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The Toronto World

MONDAY MORNING AUGUST 26 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,802 TWO CENTS

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BAPAUME ON EVE OF CAPTURE PATROLS ARE ENTERING CITY

British Carry Summit of Important Thiepval Ridge and Make Big Advance Over the Old Somme Battlefield, Occupying Nearly One-Half of it, Clear Albert-Bapaume Road to Le Sars, Australians Capture Bray on the Somme, Twenty Villages Taken.

BRITISH GAIN STEADILY UPON BAPAUME ROAD

Advance From Albert Clears Numerous Villages on Old Somme Battlefield --- Australians Capture Bray --- Battle Continues All Day and Night --- Byng's and Rawlinson's Armies Take Seventeen Thousand Prisoners.

London, Aug. 25.—Field Marshal Haig today continued his attack against the Germans north of the River Somme. The British hold the road from Albert to Bapaume, as far as the outskirts of Le Sars, according to the official statement issued today by the war office. Contalmaison, three and three-quarter miles north-east of Albert, and Warlencourt-Eaucourt, on the Albert-Bapaume road, three miles southwest of Bapaume, have been captured by the British. North of Bapaume the British have captured Sapignies and Behagnies. Since Aug. 21 more than 17,000 German prisoners have passed through the collecting stations of the British third and fourth armies. The text of the statement reads:

"Our attack to the north of the Somme is continuing. Our troops hold the road from Albert to Bapaume as far as the outskirts of Le Sars, and have captured Contalmaison and Warlencourt-Eaucourt. To the north of Bapaume we have taken Sapignies and Behagnies. The number of prisoners taken by the third and fourth armies on the battlefield since the morning of Aug. 21, and passed through the collecting stations now exceeds 17,000. A counter-attack attempted by the enemy early last night against our positions recently gained to the north of Ballois (in the Lys valley) broke down under our fire."

Gains on Whole Front.
London, Aug. 25.—"Despite considerable hostile reinforcements," says Field Marshal Haig's report from the British front in France last night, "progress has been made along the whole front of our attack. Bray has been captured and a number of prisoners secured."

"Further progress has been made along the high ground southeast of Albert. Several hundred prisoners were taken. La Boisselle, Ovillers, Mouquet farm, Thiepval and Grandcourt have

been captured, with over 2000 prisoners. Our troops are astride the Thiepval ridge and are advancing eastward."

"There was heavy fighting about Miraumont, where the enemy held out until outflanked by advancing columns."

Continuous Fighting.
The full text of the official communication reads:

"On the battlefield north of the Somme continuous fighting has taken place since the early hours of the morning. Our troops, pressing the enemy hard at all points, have allowed him no respite. Despite the arrival of considerable hostile reinforcements, progress has again been realized on the whole front of our attack. Numbers of prisoners and quantities of material of every description have fallen into our hands. Shortly after midnight Australian troops, attacking along the north bank of the Somme, captured Bray-sur-Somme, securing a number of prisoners. Continuing their advance with great skill and initiative they carried the enemy's positions in this neighborhood."

Progress on High Ground.
"On their left, London and East County troops made further progress during the night along the high ground southeast of Albert, taking several hundred prisoners. On the right centre of our attack Welsh troops, attacking along the north bank of the Somme, captured Bray-sur-Somme, securing a number of prisoners. Continuing their advance with great skill and initiative they carried the enemy's positions in this neighborhood."

"Our troops are once more astride the Thiepval Ridge and are advancing eastward."

"On the left centre of our attack East Lancashire troops have been heavily engaged all day about Mira-

umont, where the enemy held out with great stubbornness until the village was gradually outflanked by our advancing columns."

On to Bapaume.
"North of this village the New Zealand division in the centre of the attack struck in the direction of Bapaume. Advancing with irresistible dash and determination it carried the defenses of Loupart Wood, taking 400 prisoners. Pressing forward with great gallantry it captured Grevillers and Sapignies, and reached Avesnes-lez-Bapaume, on the outskirts of Bapaume."

"On the flanks of this attack English troops gained possession of Iries and advanced in the direction of Sapignies, overcoming strong hostile resistance at Iries and east of Bihucourt."

"On the left of the battlefield English and Scottish divisions and the Guards are fighting on the front of Mory, Croisilles and Neuville-Vitasse, and have captured St. Legeur, Henin-sur-Cojeul and the hill east of the latter village."

"No estimate of captures can yet be given."

Gain Near Fampoux.
"Or the remainder of the British front successful local actions have taken place. North of the Scarpe we have captured a section of the German front line northeast of Fampoux, with a few prisoners."

