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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1918

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

French Have Captured Noyon

One of Heaviest of The Recent Blows to Huns

Had Planned to Hold Noyon as Southern Pivot of Line—Humbert Occupied It This Morning and Mangin Crossed Oise and Seized Morlancourt—Quesnoy Wood Also Captured

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, AUG. 29.—(BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 10 A.M.)—NOYON WAS OCCUPIED THIS MORNING BY THE TROOPS OF GENERAL HUMBERT. GENERAL MANGIN'S MEN ACROSSED THE OISE RIVER AND TOOK MORLANCOURT. THE FRENCH FIRST ARMY TOOK QUESNOY WOOD, JUST TO THE WEST OF THE CANAL DU NORD. THE WOOD WAS STRONGLY FORTIFIED, AND FROM IT THE GERMANS ENDEAVORED TO CHECK THE FRENCH PURSUIT.

The fall of Noyon comes as a heavy blow to the Germans, who were thought during the early days of the Ploisy offensive to be planning to hold Noyon as the southern pivot of their line, which runs northward along the old battlefield of 1916.

Noyon is situated on the right bank of the Oise River at the confluence of that stream and the little river Verse. To the south and east there are large areas of flat low-lands along the Oise, while to the north is a winding valley. To the southwest are Mount Renaud and Lassigny Massif, which dominate the whole region. To the northeast a range of high hills juts out into the valley.

Noyon is also an important railway and highway centre. With the French Army in France, Aug. 28.—(Reuter's)—The Germans in setting left large quantities of munitions behind them, especially in Roye. The French are approaching the canal at Bethancourt, Cresay, Ognolles and Neuville.

General Humbert's army, resuming its advance today, reached Vauchelles, two miles from Noyon, the fall of which is imminent.

French Headquarters in France, Aug. 28.—(Reuter's)—The Germans are putting up a bitter fight for possession of Noyon and have strong entrenched machine gun positions on the southern and western outskirts. The French successfully outflanked Porquerencourt Mountain, west of Noyon.

General Humbert's army has crossed the Roye-Noyon road near Sermains, two miles north of Noyon, but the Germans are energetically defending the hills to the east.

BIG GUNS BOOM ON SOMME.
Paris, Aug. 29.—Violent artillery engagements along the Somme front are reported in the official statement issued by the war office today.

FIFTY VILLAGES IN TWO DAYS.
Paris, Aug. 28.—(Havas Agency)—The number of German prisoners captured by the French in their advance west of the Chalnes-Noyon line has been comparatively small, as the French have been obliged to move cautiously. The Germans left mines at various places and had scattered infernal machines and traps of various kinds. The war material taken, however, has been considerable.

In forty-eight hours the Allied advance has liberated more than fifty villages. Germans Cannot Stay on Oise.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 28.—(By the Associated Press)—The rapidly succeeding military events not only confirm that the Germans have lost all control of their operations in the region of the Somme, Aves and Oise rivers, but they indicate that the enemy's own retreat is getting out of hand.

The effort to stem the French pursuit by fighting rear guard actions with machine gun sections, leaving a section at intervals of about 400 yards, was only locally successful. On ground especially favorable for that sort of resistance, such as the terrain around Roye, it gained some time for the enemy, enabling him to move a great many guns and a considerable part of his material behind the Canal du Nord, and north of Noyon.

But once this system of fighting was mastered, the strength of the German rear guard dwindled to almost nothing. The Germans, hustled violently by the French advance guard, were obliged to risk an engagement with important forces or to quicken their retreat. They adopted the latter alternative yesterday morning they have been making all possible haste on the road leading to Saint Quentin, La Fere and the Hindenburg line. The strong position of Quesnoy Wood, just west of the Canal du Nord, from where the Germans tried by means of the heavy fire of all calibres of artillery to check the French troops advancing on both sides of the Roye-Noyon road, was captured this morning.

On the left the British east of Arras has overrun the powerful defences which have encircled Arras, and are getting dangerously near the formidable positions prepared several years ago to protect Douai and Cambrai. These towns are important railway centres and vital to the German position so that a fierce struggle will be looked for before the Allies reach them.

