

Germans on British Front Withdraw Between Montdidier and Moreuil, a Distance of Ten Miles

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FAIR AND WARMER

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Allies Still Gaining! U-Boat Sinks 4 Ships

THE ENEMY RETREAT REACHES A POINT WELL BEHIND VESLE

Germans, Supported By Their Artillery Are Attempting To Take Breath and Organize At Least Temporary Resistance To the Victorious Allied Advances — Crown Prince's Army Hard Hit—Many Germans Fight To the Death.

Important Town of Fismes and Other Places Set on Fire By Retreating Invaders Who in Backward Progress Turn Occasionally Like Beaten Beasts and Show Their Fangs.

Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.
(By Wilbur Forrest).

With the American Forces in the field, Sunday, Aug. 4—Lined up behind the deep, swift waters of the River Vesle, the Germans, supported by their artillery, are trying to take breath and organize at least a temporary resistance to the victorious Allied advances.

That the divisions of the imperial Crown Prince have been harder hit and more severely punished than conservative estimates first noted is shown not only by the almost precipitate retreat, but also by the vast stores of ammunition abandoned. Here and there, on the most favorable positions they stopped to fight rearguard actions Friday and Saturday. Many groups fought to the death.

Following on the heels of the swiftly moving American divisions throughout Saturday I saw open warfare in all its kaleidoscopic changes.

Show Their Fangs.

Through woods, over hills, down valleys, into wrecked villages, across the creek-like Ourcq and on almost to Fismes on the Vesle, I was able to follow the steady trench of the Franco-American pressure on the beaten fighting beasts who stopped to show their fangs occasionally and then ran.

Everywhere they had turned on their haunches. They had left their bloody, gruesome toll of men still lay there as I passed, a mixture of what a few hours before was youthful vigor and mature manhood, possibly the best that the Crown Prince could leave behind in an attempt to slow down the irrefutable progress of the doughboys and the pollus.

Machine Gun Nests.

Murderous machine gun nests caded where an ambush was most murderously possible remained in the wake of the enemy's retreat for the Americans have learnt the art of dealing with this most favorite method of the enemy's fighting. At one point six battered maxims were found together where they had enfiladed a hill top a hundred yards away. Scattered about them lay the men who had served them.

The Germans have been hit hard not only at the beginning of their disastrous "peace" offensive, but throughout the entire retreat which followed the material allied counter attacks beginning July 15 between the Aisne and the Marne.

Bayonet Clash.

It has been seldom in this war of the most modern weapons that men have been close enough to make extensive use of the bayonet, but I saw a small stone quarry 400 yards east of Bellevue Farm, near Clergues, late yesterday where a group of sturdy Germans elected to have it thus. The quarry denoted the slope of Hill 230 forming the main defences of this important elevation from the top of which the northern horizon is a line of gently sloping hills to the Vesle, immediately under which are the towns of Bazoches and Fismes.

By a flanking movement the American line in short rushes reached the quarry. Here it was a bayonet fight of the hottest kind. A detailed account of the gruesomeness of the scene would be repugnant; it is sufficient to say that about seventy enemy dead, some piled three deep, remained behind the American line and any further defense of Hill 230 was abandoned. In the great retreat to the Marne in 1914 Hill 230 defended by pollus, held the enemy hordes back three days, inflicting an estimated loss of 1,500 men.

Burning of Fismes.

From the hill top late yesterday black smoke ascended skyward in the direction of Fismes and Bazoches, showing that the enemy with the same vandalism with which he had destroyed the priceless Stremli church at Rheims on Wednesday was burning all of the towns that he could burn. French buildings are mostly of stone, but once burned out, the walls are useless. The smaller columns of blue smoke which were nearer, were the still smoking villages through which the Americans, sandwiched in the centre by the pollus on either side, had already advanced.

Muffled explosions told the story of the enemy's ammunition dumps which he was unable to save. All along the trail of the American advance today I saw enough abandoned German shells of gas and high explosives to gas the greater portion of New York City, then wreck it.

PTE. BREEN GASSED

Special to The Standard.
Moss Glen, Aug. 4.—A. G. Breen, of Moss Glen, has received word that his son, Private Roy P. Breen, was admitted to No. 14 general hospital on July 25 suffering from gas. Private Breen crossed overseas with the 236th battalion.

CAMP SUSSEX OBSERVES DAY

Lieut.-Col. McAvity Makes Inspiring Address — Chaplains Speak At Services.

