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The Toronto World

MONDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 2 1918

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VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,809 TWO CENTS

British Reduce German Defences at Many Points From Somme to Lens—Further Canadian Advance Astride Arras-Cambrai Road—French and American Gain of Two Miles From Juvigny on Leon.

ALLIED WINGS ADVANCE BOILING FOR ENEMY

British Attain Point Seven Miles from Armentieres While French Face Further Crossings of Canal du Nord— Remarkable Gains in Centre, Delivering Large Stretches of Territory from Germans.

All along the western battlefield the Germans continue to give ground before the entente allies. Daily the kind of events accentuates the inescapable fact that the German lines and the "habitué" of the German high command to hold back the aggressors. Where two months ago great salients projected into the allied front, these have either been flattened or are in the process of being blotted out, and in some instances the allies themselves have driven in wedges that seriously menace the enemy. With the Marne and Picardy sectors now virtually all reclaimed, the wings of the present allied offensive are moving in a manner that bodes ill to the Germans. In the north the wings on the Lys salient southwest of Ypres gradually is bending in under voluntary retirements and the pressure of Field Marshal Haig's forces. Following the fall of Kemmel, the allied line has been moved further forward until it now rests almost in the zone of the Estaires-La Bassée road, less than seven miles southwest of Armentieres. By the wiping out of this salient the

menace to the channel ports has been overcome. On the southern wing north of Soissons the French and American troops are continuing their progress, notwithstanding the violent opposition of the enemy. The Villages of Leury and Crecy-au-Mont have been captured, and crossing the Ailette, a footing has been gained in the woods west of Coucy-le-Chateau, through which passes the railroad line running from Chauny to Leon. Large numbers of prisoners have been taken in these operations. From Arras southward to the vicinity of Noyon, the British and French troops have made further remarkable gains, gauged both by the extent of the territory delivered from enemy hands and its strategic importance for further manoeuvres. British Gains. Peronne, the last important town in German hands on the Somme River, has been captured by the British, who have passed on eastward and northward with steady strides, notwithstanding the resistance of the enemy. Bouchavesnes and Rancourt and the high ground adjacent to them also are British, and Field Marshal Haig's men

MENACE REMOVED TO CHANNEL PORTS

Fall of Kemmel Due to Heavy British Pressure.

NO HALT FOR ALLIES Loss of Peronne Makes Germans Retire to St. Quentin.

Paris, Sept. 1.—There is no halt to the entente allied progress. The occupation by the British of Mont Kemmel in the Lys salient endangers the railway lines from Lille to Hazebrouck. It was the strongest position in the month of August. The Germans in their offensive captured it only after terrible sacrifices, yet they relinquished it in the face of heavy British pressure. The fall of Mont Kemmel insures the safety of the channel ports. To the south where the French are operating against the Germans along the Canal du Nord there have been violent artillery duels. Seven miles south of Peronne at Epenancourt the French have forced another crossing of the canal, and two miles northeast of Noyon they have captured the village of Rouy-le-Petit. Unofficial reports are to the effect that the British have reached the outskirts of Lens, the famous coal-mining town north of Arras, and that configurations are visible behind the lines in the neighborhood of Lens and as far as Armentieres. These fires are taken as an indication that it is the intention of the Germans to retreat in this general region.

GREAT RAILWAY CENTRE CAPTURED BY ASSAULT

Suburbs of Lens Also Reached by British—Eight Other Towns Carried in Heavy Fighting—Bulk of Lys Salient Recovered From Germans—High Ground at Morval and Bullecourt Taken.

BRITISH CAPTURES DURING AUGUST

Over Fifty-Seven Thousand Prisoners With Many Guns

London, Sept. 1.—A British official communication says: "In the month of August, 57,218 German prisoners, including 1283 officers, were captured by the British troops in France. In the same period we have taken 657 guns, including over 150 heavies. Over 550 machine guns, and over 100 trench mortars, have been counted. Among the other captures were three trains, nine locomotives, numerous complete ammunition and engineer dumps, many hundreds of thousands of pounds of gun and trench mortar ammunition, as well as small arms, ammunition, and immense quantities of war material of every description."

London, Sept. 1.—Peronne, the railroad centre at the bend of the River Somme, taken by the Germans in their offensive of last March, was recaptured today by forces of Field Marshal Haig.

The Towns of Bullecourt and Morval were also captured by the British. The British have reached the suburbs of Lens. Large fires are burning in the neighborhood of Lens and Armentieres. These are regarded as an indication of a further German retirement.

The British line in the Lys sector now runs as follows: From Zillebeke to Voormezele, to Vierstraat, to Lindenhoek, to Laereche, to Doulieu, to the western edge of Lagorce, a suburb of Estaires, to Lacouture and then to the old battle line north of Festubert.

