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The Toronto World

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VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,841 TWO CENTS

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GERMANS IN FULL FLIGHT

In Armentieres Sector Enemy Breaks and Retreats, Evacuating the City---Lens is Occupied By British Troops---Austrians Withdraw From Albania and Retreat Northwards, Burning Towns---Allies Slowly Eating Into Vital German Defences.

FRENCH TAKE CHALLENGE IN NOTABLE FEAT OF ARMS

Break Thru Trenches and Barbed Wire Five Miles Deep, and Carry Position Against Attacks by Reinforced Troops.

With the French Forces in France, Oct. 3.—General Gouraud's troops crowned their successful campaign in the Champagne last night by taking Challenge and advancing to the southern edge of the Village of Mouron. The latter town is in front of the western exit from the Grand Pre gap.

Further west Gouraud's men also took the crest of the height called Croix des Soudans from where they command the valley of the Aisne northward. The successes of the French coincide with fresh outbreaks of the Hindenburg line anywhere that the villages occupied by the Germans in the north toward Vouziers. Aviators report that Semide and Mont Saint Martin and even towns further to the north are in flames.

In taking Challenge and the heights of Croix des Soudans Gouraud's troops have accomplished another remarkable feat of arms. There is probably nothing more formidable in the Hindenburg line anywhere than the defences which the Germans had raised here to defend their access to the region comprising the valley of the Grand Pre gap.

After breaking thru lines of trenches and barbed wire five miles deep, General Gouraud attacked this position and carried it against reinforced troops that counter-attacked him three times. The possession of Challenge and Croix des Soudans by the French seriously compromises the position of whatever German troops remain in the west of the Argonne region open to the enemy, and the American advance along the eastern edge of the forest virtually closes the eastern exit from the Grand Pre gap.

No longer is there an outlet to the west from the Argonne region open to the enemy, and the American advance along the eastern edge of the forest virtually closes the eastern exit from the Grand Pre gap. The only railroad line available to the troops in the wooded region north of Orval is now under the fire of French guns. Vouziers is directly threatened by the latest advance.

In the centre of a long battletine General Berthelot's troops have advanced within close reach of the Forest of Brimont and have captured Louve. This encourages the hope that the City of Rheims will soon be entirely freed from the fire of German artillery.

AUSTRIANS WITHDRAW FROM ALBANIA

Italians Troops Occupy Berat Without Any Fighting, and Advance Well Beyond the Town.

Vienna, via London, Oct. 3.—Austrian troops have been withdrawn from Albania, the war office announces. Berat has been taken by the allies. The statement says: "We have withdrawn our divisions from Albania. This was rendered necessary by events on the Bulgarian front."

Hounded Out of Lens

Germans Driven From City Reduced to Nothing by the Canadians---British Fight Hard to Widen the Gap.

British Headquarters in France, Oct. 3.—This has been a day of satisfactory progress on both the Cambrai-St. Quentin front and in Flanders. There is more confidence now that Semehart, Ramcourt and Le Catelet have been taken, and it is reported that the British are fighting at Montbrein, north of Semehart, and that their patrols have reached Beauveroy.

Thus it would appear that the British have created a gap and are fighting hard to widen it. The number of prisoners taken up to noon exceeded three thousand and a much larger total was expected by nightfall. The strength of the positions stormed was extraordinary, and the enemy's despair at being driven out from them may be understood. Military officers say that the Germans now must ask themselves how, if they

Further Gains to the South By French in Bitter Fight

Gen. Debeney Obtains Foothold West of Neuville St. Amand and Itancourt, Breaking Thru Hindenburg Line.

With the French Army in France, Oct. 3.—Gen. Debeney's troops in the region of St. Quentin yesterday began to smash thru the lines of the Hindenburg position over the entire front of that army.

These lines were two and one-half miles deep in some places and were supported by several strongly organized woods. They were defended by machine gun sections, which proved unable to check Gen. Debeney's advance.

A breach made in the Hindenburg line east of Le Troqueux was widened to the outskirts of Lesdins. Further north the French troops, in conjunction with British forces, took several small pieces of timber land in the face of vigorous resistance.

The west bank of the Crozat Canal, northeast of St. Quentin, is now in French hands as far as Lesdins. Gen. Debeney's men have occupied Omsiey. A footing also has been gained on the east bank of the canal at Morcourt, the western part of the town being in French hands.

