

BIG GERMAN DISASTER!

GERMAN ARMY MEETS ONE OF ITS MOST DECISIVE DEFEATS

Field Marshal Haig's Men Are Victorious on Battle Front of Twenty-Three Miles, Extending From Cojeul River on North, Across the Ancre and Somme Rivers, Almost To Lihons—Thousands of Germans Killed and Captured.

British Take Numerous Towns and Villages and Large Quantities of War Material and Big Guns—Last Night They Were Nearing the Town of Bapaume—Furious Fighting in Several Sections and Great Guns Slaughter Enemy.

With the British Armies in France, Aug. 23.—(By The Associated Press)—British armies this evening are vigorously following up their success of today which apparently has been proved one of the most disastrous defeats ever experienced by the Germans.

Victorious on a battlefront of twenty-three miles, extending from the Cojeul river on the north, across the Ancre and Somme rivers, almost to Lihons, the third and fourth British armies under Generals Byng and Rawlinson are still driving the enemy back.

The enemy has lost wide stretches of ground, numerous towns, thousands of men made prisoners and large quantities of materials and guns. He also again has had heavy casualties.

Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, the German commander, has thrown his men in before the advancing British armies in an effort to stave off the inevitable, but only to have them mowed down again and again by storms of metal which poured from the British guns. One entire enemy battalion was annihilated during the fighting.

Dead Germans in great numbers are scattered everywhere over the battlefield. As an example four hundred enemy dead were observed this morning on one small piece of ground over which the battle had swept.

Allied Losses Light.

With all this fierce fighting, and notwithstanding the fact that the British at many places have fought over open ground against an enemy protected in "pot holes" and strong points of the other kind, the British losses everywhere seem to have been extremely light. This probably is due to the confusion the Germans find reigning behind their lines as they are fighting, instead of stopping the British, simply means that the Germans suffered bigger losses.

Crown Prince Rupprecht today had strengthened his line at many places, but this, instead of stopping the British, simply meant that the Germans suffered bigger losses.

During the night and this morning the front upon which the battle was being fought yesterday was widened, appreciably both to the north and the south, while the ground in the middle between Albert and Beaumont-sur-Ancre, which heretofore had been fairly quiet, suddenly was drawn into the whirl.

The Situation.

From the northern edge of the battle field to the south the situation at last reports seemed to be as follows: New attacks from the River Cojeul and south carried the British across the Albert-Arras Railroad embankment. The British apparently hold Dour, Bequerelle and Boyelles and have passed beyond the Arras-Bapaume Road.

The troops to the south, who for two days had been fighting for and afterwards from the embankment, stormed forward and reached Hamelincourt and are pushing on toward Ervillers, St. Lager and Croisilles. Airplanes reported that British tanks had crossed the road between Ervillers and St. Lager, while some infantry was reported to be less than a thousand yards west of Ervillers some hours ago. At about that time an airplane reported that the Germans had disappeared from their positions north-west of St. Lager and between that town and Hamelincourt and that the fighting British found time in the midst of their task to cheer heartily.

Heavy German Losses.

Apparently the hard-pressed Germans, rather than suffer more here, were made prisoners. Many of the

THE ENTENTE EVERYWHERE VICTORIOUS

Serious Defeat of Yesterday Spells Disaster For the Germans.

FRENCH ENVELOPE TOWN OF NOYON

The Enemy on Dangerous Ground in Vicinity of Soissons.

(By The Associated Press). Over the fifty mile battlefront from the region of Arras to the north of Soissons the German armies are meeting with defeats which apparently spell disaster. Everywhere the British and French forces have continued on the attack the enemy has been unacceptably worsted. And the end of his trials is not yet in sight.

To the British over the thirty miles of the fighting zone from the Cojeul river southeast of Arras to Lihons south of the Somme numerous towns have fallen and enemy territory has been penetrated to a depth of several miles. Where the French are fighting between the Metz river and the territory north of Soissons additional gains have been made in the development of Noyon and the general manoeuvre which seeks to crush or drive out the Germans from the salient between the Somme and the Ailette and to put into jeopardy the entire German line running to Rheims.