All the places mentioned are in British possession. Field Marshal Haig reports the capture of Peronne by the Australians, in his communication from British headquarters in France tonight. Flamincourt and St. Denis, in the same sector, were also occupied.

London troops have captured Bouchavesnes and Rancourt. Together the English and Australians in the two operations took more than two thousand prisoners.

The statement reads: "This morning Australian troops captured Peronne. After beating off the enemy's counter-attack at Mont St. Quentin yesterday evening, the Australians at 5.30 o'clock this morning renewed their advance in conjunction with English troops on their left. At an early hour the attacking Australians had stormed the German position west and north of Peronne and, pressing on, while fierce fighting was still taking place among the ruined streets and buildings, carried the eastern suburbs of the town.

"The Australians hold Peronne, Flamincourt and St. Denis and have made important progress on the spur east and northeast of Mont St. Quentin.

"On the Australians' left, London troops, attacking southeast of Cambrai, have taken Bouchavesnes and Rancourt, with the high ground overlooking these villages, and have reached the western outskirts of St. Pierre-Vaast Wood.

"In the course of this successful attack, in which stiff opposition was met and overcome by both English and Australians, over 2,000 prisoners and a few guns were taken.

"On the remainder of the battlefield there were successful minor operations at a number of points south of the Arras-Cambrai road.

"Our troops have driven the enemy from the high ground at Morval and captured Beaulieu and the ridge east of Rancourt and Fremicourt. We are pressing the enemy hard in Le Transloy and have completed the capture of Bullecourt and Hendecourt-lez-Cagnicourt. Several hundred prisoners were taken in these different operations.

"An enemy counter-attack launched against the new positions gained by the Canadians this morning north of Hendecourt was repulsed.

"Our patrols have pushed forward slightly in the Lens sector.

"On the Lys front our progress continues. We have reached Doullieu Le Verrier and Steenwerck and are closely engaged with the enemy about Neuve Eglise and Vurghem.

Daring Achievements. With the British Army in France, Sept. 1.—The capture of Mont St. Quentin by the Australians was a daring and brilliant achievement. Starting out from east of Clerly about five o'clock in the morning, the Australians fought their way forward despite the heavy fire from the Boche machine guns, and swarmed into Feuillaucourt. They captured 200 Germans.

About the same time another body

CANADIAN BRIGADE ADDS TO LAURELS ALREADY WON

With the Canadian Forces in the field, 10 p.m., Aug. 30, via London, Aug. 31.—A line has been consolidated roughly from Vis-en-Artois to Hendecourt, but bulging outward in its centre. A hard struggle had taken place for Upton Wood, about the centre of the line, and with this was carried the Crow's Nest further south. In the direction of Hendecourt, another advance carried our outposts forward to the main road from Hendecourt to Dury from the hills immediately behind the ruined village of Chery.

These operations can be clearly viewed, this particular battleground forming the opposite side of the valley. Over that crest stands up the high considerable heights of the enemy line, at this point just west of Cagnicourt. The line, once broken, I believe the enemy would have no prepared defence for a very great depth.

It was attained today with our posts within 200 yards of it. Unofficially, the enemy intends to hold this line at all costs and would be prepared to make great sacrifices to that end. He has lined some of the best troops at his disposal, including the Prussian Guard and some marine battalions.

French Reach Point Two Miles Off Nesle

Paris, Sept. 1.—French troops have captured Crecy-au-Mont, south of the Ailette River. North of the Ailette they have gained a footing in the wood west of Coucy-le-Chateau, the war office announces tonight. The statement says: "During the day there was great artillery activity in the Somme region and along the Canal du Nord.

"North of the Ailette we have taken footing in the wood west of Coucy-le-Chateau; south of the river we captured the village of Crecy-au-Mont."

Take Thousand Germans. In the region north of Soissons French troops last night stormed the Town of Leury and captured a thousand Germans, the French war office announced today. French troops have crossed the Somme Canal at Epenancourt, seven miles south of Peronne. Rouy-le-Petit, two miles northeast of Nesle, has been captured by the French.