With St. Quentin and the suburb of Isle in his hands Gen. Debeney has made further gains to the south, obtaining a foothold in the enemy's trenches west of Neuville St. Amand and Itancourt.

Several lines of trenches were conquered in that region by the French after a violent struggle.

Five Hundred Soldiers Ill With Mild Form of Influenza. Five hundred soldiers are ill in the military base hospital with influenza. Col. E. Hardy, D.S.O., commandant of the hospital, states, however, that the cases are of a mild type, no serious ones having developed so far.

MEN'S HAT DAYS AT DINEEN'S. Today and Saturday are the big days for Men's Hats. We have prepared for your visit with a superb collection of the latest American and English designs just arrived in Toronto. Dineen Co. are Canadian agents for Henry Heath of London and Dunlap of New York. Also a full line of Christy's and Stetson Hats in all the new popular shades. Felt Hats, \$3.50 to \$7.00. Tweed Hats and Caps. Raincoats, Motor Coats and Rugs. Store closes at 6.

Allied Warships Destroy Durazzo

BULLETIN—Rome, Friday, Oct. 4.—American, British and Italian warships have destroyed the Austrian naval base at Durazzo and the warships anchored there, according to an announcement made by Premier Orlando.

An intense bombardment was kept up until the base and the Austrian ships anchored there were completely destroyed.

Italian sailors, in the teeth of a hot enemy fire, torpedoed an Austrian destroyer and a steamer. Another vessel, which was recognized as a hospital ship, was allowed to withdraw.

British and Italian airplanes co-operated in the work. No losses or damage were suffered by the allied squadron.

FRENCH TAKE 2000 GERMANS

Paris, Oct. 3.—The French troops captured 2000 prisoners today, the war office announces tonight. They made an important advance to the northwest of Semme-Py, in the Champagne, occupying the crest of Blanc Mont.

Cormiey, northwest of Rheims, was also being captured. The statement says: "We gained a footing on the railway east of St. Quentin and advanced fighting to east of Fauquemont. A hundred prisoners were taken."

Northwest of Rheims we captured Cormiey and reached the Aisne Canal at Concorville and La Neuville. Prisoners to the number of 2000 were taken today.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF BRITISH GAINS

"At dawn this morning British infantry and tanks attacked and captured about eight miles from Semehart to the canal north of Bony, the attack was successful at all points."

"On the night of the attack English and Scottish troops of the third division released the Village of Squashart, capturing a number of prisoners, and later in the morning beat off with ease hostile counter-attacks."

"In the centre an English division stormed Ramcourt and Wiancourt, taking several hundred prisoners, while the second Australian division broke thru the Semme-Py-Beaurevoir line west and southwest of Beaurevoir."

"Meanwhile on the left of the attack English and Irish battalions forced passages of the Scheidt Canal at Gouy and Le Catelet, capturing both villages and the high ground to the east. In this locality the enemy counter-attacked strongly during the afternoon. Heavy fighting still continues."

"A large number of prisoners were captured by us in the course of these successful operations."

"In the area of the enemy's withdrawal north of the Scarpe our troops have pushed forward steadily throughout the day. They are maintaining constant pressure on the German rear-guards."

HINDENBURG LINE IS SMASHED IN LARGE AND VITAL SECTION

British Troops Break Thru Between St. Quentin and Cambrai, Occupying Many Towns and Villages and Taking 5000 Prisoners.

With the British Army on the St. Quentin Sector, Oct. 3.—The British troops smashed a large and vital section of the Hindenburg line today between St. Quentin and Cambrai. They have occupied many additional towns and villages and 5000 prisoners and numerous guns have been taken.

The battle was resumed at 6 o'clock in the morning and continued thru-out the day. English and Australian divisions driving deep into the enemy defences. The ground over which the British troops fought their way against the inevitable swarms of machine guns was littered with German dead.

The advance has reached a depth of about five miles at its apex, and it follows that the principal Hindenburg defences here have been shattered. A few hours may see the British all the way on the other side of the great German defensive system.

Germans in Full Flight. From the north comes most significant news. The Germans, who were gradually being left in a salient, have begun a retreat on practically all the Armentieres sector, and appear to be in full flight. The British troops have entered and are now passing thru Lens.

Aubers Ridge, south of Armentieres, has been taken, and the British are east of there. Indications are not wanting that the Germans have been forced to begin one of the war's greatest retreats.

