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SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 31 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,807 TWO CENTS

# BAILLEUL AND COMBLES FALL CANADIANS ADVANCE A MILE

## British Advance Three Miles East of Bapaume, Inflicting Terrible Losses on the Enemy ---French Gains Give Germans Only One More Position to Fall Back on West of the Hindenburg Line, Which Has Been Rendered Far From a Safe Refuge.

### BAILLEUL AND OTHER TOWNS TAKEN IN ALLIED ADVANCE

#### British Everywhere Are Pressing Along the Highways, Carrying the Germans With Them, and Are Only a Step Away From One of the Enemy's Strongest Fortified Positions.

There has been no abatement in the strength of the offensive which the British, French and American troops are throwing against the German armies from Arras to the region of Soissons. And as yet there is no indication that it is the purpose of the seemingly demoralized enemy to turn about and face their aggressors or to offer more resistance for the present than thru the activities of strong rear-guards.

Not alone have the allied troops all over the battlefield from Arras to Soissons gained further important terrain, but to the north the British have advanced their line materially in the famous Lys sector—and apparently without much effort on the part of the foe to restrain them. Of greater significance than any of the other victories achieved in Friday's fighting is the gain of the French, with whom Americans are brigaded in this general sector, north of Soissons.

The latest French official communication records the capture by the French here of Chavigny, three miles

northwest and Cuffies a mile and a half north of Soissons, and the entry into the outskirts of Crouy, a short distance to the northeast.

These victories, gained only after the hardest kind of fighting, make more secure the allied line running northward and outflanking the Aisne on the Chemin des Dames positions. Also betttering this general situation has been the crossing by the French of the Ailette River at Champs.

In the region north of Noyon the French have made further progress, crossing the Canal du Nord at several places and advancing interally in the direction of the Noyon-Ham railroad line. All around Noyon the French have strengthened their positions.

All the territory on the north and west banks of the Somme, where the British have been operating against the Germans, has been cleared of the enemy, and south of Peronne, on the east bank of the stream, notwithstanding the destruction of the bridges by the Germans.

To the north the British almost everywhere are pressing eastward along the highways, carrying the Germans before them, notwithstanding the desperate resistance that is everywhere offered by machine guns, German infantry and infantry units. Combes is now in British hands and east of Bapaume Field-Marshal Haig's men are working along the Bapaume-

Cambrai road towards Lebuquier. To the north of this region Bailleulcourt and Hendeucourt, on the Hindenburg line, both were captured, but the Germans, in a violent counter-attack, forced back the British to their western outskirts, where at last accounts they occupied an old German trench system. The Germans were being held.

Northeast of Arras the British now are only a step away from the famous Drocourt-Queant switch line, one of the strongest of the enemy's fortified positions, which is said to be filled with forces who intend tenaciously to dispute its capture.

Southwest of Ypres, in the Lys salient, the Germans have again begun withdrawing, and are being closely followed by the British. The British again are holding the important town of Bailleul in this sector. The withdrawal of the Germans seemingly indicates that it is their purpose to blot out this salient and straighten their line toward Ypres. It is a move, however, that is greatly lessening the chance of drive during the present year toward the channel ports from this region.

There has been a considerable increase in the enemy's artillery activity against the American troops in the Voignes region. Several patrol attacks by the Germans have been stopped by the Americans.

### HINDENBURG LINE LESS THAN SAFE

#### Germans Have Only One Other Defensive Position to Occupy.

#### PRESSURE GOES ON Capture of St. Simeon Peak Forces Rapid Retreat.

With the French Army in France, Aug. 30.—This evening there remains to the Germans no other position to fall back upon west of the Hindenburg line than a line running from Ham to Benaucourt. The third army, containing the progress of the early morning in the region of Noyon, has occupied Mont St. Simeon, while the Canal du Nord was crossed at Chavigny. The extent of these gains in territory is insignificant, but strategically they are of great importance. The loss of Mont St. Simeon means the loss to the Germans of the main defence point of the salient extending from the canal to the Aisne, while the French crossing of the Canal du Nord obliges the retreating forces to quicken their flight or suffer their losses.

The violent reaction effected north of Soissons by picked German divisions, apparently was intended not only to check the advance of the allied troops over the plateau towards the Chemin des Dames, but to force Marshal Foch to detach troops from other operations and ease the trying situation of the retreating German forces. Today's developments prove that the latter object is no more likely to be attained than the other one. The French pressure goes on with continued success and even the Hindenburg line, the supreme reliance of the Germans, appears this evening far less than a safe refuge.

### GERMANS ALL DRIVEN BEHIND LINE OF SOMME

#### British Guns From Peronne Southward Fire Rain of Shells Across River—Fierce Battle Rages Along Peronne Road— Fighting Proceeds Fiercely Towards Cambrai.

#### THE DAY OF VENGEANCE

If things keep on the way they are going at the front, the first thing we know we'll all be cheering, and the German army will be one everlasting smash-up and an ignominious surrender.

