

SLOPE DOMINATING CROISILLES TAKEN BY BYNG'S TROOPS

British Are Now Fighting Along
Battle Line Which Extends
for More Than Forty Miles.

MEN FULL OF ENTHUSIASM

Captures Since August 8 Num-
ber Almost 50,000; Quanti-
ties of Machine Guns Taken.

With the British Army on the Ploardy
Battlefront, Aug. 26.—(L. N. S.)—A well
known German journalist included
in Saturday's paper of prisoners. He
was serving as an officer. Many battalion
commanders were taken.

By Bert Ford
With the British Army on the Ploardy
Battlefront, Aug. 26.—(L. N. S.)—British troops, sweeping
forward east and southeast of Arras, have
captured a strip of the famous Hindenburg
line, the much-touted wall of resis-
tance beyond which the Germans
boasted they would never be driven.
General Byng's men have won the slope
of the ridge skirting Hennein, and also
dominating Croisilles, southeast of
Arras.

With Sunday's advance east of
Arras, the total battle front now on
which British troops are pushing for-
ward is more than 40 miles.

The troops are full of enthusiasm
as they press forward. "We'll have the
who's-d-line, and bag Hindenburg, too,
before the drive is over," chuckled one
British Tommy this morning as he went
with his company to the attack.
Heavy showers during the night and
today were followed by a sharp electrical
storm. Sunday night the operations were
slowed up owing to the bad weather. The
thousands of tired but enthusiastic Brit-
ish troops took shelter in the cellars of
the ruined villages they had just wrested
from the Germans.

British Ardor Not Dampened
Though wet to the skin and in uncom-
fortable quarters the spirit of the troops
was not dampened. They were happy
over their victories.

The Germans are apparently rushing
up strong forces of reserves all along
the line. The artillery fire is getting
heavier, especially around Bapaume.
Prisoners taken in the Albert sector
declare they were told to hold the line
at all costs. The 83d German division
was given the same instructions at
Thiepval. They couldn't obey in the face
of the whirlwind British attack.

A great many prisoners were from
landwehr divisions, who fought in the
Loisbourg wood, were also taken prisoner.
The whole army is ringing with
praises for the gallant deeds of the 17th
British division. They swam the River
Ancre and rescued their comrades, who
had been cut off and surrounded by Ger-
mans in Loisbourg.

Captures Are Enormous
The same brisk advance and sweeping
successes marked the operations of the
British forces Sunday as on Saturday.

The total number of prisoners taken
since the Fourth British army made its
initial push on a six mile front on Au-
gust 8 is now nearing the 50,000 mark.
Six hundred officers have been seized,
together with 700 guns.

An enormous harvest of machine
guns and vast quantities of material of
all kinds have been taken during the
last two days, the exact number not
being known as yet, as the units cap-
turing them turn them on the enemy
until the ammunition is used up when
they are added to the British collection
of trophies.

The drive already is the most impor-
tant British offensive movement since
the beginning of the war. Early this
morning it was reported that British
patrols entered Bapaume, the ruined
city and important railroad and high-
road center. The captives have become
so numerous that infantry units are
complaining of their ranks being weak-
ened, owing to the necessity of furnish-
ing so many guards to lead their quarry
to its cages.

Prisoners Fear British
Infantry commanders and all hands
are extremely amused by the grievances
of the prisoners. Many of them say
that they had feared to desert and sur-
render owing to the consequences and
the penalties inflicted upon their rela-
tives.