The troops co-operating with the Belgians have taken villages near Roulers after hard street fighting. They have forced the Germans well back and are still going. The Germans must get out of the Belgian coast as far as Ostend, if the advance here continues, as it gives every sign of doing.

As the Germans retreat in the Armentieres sector they are applying the torch whenever they have the time, and their retreat is marked by great explosions as ammunition stores are destroyed.

It is known that the Germans are becoming so short of ammunition that many of the higher officers are alarmed, but in the retreat the destruction of dumps has been absolutely necessitated.

Tanks Do Good Work. In the battle between Cambrai and St. Quentin the Australians and English were assisted by large numbers of tanks, which carried out their tasks with the customary efficiency. Some few of these tanks were manned by Americans who had been attached to British tank units.

Reports from aviators say that the tanks have rolled rapidly over the country, materially helping the infantry to clear out the Germans who had made a dive for cover from the hurricane of British shells.

As the infantry gained ground, the British guns were constantly moved up to the positions from which they could continue pounding the Germans, who, at least in the northern battle area, seemed to be in full flight.

The roads in the general direction east of Gouy are reported full of transport and men, and some bodies of troops have reached points at least five miles in the rear. No new German troops appeared in the battle here, altho the enemy certainly must have known that the position was bound to be attacked.

This is a sign that cannot be ignored and one in which the British commanders find considerable satisfaction. Among the towns captured on this battlefront were Gouy, Le Catelet, Hambleourt, Sequehart, Wiancourt and Beurevoir. Heavy machine gun fighting is going on in Montbrein and on the hills to the southeast of Hambleourt.

Vital German Defences Are Being Eaten Into

From the North Sea to Switzerland Allies Are Closing in on All Sides and Enemy Fighting Line Must Be Reconstructed.

LENS, the heart of the great coal region in northern France, and Armentieres, almost equally important as a manufacturing centre, have been evacuated by the Germans; the German fortified positions between Cambrai and St. Quentin have been definitely smashed and the Austro-Hungarians in Albania, forsaken by their former allies, the Bulgarians, are in full retreat northward toward their border from the Adriatic Sea to Lake Qehrida.

Of the reconquering of invaded Belgium and the progress of the French and Franco-American forces respectively north of Rheims and eastward to Champagne to the vicinity of Verdun, the tale remains the same—the Germans slowly, but surely, are being forced everywhere to give ground, and their vital defences daily continue to be eaten into, notwithstanding the strong resistance that the enemy is imposing to make null the efforts of the allies to close in on all sides of the great battle arc from the North Sea to the Swiss border, and compel the German high command to reconstruct its fighting line.

There never was such an ignominious retreat as that of the Germans now going on. After all their will to win, their ferocity, their ruthless attacks on passenger and hospital ships and on hospitals, their unheard-of atrocities toward women and children and inoffensive citizens, their destruction of cathedrals and churches, cities and towns, homes and charities, their submarine and air warfare against non-combatants, to go rushing back to death over their own paths of destruction in Belgium and France is the very retribution of God. It is one of the greatest lessons spread before all mankind that justice and vengeance may be delayed, but that justice and vengeance must overtake the incarnation of evil-mindedness and evil doing. The fall of Satan is being re-enacted in our day as never before, and great is to be the fall thereof; and the lesson to us of this day is more impressive than any ever heretofore imparted to mankind. Humanity is being saved from its own inhumanity.

London, Oct. 3.—In the week ending today the allies have captured 60,000 men and 1000 guns on the western front.

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London, Oct. 3.—The Australian troops are fighting beyond the Beaurevoir line, at Wiancourt, La Motte Farm and Lormisse, in the St. Quentin sector, according to the official Australian correspondent. The Germans are retiring toward Montbrein. Thus the Hindenburg system has been definitely passed.

London, Oct. 3, via London.—Lens was evacuated by the Germans on Tuesday night, the war office announced today. Armentieres was evacuated the same evening.

Second day's total for Catholic Army Hats Campaign. This is "mopping up day." When you are tagged or asked for a Subscription don't give a dime or a quarter, give a dollar or two and watch the figures in this corner tomorrow.

FOURTEEN HUSTLING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF THE CATHOLIC ARMY HUTS CAMPAIGN RAISING \$150,000 IN TORONTO IN THREE DAYS



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