Immediate interest in the battle is in the operations on the wings. General Mangin is fighting hard on the right in the region of Juvigny and Chavigny. The terrain is difficult there because Juvigny is level with Lauffaux and the Chemin des Dames. Also the German seventh army still clings to the line of the Vesle.

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Pressure from General Humbert's third army from the west and from General Mangin's men who crossed the River Oise from the south and took Morlancourt this morning while other French troops were entering Noyon, adds greatly to the difficulties of the enemy. The increased danger from these directions will oblige the Germans to make further sacrifices in order to save General Von Hutier's army from disaster.

The Somme line having been rendered difficult for the Germans by the rapidity of the Entente Allied pursuit there is now a question, with the French troops ready to cross the Somme at the enemy's heels, where he will be able to make a further stand.

Washington, Aug. 28.—(Havas)—It is reported here that the Spanish steamer *Cruza* has been sunk by a German submarine. Newspapers consider that this event will bring to a crisis the relations between Spain and Germany.

Available marine records fail to show a Spanish ship by the name of *Cruza*.

CAVALRY AND INFANTRY ARE OUT AFTER DRAFT DEFAULTERS
Winnipeg, Aug. 29.—Draft defaulters in the White Mouth district have been offering armed resistance to the military police. A party of soldiers, cavalry and infantry, left on Saturday to round them up.

Dempsey a Shipbuilder.
Philadelphia, Aug. 29.—Jack Dempsey, heavy weight pugilist, today joined the army of shipbuilders in the Philadelphia district.

SPANISH SHIP SUNK; THIS MAY BRING A CRISIS WITH GERMANY
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Washington, Aug. 28.—Developments on the western battlefield during the next forty-eight hours should determine the fate of the much-vaunted "Hindenburg line" in the opinion of some military officials here. With the strength of the flank and even more telling blows threatened by the steady advance of the French through Neule toward the Somme and by the British east of Arras, observers here believe that the scheme of defence, popularly held in Germany to be the bulwark of the western front is in a fair way to become untenable before the main Tenthon forces have been driven back to it.

JUST WAITING TILL HE REALLY CATCHES ME.



GETTING OUT OF HAND EVEN IN THEIR RETREAT

Rear-Guard Actions Not Proving Successful

ALL POSSIBLE HASTE TO GET AWAY

Today's Captures Add Greatly to Enemy Difficulties—Further Sacrifices Necessary to Save Von Hutier's Army

With the French Armies in the Field, Aug. 29.—(By the Associated Press)—The rapidly succeeding military events not only confirm that the Germans have lost all control of their operations in the region of the Somme, Aves and Oise rivers, but they indicate that the enemy's own retreat is getting out of hand.

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TWO THIRDS OF GROUND LOST BY US SINCE MARCH HAS BEEN RECOVERED

Chief Interest Now in Fighting on Wings

Mangin Has Hard Battle at Juvigny and Chavigny—British Dangerously Near Formidable Positions Around Douai and Cambrai

Paris, Aug. 29.—The Allies have won back more than two-thirds of the ground lost since the beginning of the German offensive in March. It was wrung from them by an overwhelming force and they have regained it by the brilliant generalship of their leaders and the skillful manoeuvring of their troops.

The working out of Marshal Foch's strategy, according to opinion here, shows that every movement in each section of the long battle line has been carefully thought out in its relation to the whole. Thus, the British advance toward Peronne on August 29 had its immediate effect on the sections farther south, and for a second time General Von Hutier was in danger of being caught in a trap if he hung on another instant. As a result, he was obliged to abandon Roye and Neule and retire behind the Somme with the French close at his heels.

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GINCHY SAID TO HAVE FALLEN TO THE BRITISH

Haig's Men Win Place Two Miles Beyond Combles—Counter Attacks Astride the Scarpe as Elsewhere Fail—British Captures Total 26,000 Prisoners, More Than 100 Guns Since August 21

With the British Forces in France, Aug. 29.—(By the Associated Press)—Ginchy, about two miles northwest of Combles is reported to have been captured by Field Marshal Haig's troops this morning.

A GENERAL ADVANCE.
British troops also captured Belloy, Ashevillers, Perbecourt and Feuilleres. All these towns are within five miles of Peronne.