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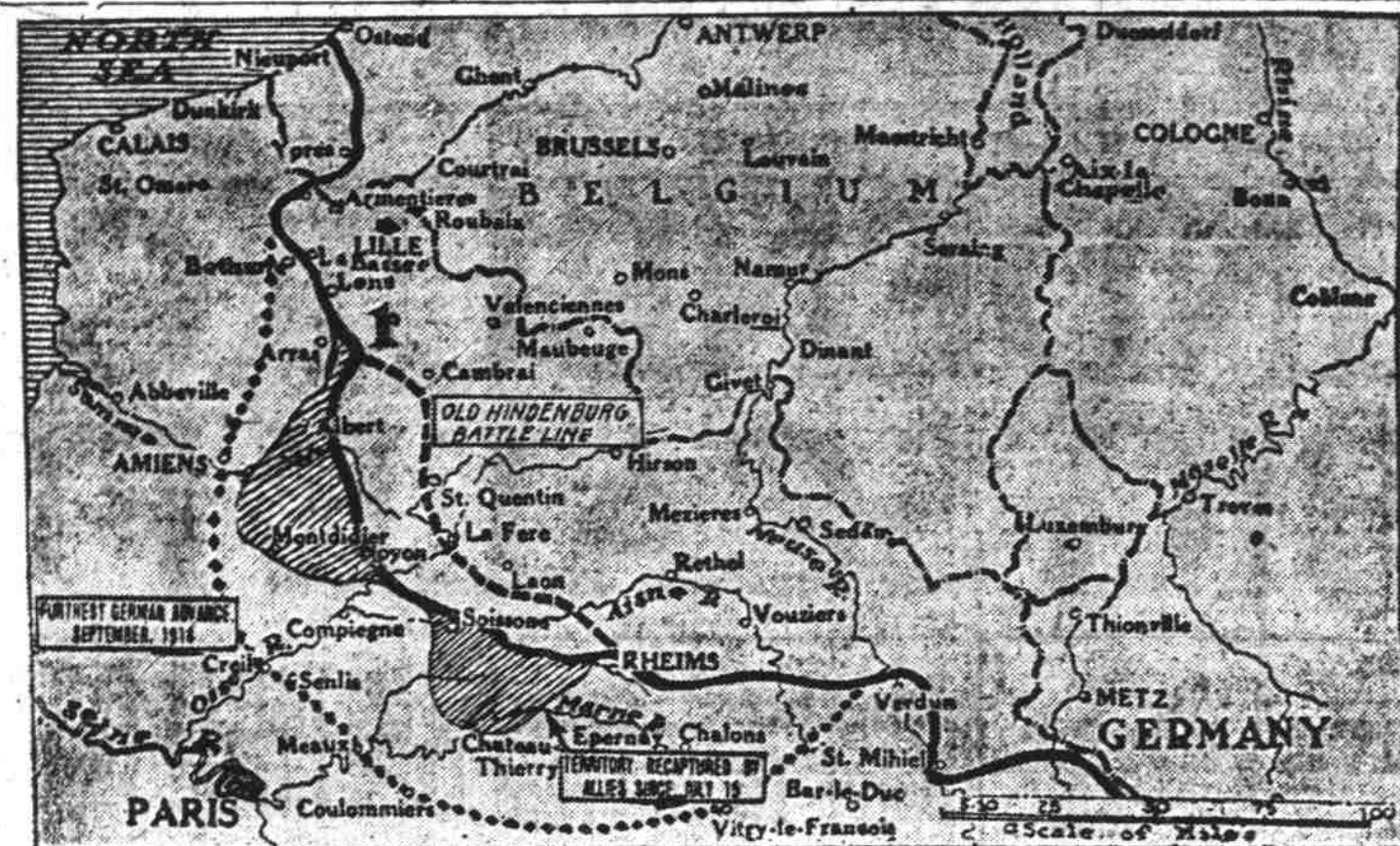
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WHERE HINDENBURG LINE IS CROSSED



The western front, with the Hindenburg line, the present battle line and the greatest advance of the Germans in 1918, all indicated. The shaded area shows the territory recaptured by the allies since July 15, both north of the Marne and on the long front from Arras to Soissons. No. 1 shows the new offensive of the British on the Scarpe river, east of Arras, where the Hindenburg line has been reached.

tives. They were also told, they de-
clared, that the British immediately shot
all their captives. They were ex-
tremely impressed upon seeing maps show-
ing the extensive advances made by
the British troops along the Somme.

British officers are confident that the
reports of recent allied successes will
reach the German populace, despite the
subterfuge of Hun war lords, chiefly
through the wounded soldiers who are
constantly being sent home.

The most important battle today
centered around the environs of Bapaume.
Aided by a strong force of tanks, the
British infantry began an enveloping
movement around Bapaume under
artillery fire of the Boches. The Ger-
mans hastily withdrew their heavy
guns, as they have been doing over the
greater part of the entire front during
the last week.

On Saturday Welsh and North Coun-
try English troops attacked with a spirit
that overcame the Boche, gaining
many miles within the day and captur-
ing Thiepval, Courcellette, Orville and
La Boisselle. On the east side of the
Ancre the Scotch aided in the manner
characteristic of the gallant British de-
tachment.

Along the old Somme battlefield,
where the British lost 100,000 men fighting
in one strip of woods in 1916, British
troops Saturday swept through with
nearly a casualty. Every man in the
British army was thrilled by the con-
trast that the capture of Thiepval,
Courcellette and Pozieres, names burned
deep in the annals of the British army,
were effected with trifling losses and
with perfect strategy. The Tommies
were able to keep right on the heels of
the fleeing Germans.