A Terrible Price.

The enemy paid a terrible price in men killed, wounded or made prisoners for his temerity.

With the continuation of the French drive from the Metz river around the head in the line to the north of Soissons the Germans still within the lower portion of the old salient apparently are on dangerous ground.

CZECHO-SLOVAKS WIN

London, Aug. 23.—Lord Robert Cecil, the British under-secretary for foreign affairs, announced this evening that reports had been received in London to the effect that the Czecho-Slovak forces in Trans-Balkania had captured the town of Berchlesdinek, south of Lake Balkan, and had achieved a decided victory against the Bolshevik force.

Captured officers were from one regiment. The Germans offered heavy resistance at Chignolles out with the assistance of tanks, the Australians hammered through the enemy and swept on, leaving the town and its environs filled with dead Germans.

New Zealander's Act.

South of Achiet-Le-Grand the British did not start today's operations so early as farther north. The New Zealanders here stopped work to let a German counter-attack develop. They "played dead" until the advancing enemy infantry was almost on top of them. Then they put down a heavy machine gun barrage just at the rear of the Germans, who surrendered in a body rather than be killed in their tracks. This happened just north of Miraumont. Many of the prisoners were non-commissioned officers and all of them appeared to be glad that they had been captured. When asked about the Austrians, the prisoners expressed the greatest contempt for their allies as soldiers, saying they were no good whatever.

British Cross Ance.

Slightly to the south the British have crossed the Ancre River and started back in the general direction of Corrolette. Already they are reported to be southeast of Grandcourt. This move means from the rear the German stronghold at Thiepval, which is an old fortress.

Marshal Haig Announces Capture of Five Villages, Enemy Losing Heavily

London, Aug. 23.—On a front of about six miles, from the southeast of Albert to the neighborhood of Grandcourt, east of the Ancre river, the British have pushed forward and gained ground after heavy fighting, says Field Marshal Haig's communication from headquarters tonight. South of Grandcourt a German counter-attack was repulsed. The advance of the British was to a depth of two miles, and large numbers of Germans were killed or taken prisoners. Five villages to the north of Achiet-Le-Grand were captured and the British pressed on eastward from them, says General Haig's statement.

The town of Achiet-Le-Grand has been captured by the British, and also Bihucourt, just to the southeast of Achiet-Le-Grand and about two and a half miles from the railroad junction of Bapaume.

The text of the communication follows: "In the course of an advance of over two miles into German positions, great numbers of Germans have been killed and prisoners taken.

"On the left of the battlefront we stormed the villages of Commiécourt, Ervillers, Hamelincourt, Boyelles and Boiry-Becquerelle and made progress east of these villages.

"On our right center we advanced against German positions on the east bank of the Ancre from southeast of Albert to the neighborhood of Grandcourt and gained ground after heavy fighting. A counter-attack was repulsed south of Grandcourt.

"We have captured Achiet-Le-Grand and Bihucourt and the ridge overlooking Irls. We continued our attacks this afternoon. Several thousand prisoners were taken and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy."

A COURTMARTIAL FOR COL. GINGRAS WAS HALL ENGAGED TO ANOTHER?

Gallant Officer Under Charges in Connection With Quebec Regiment.

Prosecution Investigating New Story in Case of Accused Minister.

Montreal, Aug. 23.—Instructions have been received today by Lt.-Col. M. A. Piche, acting G. O. C. here, from military headquarters at Ottawa that a general court martial has been obtained to enquire into certain charges against Lt.-Col. Daly Gingras, D. S. O., officer commanding the 2nd Depot Battalion, 2nd Quebec Regiment.

No details are given but it is understood that the court martial will deal with certain matters in connection with the financial arrangements for the battalion of which he was the commanding officer. Lt.-Col. Gingras is an officer of high standing. He went overseas with the famous 22nd French-Canadian Battalion and later won the D. S. O. for gallant conduct in action. He was wounded severely at the front.