The text of the statement reads: "The actions continue during the night. French infantry units crossed the Somme Canal east of Epenancourt. Further south French troops captured Rouy-le-Petit. We took 250 prisoners. "In the region north of Soissons the French captured Leury and conquered several centres of resistance which

supported on each side by intense artillery and machine gun fire. The brigade engaged has added further to its laurels, which date back to the battle of Ypres. There was no change in our line last night. English troops on our immediate left south of the Scarpe made considerable gains and are still advancing. It is exactly a month since the great trek began. It is just over three weeks since the initial blow was struck. East of Amiens it is five days since the Canadian force so victoriously returned to its old stamping ground and took part in the eventful work of the relief of Arras. Within that period it has penetrated no less than 17 miles into the heart of the enemy's defence, and has shattered a number of his best divisions and has taken off him immense spoils in the way of prisoners and material of war. And the Canadian force is still going strong. It goes

forward singing, and suffers its losses unflinchingly. The front occupied by the Canadians was practically unchanged yesterday, the tired troops resting after the sanguinary battle of the previous day. There was movement, however, north and south, our capture of Artillery Hill on Wednesday evening the Scottish division, fighting on the left flank of the Canadians north of the Scarpe, to storm and consolidate Greenard Hill. The enemy still pours in a heavy shell fire from the heights around Cappy. To the south of us other British troops did splendid work yesterday, generally advancing their line and thus relieving our hard pressed right flank. It rained again last night, adding to the difficulties of the troops, but early this morning they went over the top and captured the enemy trench system east of Chery, where we were held up Wednesday.

Australians Carry Mont St. Quentin

Brilliant Night Operation Gains Important Tactical Feature—Advance in Lys Salient Approaches La Bassee-Estaires Road.

London, Sept. 1.—British troops continued to advance in the Lys salient, southwest of Ypres. The British forces astride the Bapaume-Cambrai road were driven off with heavy loss. In this neighborhood the English completed the capture of Rencourt-lez-Bapaume, taking a number of prisoners and a few guns. At certain points between Vauke-Vraucourt and Bullecourt prisoners were taken and their positions improved slightly. Strong counter-attacks in this sector again led to hard fighting. The situation has not changed materially.

Canadians in Attacks. "Further north Canadian troops carried out successfully a local operation immediately across and south of the Arras-Cambrai road, inflicting many casualties and capturing machine guns.

"Between the Seneca and Scarpe Rivers the English troops pushed their line forward 1500 yards toward the Tringuisse River.

"The increasing demand upon the enemy reserves, due firstly to the enormous casualties in his massed attacks in the first part of the year, and secondly, to heavy casualties in killed, wounded and prisoners by a series of successful attacks by the allies since July 18, has compelled the enemy to withdraw from the Lys salient and without a blow positions of high tactical importance won at a great cost."

"Our troops have regained possession of Kemmel Hill. We have reached the general line of Voormezele and Lindenhoek, La Creche and Doullieu and are approaching Estaires."

Brilliant Night Work. In the capture of Mont St. Quentin, north of Peronne and Feuillaucourt, more than 1500 prisoners were taken by the British, according to Field Marshal Haig's report last night. The statement says: "By a daring and brilliantly executed night operation carried out with great skill and enterprise, the Australians seized the hill and village of Mont St. Quentin, north of Peronne, thereby gaining possession of an important tactical feature commanding Peronne and the angle of the Somme River. The same operation captured the village of Feuillaucourt. Over 1500 prisoners were taken. Our casualties were exceptionally light.

"With morning English troops attacked on the left of the Australians. This complete success and captured Marrieres Wood and the high ground east and north of this with a considerable number of prisoners.

"During the day hostile counter-attacks launched against the Australians

and English were successfully repulsed. "Attacks this morning by strong hostile forces astride the Bapaume-Cambrai road were driven off with heavy loss. In this neighborhood the English completed the capture of Rencourt-lez-Bapaume, taking a number of prisoners and a few guns. At certain points between Vauke-Vraucourt and Bullecourt prisoners were taken and their positions improved slightly. Strong counter-attacks in this sector again led to hard fighting. The situation has not changed materially.

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WOUNDS NOT FATAL TO NIKOLAI LENINE

London, Sept. 1.—The latest official news concerning the condition of Nikolai Lenin comes in the form of two bulletins by Russian wireless, timed 7.30 and 8.30 Saturday evening, respectively. These bulletins state that his general condition is good, that immediate danger is past, and that no complications have arisen. The shooting, according to reports, occurred at the close of an audience granted by the premier to two women social revolutionists, who came to discuss the embargo on the shipment of foodstuffs into Moscow. One of the women, it is said, drew a revolver and opened fire on the premier. Lenin's assailant has been arrested.

Toronto Ready to Go Ahead

The city is increasing in population and in business. There is a scarcity of homes and an undersupply of labor. More factories, more business concerns, would start here if they could get labor and homes for their workpeople. And people would build homes if they could get single lots or care. The paramount question—always after winning the war—is, How is Toronto to break the bonds that bind her and be free to turn into a city of a million people? The city council ought to meet every day until some solution is found. Mayor Church must be more than an ornament! What is he going to do? In the meantime, the business men ought to organize and hold meetings and put the issues up to the city fathers. Toronto can't wait until the war is over and money becomes more plentiful. She's got to do it now!