The Hunns are too slow and heavy and stupid for the mess in which they find themselves; the allies are on them and after them like hornets, and every hornet with a sting, or like hunting dogs long held on the leash and now ready to spring on the prey.

And if ever an avenging army had just cause to destroy and kill a horde of murderers it is, on the Hindenburg line today. The Hunns deserve it and they are going to get it. They are entitled to nothing but bayonet and machine gun treatment, and the shells of the great guns of wrath and reprisal.

Go to it, oh you British and French and Americans, and give them a double helping of what they hoped to give you. Give it to them in daylight and in darkness, in rain and sunshine, till they lie in swollen heaps on the soil they went out to pollute with the bodies of those who owned it and loved it. The Day of Vengeance and a Day of British Cheers may be at our doors!

With the British Forces in France, Aug. 30.—It is reported that Bailleul, on the northern side of the Lys salient, has been evacuated by the Germans, and that the British are either entering the town or may soon occupy it.

All the country south and west of the River Somme is now free of the enemy.

Longatte and Ecoust-St. Mein, southwest of Bailleul, are reported to have been captured today by the British.

The fighting British armies again smashed their way forward today all along the line. There has been very heavy fighting almost everywhere between the Somme and Scarpe Rivers, and under the force of repeated blows, delivered with machine gunlike precision, the foe has been forced to abandon many more town positions and large strips of ground.

Once more the Germans have suffered terrible losses. The British have freed all the country south and west of the Somme, the last Germans being driven behind the river this morning.

Even there the enemy is not finding rest, for the British have crossed the stream at least at one place south of Lachapelle.

From Peronne southward first the British cannon and then the French guns are hurling projectiles, big and little, on the other side of the river. Just north of the Somme, after it turns to the west at Peronne, the British have captured Clercy and are pressing on towards Peronne.

Peronne Road Cut.

The Germans have been trying ever since the fall of Bapaume to hold the line running along the road between Le Transloy and Bapaume. British troops, however, actually have reached Le Transloy, directly on the road, and it is reported that Le Transloy has fallen and that a fierce battle is raging almost along the whole length of the road.

Hard fighting is going on around Beaulencourt, which is astride the road between Le Transloy and Bapaume. The Germans hold the major portion of this village for the moment, but they seem destined to be thrown out from it. A bitter struggle also is in progress at Morval, southwest of Le Transloy. The fighting appears to have reached a hand-to-hand character. And the Germans are said to have suffered from the British bayonets. Other towns in the immediate

neighborhood fell this morning or during last night.

From this locality the line of battle swings wide around Bapaume, and there has been more heavy fighting here. Bapaume, east of Bapaume, fell after being stormed.

Resistance Smothered.

Astride the road to Cambrai from Peronne, the British crashed into the Germans and smothered their resistance, sometimes again at the point and comment bitterly on the thinness of their own counter-barrages, because the German heavies are always being dragged backward to save them from capture. The German artillery apparently had little faith in the ability of the infantry to hold off the British attacks today.

As for day's past the British barbed-wire have fallen all along the front, ever moving forward, and they have come down on masses of the enemy lying in whatever shelter they could find, such as shell craters, old and new, and old fallen in trenches which crossed and recrossed this country, made barren even of grass by years of war. Rarely have the Germans had the protection of dugouts. Even when they have, going into them often meant capture, for the British infantry and tanks at nearly all times have been upon them so closely when the barrages lifted that they have had not much time to offer fight, even if they really desired to.

Large Shell Casualties.

The casualties inflicted by the British shells have been larger perhaps than ever before because the gunners, advancing closely behind the infantry, have had many opportunities on this terrain, which alternately is slightly rolling and flat, to lay on their weapons with open sights and pour a rapid fire of steel into the Boches. The artillery has materially helped to increase the number of prisoners by throwing completely out of gear all the enemy rationing arrangements.

The emptier the German stomach the more docile is its owner. Still more has the artillery helped to catch prisoners by dropping barrages behind large groups, cutting off their retreat. And all this fire has had its effect in even more ways.

Prisoners who had recently been in Peronne said they saw a great many men here whose nerves had been completely shattered. Peronne at the time was being bombed from the air almost continuously. One airplane after another was flying over in rapid succession, literally raining bombs on the Germans and inflicting heavy casualties, besides causing much material damage.

## British and French Reports

### Despite Obstinate German Defence, British Troops Take Bailleul and Other Towns; Canadians Make Successful Attack.

London, Aug. 30.—East and north of Bapaume our operations are proceeding satisfactorily, in spite of increased hostile resistance," says the official statement from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France tonight. "Hard fighting occurred on the greater part of this front and a number of heavy counter-attacks were made by the enemy." The statement continues: "Our troops entered Rencourt-les-Bapaume and Bancourt, where they have been actively engaged with the enemy thru out the day. They captured Fremicourt and Vaux-Vraucourt, taking a number of prisoners, and have reached the western outskirts of Beugny.