SIXTEEN CARS PILED UP IN C. G. R. WRECK

Bad Spill of Freight Train at Culligan's, But No One Injured.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 23.—A bad freight wreck occurred this morning on the C. G. R., at Culligan's, near Jacquet River. Sixteen cars on a fast freight west bound left the rails and were thrown in all directions, most of them being badly smashed up. Nearly all of the demolished cars were empty, consequently there was little loss in cargo. The train was in charge of Conductor James Trites and Driver Eagles. None of the train hands was injured. The roadbed was torn for some distance and traffic was held up by the wreck until after twelve o'clock. The Ocean Limited and Campbellton express were delayed west of the wreck.

AN ATTEMPT ON U. S. TRANSPORTS

German Submarines Endeavor To Blockade French Port Where Soldiers Are Landed and Sink Troopships, But Attempt Fails.

Daring Enemy U-Boats Are Sent To Bottom. Instead—Sea Pirates Sink More Vessels Off the Atlantic Coast.

Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. With American Destroyer Flotilla, Bay of Biscay, Aug. 23.—Within the past few days Germany has made a sensational attempt to blockade one of the French ports at which the American troops enter. It was one of her most daring submarine exploits, but it has failed because of the American navy. Her newest and biggest U-boats, commanded by her most courageous and resourceful yet foolhardy officers, were consigned by the American destroyer flotilla to the bottom of the sea near the French coast. Unlike recent "Fat Bertha" activities the blockade was prepared for more than window dressing for the discouraged populace. It was a counter-attack for the great land disasters. It was the last hope to prevent American troops from arriving in France. Had it succeeded it would have been a real blow below the belt. Its purpose was to destroy the entire convoy of troop ships from America near the entrance to a French port.

KING OF THE HEJAS DEAD

Was Valuable Aid To Allies in the East.

K-King xaxxxxxx xaxxxxxx London, Aug. 23.—Constantinople newspapers report the death of the king of the Hejas.

Hussain Ben Ali, grand sheriff of Mecca and king of the Hejas, was one of the Allied leaders in the east and was of invaluable assistance during the past two years. While grand sheriff of Mecca he declared the independence of that Arabian province of the Turkish empire, and cast in his lot with the Allies. He and his army won several victories over the Turks in the Mesopotamian campaign.

PRINCE ARTHUR GETS MONCTON GREETING

Meets Leading Citizens and Compliments Band.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 23.—The special train with Prince Arthur and party made a short stop at Moncton tonight and was greeted by thousands of citizens. Both city bands turned out and played patriotic selections. His Royal Highness made a brief speech from the rear of the train and was enthusiastically cheered. Members of the city council and other leading citizens were presented to the Prince in his car. Souvenirs of the City Silver Band were presented to Prince Arthur who sent for the president of the band, Geo. H. Lenman, and informed him he had heard of the band which turned out in Moncton to cheer the Canadian boys on their way to the front. He complimented the band on its patriotism.

FATAL RUNAWAY

Sydney, N. S., Aug. 23.—Evangeline, the nine-year-old daughter of Private McNeill, of Glace Bay, was killed and her two cousins, Anna May, 12, and Margaret, 15 years old, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. S. McNeill, were seriously injured today when a horse being driven through New Aberdeen ran away.

LT. COMMANDER AND THREE MEN KILLED

Eighteen Others Wounded By Accidental Explosion on United States Warship.

Washington, Aug. 23.—Lieutenant-Commander William Price Williamson and three enlisted men were killed and Commander R. B. White and eighteen men wounded by the accidental explosion of a depth charge on board the U. S. S. Orizaba, August 17, according to a report by the navy department today.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 23.—Mrs. E. T. Trites today received official notice from Ottawa that her son, Pte. Louis Morin Trites, had been killed in action August 9. Pte. Trites who was the eldest son of the late E. T. Trites, many years paymaster on the I. C. R., went overseas two years ago with a western battalion. Clifford P. Trites, private secretary to General Manager Hayes, is a brother of the dead soldier.