Full Moon Permits Advance
Without a let up the British forces
continued their advance during Saturday
night under a full moon. Sunday they
pushed on, carrying their lines across
the Bapaume-Albert highway, seizing
the ruined villages of Contalmaison, Ba-
saint, Martinpuich and reaching War-
lancourt. They advanced in the manner
ground of the Fourpoux woods, which
dominates the southern approaches to
Bapaume. Meanwhile other forces cir-
cled to the north of Bapaume, following
the capture of Bievillers and Avesnes-
les-Bapaume Saturday, occupying Blin-
court and Favreuil.

The British line has been advanced
from six to ten miles along the active
fighting front in the last two days. The
fighting was the hardest at Miraumont
and also at Achiet le Grand. Two days
ago the Germans centered most of their
resistance at these points, making a
desperate fight to prevent being pushed
back.

No battle in the whole war has been
marked by a heavier massing of machine
guns by the Germans. They have paid
for it dearly, their losses being terrific.

Reinforcements Rushed Up

The Germans, it has been learned
through prisoners, have rushed rein-
forcements from the Flanders front.
Prisoners admit that the utmost dis-
organization exists behind the Ger-
man lines. Tired and depleted units
have been thrown back into the fray
when they were supposed to be rest-
ing. Many units have lacked com-
manders and have advanced in hap-
hazard formation. Various divisions
have been badly shuffled about. Mil-
itary commanders say this means that
the Germans are shy on manpower
and equipment—or else reserving crack
fresh divisions for stronger lines in
the rear and awaiting a more im-
portant blow.

The Germans were surrounded in
Beccourt wood, the British hemming
them in by a box barrage and killing
or capturing many of them. Many
of the regimental staff were seized,
together with valuable documents.
Headquarters was found concealed
under trees.

Hans Fear Tanks Most
In the moonlight, while the Boche air-
men were raiding civilians in the rear
of the war zone, the British advanced
beyond Bray, capturing Ericourt and
Mametz. The majority of the villages
captured by the British during the last
few days have been taken with the min-
imum force.

German officers taken prisoner said
their men feared the tanks the most, and
admitted that the tanks aided the avia-
tors and barrage combination and that
it was useless to oppose them.

The Fortieth Saxon division was just
about to attempt to retake the Arras
railroad when they were routed by the
British.

Gommecourt was taken by moonlight,
with the tanks leading the way.
One of the prisoners, 38 years old, was
the youngest among an entire batch of
Germans.

British-American aviators are bomb-
ing German towns by daylight now. The
fact that the Germans conduct their air
raids entirely at night is said to be suf-
ficient proof that the allies hold mastery
of the air.

NIGHT FIGHTING DISLIKED
BY HUNS, IS INDICATION

By Lowell Mellett
With the British Armies in France,
Aug. 26.—(U. P.)—The last week's fight-
ing apparently has revealed that the
Germans dislike night fighting. Other-
wise it is hard to account for the re-
markable rush of the Yorkshires, Lin-
colnshires and other English troops
through the Ancre river Friday night,
thence across the Thiepval ridge, mak-
ing a gain of 2000 yards (nearly two

miles) over indescribably difficult
ground in 24 hours.

It can be recalled that German mil-
itary writers were not partial to night
fighting, even in theory, before the war.
Another thing, barbed wire defenses
have ceased to be the obstacle they once
were. This may aid to the explanation

of why the British are now advancing
ground with practically the same ef-
fort they devoted to gaining yards.
Then there are the tanks, whose part
in the present battle is worth a special
story, and the development of instan-
taneous fume shells, responsible for undo-
ing the laborious work of the wire lay-

ers. Unlike other shells, which bury
themselves in the ground and explode
upward, these explode at the slightest
contact and scatter with great force, lit-
erally ripping the entanglements to
pieces.

Division Elements Far Apart

Concentrated shelling, even for a brief
period, leaves the ground free for an ad-
vance. There are no shell craters, and
the wires are gone. Of course, the old
craters remain, these furnishing wonder-
ful defensive positions, as at Boleselles,
where the Boches hid in a series of them
yesterday morning and poured a murder-
ous machine gun fire until they were
smothered. Out of scanty reserves, bad-
ly needed as they are, Hindenburg and
Ludendorff are throwing in Prussians,
Saxons, Bavarians and German marines,
in an effort to check the British. These
are being checked in as regiments, not as
divisions. Some elements of the same
divisions have been found as far apart
as Bievillers and Mametz (nine miles).