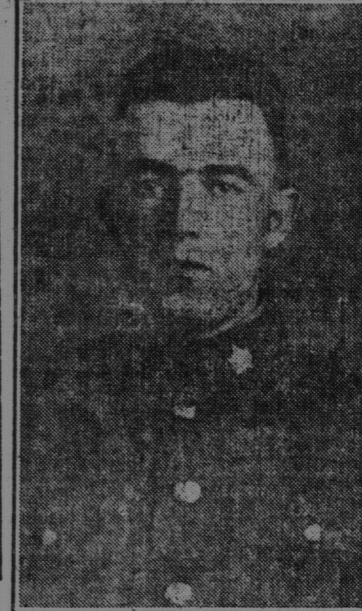
Launching new local attacks and following up the advantage gained yesterday the British today moved forward along a large part of their battle front, BRITISH PRESSING ON.

London, Aug. 29.—German counter-attacks east and southeast of Viz-en-Artois, east of Boiry and in the vicinity of Gavrelle, villages to the east of Arras, have been repulsed, according to the official statement issued at the war office today.

South of the Somme, British forces are keeping up their pressure against the enemy and are advancing eastward. Since Aug. 11, the British have taken 26,000 prisoners and 100 guns.

Australians' Success.
British Headquarters in France, Aug. 29.—(Tuesday evening, C. P. despatch from Reuter's)—Heavy and continuous all-day fire is reported about Marcourt, thus indicating co-operation of the air forces with infantry movements. Yesterday the Australians advanced to Fontain-le-Capuy, which only a few days ago was a German divisional headquarters. This morning some Australians were reported six miles from Peronne.

LIKE BROTHER, HE GAVE LIFE IN WAR



This is a picture of Pte. John R. Gabriel, killed in action. He was a son of Mrs. Edith Gabriel of Rock street, who already had to mourn the loss of a son, Robert, killed in the crater fight of the 26th, early in the war.

DON'T WORRY MUCH IN HALIFAX ABOUT CITY GOVERNMENT

Only 931 Voters Go to Polls on Matter of Change of System

Halifax, N. S., Aug. 29.—A plebiscite as to the form of civic government which the citizens of Halifax prefer was held yesterday. Only 931 voters went to the polls and as the law required that at least one-third of the electorate or 7,800 persons should vote, there will be no change in the form of administration.

The count of the plebiscite was fifty-five votes for the present board of control system, 654 for the former aldermanic system, and 116 for a commission government.

MORE FIRING FROM MEXICAN SIDE OF INTERNATIONAL LINE

Nogales, Ariz., Aug. 29.—Firing was resumed about 9:55 o'clock last night. Between fifteen and twenty shots were fired from the Mexican side of the border.

A general alarm was sounded on the Arizona side of the line and the mobilization of troops and civilians followed immediately. American forces here were increased this afternoon by the arrival of new units.

WELCOMES ARRIVAL OF GOMPERS IN ENGLAND

London, Aug. 29.—The arrival of Samuel Gompers in England is an event of considerable importance, says the Morning Post.

"No international socialist movement exclusive of or antagonistic to American organized labor can hope to prevail," says the Post, "and Mr. Gompers may be the destined instrument of not the least service America has rendered the Allied cause. He arrives at a decidedly good moment, for the peace-by-negotiation internationalists have, like the Germans, over-reached themselves and are on the run."

BUMPER POTATO CROP IN MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Aug. 29.—That the potato crop of Manitoba for 1918 will be more than 10,000,000 bushels was the estimate made yesterday by Prof. Bedford of the department of agriculture. This is by far the largest crop the province has ever produced.

BELL 'PHONE GIRLS IN UNION; APPLY FOR CONCILIATION BOARD.
Toronto, Aug. 29.—An application for a board of conciliation will be made by the girls of the Bell Telephone Company who have formed themselves into a trades union. There are now, it is said, 850 paid-up members in the organization.

INFANTRY.
J. R. Boyle, Dartmouth; J. T. Burke, Dominion No. 1, N. S.; E. P. Maloney, New Aberdeen, N. S.; G. B. Carr, Fall River, N. S.; C. S. Clarke, New Salem, N. S.
Died of Wounds.
F. Armstrong, Perth, N. B.; J. Power, New Waterford, N. S.