Camp Sussex, Aug. 4.—The fourth anniversary of Great Britain's entrance into the war was fittingly observed at Camp Sussex today. Divine service for Protestants was conducted by Capt. R. H. H. Duteel, chaplain, the address being delivered by Capt. R. Bensen, senior chaplain, on the subject "The Empire and Democracy."

In the service for Roman Catholics Capt. H. L. Belliveau, R. C. chaplain, speaking in both English and French, impressed upon the minds of the men the righteousness of the Empire's cause and a soldier's opportunity and duty in the fight for freedom. At both services special prayers were offered for the King, the Allies, our soldiers and sailors, and for all who have suffered in the war.

Col. McAvity Speaks.

The services were brought to a climax by the timely and appropriate utterances of Lieut.-Col. J. L. McAvity, camp commandant, whose services at the front permits him to speak upon the war from a standpoint, not merely academic.

His subject was, "Der Tag." "This is the fourth anniversary of 'The Day' said the Colonel, 'the boasted day of Germany's dreams of world supremacy—the day when made subject to brute force the nations of the world would render homage to Prussian despotism. Britain went to war against her will to uphold the integrity of small nations, the sanctity of treaty obligations, and the inviolate supremacy of justice. To you, men, is vouchsafed the privilege of sharing in the glory of self-sacrifice and service, and of maintaining the high standard of efficiency set by those who went before from the fair shores of this Dominion. Attack with zeal your present duties, give obedience to your officers and N. C. Os; follow out the instructions of your spiritual advisers and go forth to do your best to beat the Hun."

The services were concluded by three lusty cheers for the King, led by Col. McAvity, and the singing of the National Anthem.

At 8:30 p. m. a thanksgiving service was held in the Y. M. C. A. hut on the camp grounds.

AUTOMOBILE IN A BARBER SHOP

St. Stephen Car Runs Amuck and Numerous Persons Have Close Shave.

St. Stephen, Aug. 4.—While driving down Water street, in his car Saturday evening Aubrey Johnson, a member of the pharmaceutical board of the province, experienced trouble with his steering gear, also with the brake of his auto at the same time. Vehicles and people in that street experienced much difficulty in getting out of danger.

When all was over Mr. Johnson found himself well inside the barber shop of Casey Bros., his car badly demolished, having crashed through a large glass window in front of the shop.

Very fortunately everybody in close proximity escaped injuries.

French Forces Capture The Important Town of Fismes, Hun Storehouse

Paris, Aug. 4.—The town of Fismes, Germany's great storehouse on the Aisne-Marne battlefront, has been taken by the French and American troops, according to the French official communication issued this evening. The French also have crossed the Vesle at several points.

The text of the communication follows: "During the day we reached the Vesle to the east of Fismes. The enemy's rearguard opposed spirited resistance, especially between Muizon and Champigny. Our light elements succeeded in taking a footing on the north bank of the river in several places.

"Fismes is in our possession. "Northwest of Rheims we have won ground up to the village of La Neuville, which the enemy is defending with great energy.

"On the left bank of the Avre between Castel and Meuil St. Georges the Germans were forced to abandon a part of their positions. We have occupied Braches and penetrated into Hargicourt. We have also advanced our line to the outskirts of Courtemanche. We took prisoners.

"Belgian communication, Aug. 4.—Our patrols brought in some prisoners in the region of Kippe and near Dreibank.

"Aviation—Second Lieutenant Coppens of the aviation service, on August 3 downed in flames a captive balloon near Zonnebeker. This was his twenty-second victory.

"Eastern theatre, Aug. 3.—There has been enemy artillery activity at the mouth of the Struma and to the east of the Vardar and artillery fighting and patrol encounters in the sector south of Huma and before the Serbian front.

"In Albania there have been patrol encounters."

BRITISH RECAPTURE CONSIDERABLE LAND WEST OF THE ANCRE

Both Occurrences May Mark Beginning of Another "Strategic Retreat" Which May Have Been Planned To Forestall a British Attack, Which London Dispatches Indicated Was Imminent.

London, Aug. 4.—On the British front the Germans have withdrawn between Montdidier and Moreuil, a distance of ten miles. The French hold the slopes down to the western side of the Avre river.