Notwithstanding attempts to repair
holes in the line as fast as they develop,
the Germans continue receding, holding
desperately only to certain points in the
line in order to prevent a complete
breakdown of their defense, with the re-
sultant change in the present disorderly
retreat.

Tanks Harass Retreating Units

As it is, the disorganization is so great
in places that British tanks have been
able to harass retreating units with ma-
chine guns, leaving wreckage and con-
fusion in their wake.

A tour of prisoners' cages yesterday
developed some interesting conditions. I
learned that the 40th and 43rd Saxon di-
visions and the 35th Prussian division
have been added to the forces in the
northern part of the battlefield, the
Saxons being brought from Belgium.
Then are a cleanly lot, many of them
converting their helmets into wash
basins.

Prussian officers in another cage
drew attention on his arrival by first
asking that his orderly be confined in
the same cage and then asking for
steak and onion.

Deserters' Families Punished

One of the happiest of the prisoners,
judging from the expression on his face,

was a German messenger dog who was
confined in one of the cages, although he
apparently only reflected the feelings of
the young Germans about him and re-
sponded to advances no more willingly
than did the men.

Alsatian prisoners said the Germans
are scattering them in groups of 10,
throughout the army. They said pun-
ishment for desertion was visited on
their families. In some cases, their sis-
ters had been sent to work in the front
lines, they said. This is responsible for
the stories that the Germans are using
women to fight in the battle lines.

Among the sulking Prussian officers
was one who was still aggravated be-
cause a tank, to which he sought to sur-
render, lacked room to take him aboard
and he had to walk back to the concen-
tration camp.

BRITISH IN NEW ATTACK ADVANCE TWO MILES

(Continued From Page One)

extended their drive farther northward
into the Arras sector by suddenly attack-
ing along the Scarpe river at 3 o'clock
this morning. Field Marshal Haig re-
ported "good progress."

(The Scarpe flows through the north-
ern outskirts of Arras.)
Capture of Favreuil (two miles north
and east of Bapaume) was announced.

The British line has been advanced
farther on both sides of the Somme, and
additional progress has been made to-
ward Maricourt (four miles southwest of
Combleux).

"At 3 o'clock this morning our troops
attacked in the Scarpe sector and are
reported to have made good progress,"
the statement said.

On the southern portion of the battle
front we have advanced our line slight-
ly astride the Somme and by successful
operations carried out we have made
progress in the direction of Maricourt.
Yesterday the enemy launched strong
counter attacks south and north of Bapaume, in the neigh-
borhood of Eaucourt-l'Abbaye and
Favreuil. In both localities the attacks
were repulsed.

"North of Favreuil our troops met the

enemy with bayonet, inflicting heavy
casualties upon him and taking pris-
oners.

"Another counter attack, attempted
by the enemy later in the evening, was
also unsuccessful. Favreuil is in our
hands, and we have made progress be-
hind the village.

"North of this point we have improved
our positions southeast of Mory and
west of Croisilles.

"A heavy rain is falling on the battle-
field."

Berlin Claims Allies Repulsed

Berlin, via London, Aug. 26.—A sum-
mary of Sunday's war office report fol-
lows:

"Astride Bailleul and north of La Bas-
see (both in Flanders) the enemy was
repulsed before our lines.

"English attacks between Neuville and
St. Leger (below Arras) collapsed.

"We withdrew east of St. Leger.

"Attacks against Bapaume collapsed.

"The enemy pressed forward against

our lines, which had been taken back
from the Ancre.

"Advancing from Courcelles and
Peziere against Martin-Pulch and
Bazentin, the enemy was thrown back
beyond Peziere by Prussian troops.

"We counter attacked and drove the
enemy back across the Albert-Bray road,
later withdrawing our lines.

"French attacks at Chavigny and
Crecy-au-Mont (south of Coucy-le-
Chateau) failed.

"At night time Saturday our aviators
dropped 75 tons of bombs on the enemy's
rear."

North Bank of Oise Fortified

By Webb Miller
Paris, Aug. 26, 10 a. m.—(U. P.)—
French artillery is smashing up the new
German defensive positions preparatory
to a crossing of the Oise east of Noyon.

The Germans have fortified the north
bank of the Oise from Noyon to Chauny.
At some points the enemy is counter-
attacking.

LIBERTY

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sweep of it—that's
all, only—you better
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~on Occasion~

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