"At Ecoust-St. Mein the enemy is still maintaining an obstinate defence, closely pressed by our troops, who have taken a number of prisoners in this locality.

"At Bailleulcourt and Hendeucourt hostile counter-attacks, delivered with much determination by strong forces, compelled our troops to fall back to the western outskirts of these, and so a German trench system between them, where the enemy's attacks were stopped by our fire. North of these villages an attack launched this morning by Canadian troops astride the Arras-Cambrai road has been successful. The enemy defences between Hendeucourt and Maucourt have been captured, and Maucourt has been captured, together with the latter village and several hundred prisoners.

"South of Bapaume our troops have maintained vigorous pressure upon the enemy and have gained ground.

"We have made progress east and westward of Clercy, and in this sector have taken 300 prisoners.

"In the Lys sector the enemy is continuing his withdrawal, closely followed by our troops. Bailleul is again in our possession."

### How the Line Stands This Morning

London, Aug. 30.—Reuter's learns that Bailleul had been captured, also Nootboom, three miles to the south. The Hindenburg line to the south of Bailleul court has been crossed. The French south of the Somme are progressing and hold all the high ground between Leury and Soissons. They have captured Hill No. 159, immediately to the east of Chavigny. British patrols are reported close to Peronne and have reached a point immediately north of Etterpigny. They are also north of Braches. We hold Fremicourt, three miles east of Bapaume. We hold Vaux Vraucourt and Vraucourt. The Germans hold Morval, Beaulencourt, Ecoust-St. Mein. From Bailleulcourt the line runs to Hendeucourt and Naucourt, thence eastwards to Lannoy Mills eastwards to Pelyes, westwards to Frouvain. The whole of the Greenland Hill is in our hands. Bailleul, which the Germans evacuated, is in the Armentieres sector. The enemy holds Mont de Lille, southeast of Bailleul.

### Chavigny, Cuffies and Other Villages Taken by the French, Canal du Nord Crossed and Line Advanced to Outskirts of Crouy.

Paris, Aug. 30.—North of Soissons, where the Americans are fighting with the French, the villages of Chavigny and Cuffies have been captured and the allied line advanced to the west of Crouy, according to the official communication issued tonight. Northwest of Noyon the Canal du Nord has been crossed by the French at Cantigny and Beaurains.

North of the Ailette River the village of Champs has been taken by the French. The text of the communication follows: "During the day we ejected from the east bank of the Canal du Nord enemy elements that were still resisting. Cantigny and Sermize are ours.

"Pursuing our progress our troops have crossed the canal at two points, in front of Cantigny and Beaurains, and taken Chevilly and Hill 89, and penetrated Ganvry.

"More to the south stubborn fighting has been going on in the region north and east of Noyon. We hold Waplin-court and Mount St. Simeon. During these actions we have taken several hundred prisoners.

"Between the Oise and the Aisne there has been no less lively fighting.

"On the north bank of the Ailette we have conquered the village of Champs. North of Soissons we have taken Chavigny and Cuffies and advanced our line to the western outskirts of Crouy."

### CONFLANS STATION ATTACKED BY BRITISH

Two Raids Result in Obtaining Direct Hits—Thionville Also Suffers.

London, Aug. 30.—An official statement issued by the air ministry tonight on bombing and raiding operations reads:

"On the morning of Aug. 30 our machines attacked the railway station at Conflans and also a hostile airfield. Direct hits were obtained both on the hangars at the airfield and the railway station at Conflans. In the course of fighting one enemy airplane was destroyed. All our machines returned safely.

"Another attack also was carried out by one of our squadrons on the station at Thionville and Thionville. This squadron engaged a largely superior number of hostile machines. Fierce fighting ensued, in the course of which one enemy airplane was destroyed and one sent down out of control. Four of our machines are missing."

### ALL LONDON POLICE OUT.

Deputation Will Submit Strikers' Case to Lloyd George.

London, Aug. 30.—Tonight virtually all the City of London police joined the strike. At the Tower Hill meeting this evening it was decided to send a deputation to the home office at noon tomorrow to meet Premier Lloyd George or any other member of the government in order to submit the case of the strikers to him.

### NEW FALL HATS FOR MEN.

Today the Dinen Company show their new fall stock of Men's Hats. The best English makers are represented. The new styles are making a special feature of Christy & Co. London, made hats—all the new shapes and colors in stock: New greens, grays, browns, blacks and pearls. Price \$5.00 and \$6.00.

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### ATTEMPT MANY RAIDS

British Detachment Penetrates Enemy's Lines South of Asiago.

Rome, Aug. 30.—The official communication issued by the war office today says:

"In the upper Sebri valley, on the right bank of the Adigo, in Valarza, at Col Dal Rosso and in the Monte Ciappa region, enemy patrols attempted raids and surprise attacks. They were repulsed, leaving prisoners in our hands.

"A British detachment penetrated the enemy lines south of Asiago, inflicting considerable losses, and took a few prisoners. Two hostile airplanes have been brought down."

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