The situation around Albert is somewhat obscure, but the British have been closely following the enemy and it is probable that the Germans have by now evacuated the eastern bank of the Ancre. The villages of Hamel and Dernancourt are in the possession of the Allies.

The situation is generally considered highly satisfactory and the indications seem plain that the Germans do not intend, further south, to make a permanent stand on the banks of the Aisne but that they will retreat to the Chemin Des Dames ridge, which is one of the strongest positions in France and for the moment will try to hold the French while getting away with their great accumulation of stores and munitions.

The Allies captured the Chemin Des Dames once and may do so again.

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THREE FISHERMEN SENT TO BOTTOM OFF SEAL ISLAND

German Submarine Commanders Blows Up Three Schooners Saturday and Claims He Sank Six Other Vessels on Day Previous — Crews of Sunken Craft All Saved.

Many Nova Scotians in Crews of American Fishing Vessels Submerged — Men All At Nova Scotia Ports Down the Bay—U-Boat a Large One.

There were further developments Saturday in the activities of German U-boats, which have been continuing for four days, when three fishing schooners bound from Boston to the Banks were blown up and sunk forty miles west of Seal Island. These schooners were the Muriel, the Rob Roy, and the Annie M. Perry. Their crews, set adrift in dories, all managed to reach the Nova Scotia coast, and are at present in Yarmouth. The submarine lay in sight off Seal Island until Sunday morning when it submerged.

This triple sinking follows immediately after the burning of the Dornfontein of St. John on Friday afternoon by probably the same submarine, which seems to direct its attention to the destruction of the smaller vessels.

Sighted U-Boat.

The Muriel, with Captain Eldredge Goodman, left Gloucester on Friday for the banks. Saturday shortly before noon, when she was lying forty miles west of Seal Island, the submarine was sighted four miles off. Two warning shots were fired across her stern, and she was holed to. Half an hour later the submarine came within a hundred yards of the schooner, and ordered the crew into the dories; some of them were taken aboard the submarine. Its captain sent several orders to the Muriel, who placed a bomb amidships underneath her keel. Fifteen minutes later, there was only wreckage floating upon the water.

The crew of the Muriel were placed in their boats and reached Yarmouth shortly after daylight. Thirteen of their number belonged to towns along the southern shore of Nova Scotia.

Got Another.

At three o'clock of the same afternoon, the submarine ran down the Annie M. Perry, Captain James Goodman, and blew her up in the same way as the Muriel. The crew took to their dories, and reached Woods' Harbor, N. S.

Two hours later the U-boat, at a distance of five miles, fired a warning shot across the bows of the Rob Roy, Captain Freeman Crowell. When the enemy craft drew near, the crew of the Rob Roy were told to hurry into their boats. Then their vessel was blown up. About eleven of them spent the night on Seal Island, the remainder reached Clark's Harbor. They are all in Yarmouth at present.

According to the men, the submarine is 200 feet long. It is neat and clean, painted black along the top. It is equipped with four guns, two fore, two aft. As it lay off Seal Island it was brilliantly illuminated by a light which seemed to be suspended from the mast-head.

The captain boasted of his accomplishments to the crew of the Muriel. He said that on Friday he had sunk six schooners, and that he had orders to destroy all that he met. The direction which the submarine took on leaving Seal Island, could not be ascertained.

MONCTON BEER HAD SOME KICK TO IT

Eight Convictions For Selling Beer Found Overproof in St. John.

Special to The Standard

Moncton, Aug. 4.—Eight convictions in the police court Saturday for selling beer stronger than two per cent, created consternation among Moncton beer sellers recently granted licenses to sell under the Prohibition Act. Recently inspector Belliveau collected a dozen samples of beer from different parties, sending them to Provincial Analyst Paddock of St. John, who reported nine samples over proof. Six of the parties summoned were fined on hop beer and two for spruce beer, nearly all home manufactures.

A fine of \$52.35 was imposed in each case, netting a total of \$400 for provincial revenue. It is the intention of the inspector for Westmorland to procure samples sold in different parts of the county for analysis.

A BOY THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN DROWNED

Moncton Lad Missing At Little River, Near Buctouche.

Special to The Standard

Buctouche, Aug. 4.—Henry Nowlan, eight year old son of Thomas Nowlan, of Moncton, is missing from his parents' summer home at Little River. It is almost certain he has been drowned. The boy was last seen Friday evening on the Little River highway bridge, and as no trace of him can be found it is supposed he fell off the bridge.