"North of the La Bassée Canal we captured the old British front line east and northeast of Givenchy and made progress into the German positions in a completely successful operation, in which all objectives were secured with over 60 prisoners. During the night our patrols occupied Neu Berquin, where a number of German dead were found by our troops."

"This morning we have advanced our line north of Ballois on a front of a mile, capturing some 50 prisoners. A counter-attack attempted by the enemy during the afternoon was crushed by our artillery."

"The German front line in this region continues to be heavily shell-

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FRENCH NOW HOLDING SOUTH BANK OF OISE

Command Road From Chauny to Soissons and Also the Laon Railroad.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 25.—The first phase of the battle of the Aisne and the Oise has put the French in solid possession of the entire south bank of the Oise, west of the Ailette, and also the Ailette River from the Oise to Pont St. Mar.

At a point near where it is crossed by the road from Chauny to Soissons, General Mangin's men along the Ailette and further south, at Crecy-aux-Monts, Pommiers, and Juvigny, command this important road all the way from Soissons to the Oise. They also command the Laon railroad, which, from the region of Crecy-le-Chateau northward, runs nearly parallel with the road.

The Germans are thus thrown back upon the hilly forest region of Crecy for communication between their troops operating on the Oise above the Ailette and their troops on the Aisne east of Soissons.

BRITISH AIRMEN BOMB TOWN OF KARLSRUHE

Amsterdam, Aug. 25.—A telegram from Karlsruhe on Friday to The Frankfort Zeitung, a copy of which has been received here, says that ten British airmen bombed Karlsruhe at 9 o'clock that morning. Most of the bombs fell in the open country, resulting in considerable damage to private dwelling houses in some places. Nine persons were killed and five injured. Five of the attacking airplanes, according to the telegram, were destroyed.

DEFINITELY DECIDED THE FORTUNES OF WAR

Paris, Aug. 25.—"The fine victories of these past weeks have definitely decided the fortunes of war," says M. Clemenceau, the French premier, in a message today thanking the departmental councils which voted congratulations to government on the trend of the war.

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BRITISH SMASH ENEMY TO HINDENBURG LINE

HAIG'S REPORT

London, Aug. 25.—The British troops made further progress today and have taken many prisoners, notwithstanding the arrival of German reinforcements on the battlefield, according to Field Marshal Haig's report tonight.

The statement says:

"During the day the hostile opposition has increased with the arrival of German reinforcements on the battlefield. Many hostile counter-attacks have been made at different points and have broken down with losses under our fire."

"Our troops, nevertheless, have fought their way forward with great gallantry, and overcoming the new enemy resistance, have made further progress and taken many prisoners."

"On the north bank of the Somme Australian troops, by a successful attack launched early this morning, carried the enemy's position on the high ground east of Bray, while on the left London and East County divisions have continued their advance in the direction of Carnoy and have taken Mametz. Welsh troops have captured the Mametz Wood."

"In the centre of our attack our troops have crossed the Albert-Bapaume road along its whole length south of Bapaume and have captured Martinpuich, Le Sars and Le Barque."

"North of Bapaume severe fighting has taken place in Faveruill and about Mory and Croisilles. Progress has been made by our troops east of Behagnies and in Neuville-Vitasse."

"A counter-attack delivered by the enemy against our new positions in the Givenchy sector was repulsed."

"On the remainder of the front there is nothing of special interest to report."

POZIERES TAKEN.
Pozieres, to the north of Albert, fell this morning. British patrols were seen entering Martinpuich, where apparently the Boche made good his escape.

High Wood, a strong position near Longueval (northwest of Comblès), is reported captured, while Eaucourt L'Abbaye, Contalmaison, and Courcellette have been occupied by the British.

Sapignies is completely in British hands after hard fighting. At last reports a local battle within the big battle was being fought at Mory and its environs, where the lines run thru the town.

AWAY PAST ST. LEGER.
St. Leger was captured and left far behind. After having once been reported in Croisilles, the British withdrew to the outskirts. The Germans counter-attacked heavily and the British retired to the edge of the town and poured shells into the place, while pressing forward on the sides.

This practice of withdrawing from any place where heavy counter-attacks are being delivered, then shelling the area and driving past to the north and south, eventually getting into a position somewhere near the rear, has given wonderful results, not only in saving British troops, but in netting large numbers of German prisoners or in killing Germans.

At Neuville-Vitasse and almost up to the Scarpe, the line at last reports received at headquarters, ran thru the outskirts of the village and severe fighting was in progress there.

