if the French so elect.

## MAY DECIDE BATTLE IN NEXT TWO DAYS

### Developments Will Shortly Determine Fate of Hindenburg Line. ENEMY HAS TO FIGHT Momentous Possibilities Depend on Heavy Imminent Engagements.

Washington, Aug. 28.—Developments on the western battlefield during the next 48 hours should determine the fate of the much-contested "Hindenburg line," in the opinion of some military officials here. With the strength of the line already materially impaired by the British wedge driven around its left flank and even more telling blows threatened by the steady advance of the French thru Nesle toward the Somme and by the British east of Arras, observers here believed that the scheme of defense popularly held in Germany to be the bulwark of the western front is in a fair way to become untenable before the main Teuton forces have been driven back to it.

The impression prevailing in military circles here is that General Foch's tactics have forced upon the enemy the necessity of making an effort along the present front to stay the allied advance, without the option of withdrawing "unnoticed" to a previously selected line. For more than six weeks, they point out, the main German armies have been under ceaseless pressure which, during the last ten days, has been so great as to necessitate a practically unchecked retreat on a sixty-mile front.

Hard to Stop Allies. This withdrawal on the part of the Germans, while not precipitous, has been swift enough to bring their main concentrations within the zone of allied artillery fire, with a consequent effect on the morale of the enemy's men, and on his every attempt to organize an effective resistance. The longer the tactics of the past week are kept up, army officers declare, the more difficult will be the attempts of the German general staff to stop them.

View of these facts the prevailing opinion here is that the German position will stiffen within the next few hours and hard fought engagements will ensue, upon the results of which will rest momentous possibilities.

Prisoners taken by the allied armies since July 1, General March, chief of staff, said today, total more than 112,000 while 1300 guns of heavy calibre—field pieces and larger—were captured in the same period.

## GERMAN FRONT IS SMASHED TROOPS CAUGHT IN A TRAP

### Armies Facing Allied Forces, From Arras to Soissons, Everywhere Are in Dire Peril and Are Offering Desperate Resistance in Attempt to Prevent Being Outflanked.

The Germans facing the allied forces from Arras to Soissons everywhere are in dire peril.

And himself is the triangle formed by the sharp curve of the Somme River with Peronne its apex and with Curly on the Somme, and Fresnoy, respectively, its northern and southern bases.

the French along the Canal du Nord at various points between Nesle and the outskirts of Noyon. South and southeast of Noyon gains also were made, and Noyon and the entire region between Nesle and Soissons now are in a great pocket and with the French pinners working hard to close up on it.

Near Arras the old Hindenburg line is well outflanked; from the Scarpe to the Somme the hostile line gradually is falling back, while from the south of the Somme to Soissons the enemy front has literally been smashed, and the German hosts apparently are caught in two distinct traps, escape from which without heavy losses in men made prisoner and guns and material captured seems almost impossible of achievement.

Desperate resistance is being offered by the enemy in order that his men may have time to reach a haven of safety, across the stream, but the British are hard after their quarry, and with the French troops routed the south almost up to the river to aid them by an outflanking movement, it would seem that the odds are heavily against the Germans.

The Americans are fighting with the French northeast of Soissons in the operation which has in view the bottling out of the Noyon sector, and the outflanking of the Aisne and the old Chemin des Dames positions. Official reports have the Americans and French fighting violently with the enemy around Juvigny and Chavigny, where they have gained some ground. The Americans have successfully sustained several heavy enemy counter-attacks in this region.

## CANADIANS HOLD THE LINE ON BOTH SIDES OF SCARPE

### Catch Germans Massing for a Counter-Attack From Jigsaw Wood and Wither Them With a Hurricane of Fire--Make a General Advance and Storm Sart Wood.

With the Canadian Army in the Field, Aug. 27, via London, Aug. 28.—The Canadian force is fighting on a wide front north and south of the Scarpe River, approximately from Gavrelle to Croisilles, but in this undertaking it is co-operating with the British division. This division has, deservedly, attained pre-eminence in the role of the British army north of the Scarpe River. Today it captured Gavrelle, and advanced generally. This afternoon Canadian troops hold the line south of the Scarpe, immediate west of Pelves, thence south-east, passing between Jigsaw Wood and Sart Wood, then in a generally westerly direction to well east of Cerisy and Fontaine-lez-Croisilles. From here the line is continued by other Scottish troops to the western outskirts of Croisilles.

ground filled with gun posts and wire. One of our battalions suffered a temporary reverse before it, last evening, being forced by the enemy to bombardment by our heavy guns, assisted by bombing planes, upon the wood had been planned for 7 o'clock, the very hour selected by the enemy for a massed counter-attack. For this purpose the 35th German division had been brought up hurriedly by train and motor lorry. The hurricane of fire broke upon their massed formation just as they debouched on the wood. Prior to this the troops here engaged had accounted for every unit of the 214th enemy division, save for a single battalion. Nevertheless, later waves from both the Jigsaw and Sart woods, only to break down before our indomitable infantry, supported by our machine guns.

By a lucky chance we have inflicted very heavy losses upon the enemy. A bombardment by our heavy guns, assisted by bombing planes, upon the wood had been planned for 7 o'clock, the very hour selected by the enemy for a massed counter-attack. For this purpose the 35th German division had been brought up hurriedly by train and motor lorry. The hurricane of fire broke upon their massed formation just as they debouched on the wood. Prior to this the troops here engaged had accounted for every unit of the 214th enemy division, save for a single battalion. Nevertheless, later waves from both the Jigsaw and Sart woods, only to break down before our indomitable infantry, supported by our machine guns.

## MANY ADDITIONAL TOWNS WRESTED FROM ENEMY

### Pelves Carried by Canadians--Remy and Haucourt Are Entered--Whole Front From Near Lens to Cambrai Road Involved in Advance--Croisilles Taken, Permitting Move Forward in Centre.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 28.—On both sides of the Scarpe River hard fighting continued today, the British launching fresh attacks and wresting from the desperately resisting enemy additional valuable stretches of ground, many more advantageous positions and numerous towns, including Croisilles.

**BRITISH OFFICIAL**  
LONDON, Aug. 28.—The Australians have reached the line of Fresnes-Herbourt, according to Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters tonight, but have met with much opposition in their efforts to reach the crossings of the Somme River at Brie and Peronne. The statement says:

body of the Germans has retired from Hendecourt eastward. Extremely heavy fighting is in progress from a point south of Lens southward across the Scarpe River to the Arras-Cambrai road, but the British are making progress everywhere, beating down the German resistance with steady blows.

In the centre of the wide battlefield on which three British armies—the first, third and fourth—are operating there seems to be a slight pause. South of the Somme, Fay and Ablaincourt were taken by the British without much difficulty, for the Germans, being hard pressed south of these points by the French, were therefore ready to go with slight persuasion.

These Germans had been thrown into the fighting in this section in an effort to keep the British from penetrating the famous Queant-Drocourt switch line, which formed the northern continuation of the old Hindenburg line after the British last year beat the Germans back from Arras. This line has been approached in several places and has been reached in at least one place in the neighborhood of the Sasse River.

Some Refuse to Fight. A large Boche force was brought up to counter-attack the British positions east of Monchy. Some of the companies at the last moment, according to prisoners' statements, refused to participate, and the rest went on without them, the British withdrawing 400 yards.

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