ROAD ATTACKED.
The Bapaume-Peronne road was attacked by British armored cars, which during the past 24 hours have been performing wonderful service, scouting far ahead of the infantry. Some of them have dashed thru the country, overtaking retreating enemy transport columns and inflicting terrific damage upon them and bodies of troops with their machine guns.

Co-operating with the armored cars, the tanks again have been heavily in action, some of them rolling into towns in advance of the infantry, sweeping over the debris and finishing off enemy strong points in the face of a perfect deluge of fire.

"KAMERAD" TO TANKS.
Many tanks have returned to their lines with all the paint shot off their steel sides by machine gun bullets. At some points the Germans approached the tanks as soon as they saw them, with hands high above their heads, fearfully shouting "kamerad."

When Thiepval Ridge fell into British hands yesterday, the troops pressed forward at both sides, and a large number of Germans

There was quite a violent bombardment in the region of Beauvergne. Between the Ailette and the Oise French troops increased their progress east of Bagnaux (northwest of Soissons).

"On the right bank of the Meuse and in the Woivre our patrols took prisoners of which a number belonged to Austro-Hungarian units."

The American troops in the Fismes sector have advanced as far north as the Soissons-Rheims road, according to the war office announcement last night. The statement says:

"Between the Ailette and the Aisne we have made progress east of Crecy-aux-Monts and taken about 100 prisoners."

"West of Fismes the American troops have carried their line as far as the Soissons-Rheims road on a front of about 800 metres."

"On Friday nine German airplanes were brought down or put out of action and a captive balloon was burned. The same day our bombing planes dropped 15,300 kilos of projectiles and fired several thousand cartridges in the region of Anizy-le-Chateau, Brancourt, Landricourt and Mortier Forest, where aerial observers had signalled important enemy reserves and convoys."

"North of Roye an enemy raid obtained no results other than to leave a score of prisoners in our hands."

"The German front line in this region continues to be heavily shell-

crushed by our artillery."

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FROM ARRAS TO SOMME GERMANS ARE DRIVEN BACK

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans have brought up strong reinforcements on both wings of the battlefield, the British and French forces everywhere have beaten off the enemy and continued their vigorous progress.

Many additional towns have been captured by Field Marshal Haig's men in the north, which the French have successfully overcome obstacles placed in their way and reached territory north of Soissons, which adds territory to the danger of the Germans in the Noyon sector and to their line running eastward from Soissons to Rheims.

All along the front from Arras to the Somme, the Germans are gradually being driven back to the old Hindenburg line by the British. Along the Somme the enemy is being harassed well to the east of Bray, while farther north strong counter-attacks have been repulsed and the Town of Mametz, the Mametz wood, Martinpuich, Le Sars and Le Barque have been captured.

Are Surrounding Bapaume.
It is around Bapaume that the Germans are keeping up their strongest

efforts to hold back the tide that is surging against them, but the British are continuing to make slight gains daily in the process of surrounding the town, which seemingly soon must be evacuated. The taking of Le Sars and Le Barque appears to be a forerunner of this eventually. Le Barque is only 2 1/2 miles southwest of Bapaume.

Everywhere, except directly south of Bapaume, the British are well across the Bapaume-Albert road, and north of the town they are fast pressing forward toward the Hindenburg line. Unofficial reports have placed the British in the outskirts of Bullecourt, which is just west of the old line.

Since last Wednesday the British have taken more than 17,000 prisoners, and large numbers of guns and great quantities of supplies also have fallen into their hands. Some of the prisoners taken have been identified as coming from Austro-Hungarian units.

Resisting Desperately.
The Germans are launching strong counter-attacks against the French between the Oise and Ailette Rivers in an endeavor to hold back General Mangin's army, which is threatening the entire German front in this region. Here also the Germans have been reinforced by troops from the

dual monarchy. North of Soissons, in the region of Bagnaux, the French have made further progress eastward and now are abreast the railroad line running from Soissons to Laon. A considerable number of additional prisoners have fallen into French hands.

As yet there has been no movement by the Germans along the Vesle River to indicate that a retirement toward the Aisne is in immediate prospect. The Americans and French in this region continue to heavily shell the enemy's back areas.

OPENING UP NEW LADIES' SUIT AND DRESS DEPARTMENT AT DINEEN'S.

Dineen has included in their already large business a new department for high-class Coats, Suits and Skirts for Women. It has been the aim of the company to make this decidedly exclusive in the quality and model of the costumes they sell. Every suit shown was made specially for the firm from advance designs, and the fact that the department is opened only a short time should carry with it the suggestion that everything is positively new. While the goods offered are of the most modern design, they are not high priced. Blouses, Sweater Coats, Millinery, Hosiery and Furs as well.

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