

BRITISH FORCES CROSS SOMME IN PURSUIT OF FOE

Half of Territory Won by Germans in March Drive Has Been Retaken From Enemy.

ENVELOPING TACTICS USED

New Zealanders and Canadians Are Taking Prominent Part in Fighting; Losses Are Small.

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French Official Report
Paris, Aug. 30.—The text of the war office statement follows:

"In the region of the canal Du Nord the night passed without change.
"Between the Ailette and the Aisne we repulsed several attacks east of Faisy. (Faisy is two miles north of Soissons).
"Enemy attacks along the Vesle and in Champagne were repulsed."

Line Extends From Buscourt to Noyon
London, Aug. 30.—(U. P.)—The British advanced 3000 yards (more than a mile) on a front of seven miles between Buscourt and the Scarpe today and are now within a mile of Queant (the junction of Wotan and Sledfried sections of the Hindenburg line) it was learned today. They have captured Tilencourt (two miles southeast of Baupain).
The allies now hold a line on the Somme front from Buscourt to Noyon, of which they have captured the northern and eastern suburbs.
The French have captured Queniny, Rouy Le Grande, Rouy Le Petit, La Pannetiere and Ferme De Fonds-Gomez.

Cambrai Junction Bombed
London, Aug. 30.—(I. N. S.)—British troops in the advanced positions of the Picardy battle front were supplied with small arm ammunition by aeroplanes which made delivery with parachutes. It is officially announced today in the British aviation communiqué.

Seven and a half tons of bombs also were dropped by British aeroplanes on the Cambrai Junction and on an enemy aerodrome east of St. Quentin during the night.

AMERICANS AID FRENCH NORTH OF SOISSONS

(Continued From Page One)

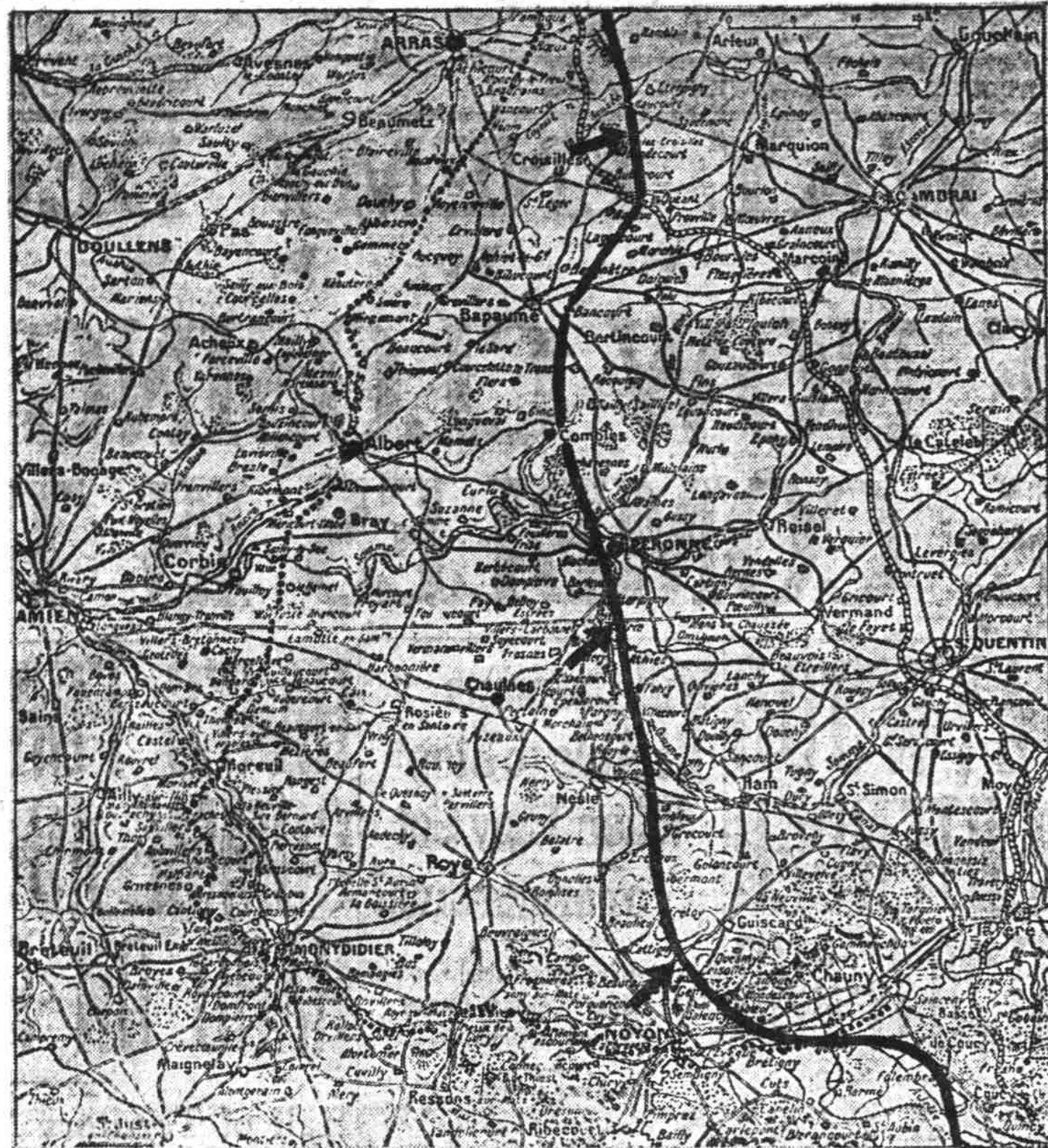
along the railway with their patrols penetrating beyond.

By John De Gandt
Paris, Aug. 30.—(U. P.)—American troops, attacking with the French north and east of Soissons, engaged in their first battle with German cavalry today. The enemy hurled a large body of mounted troops against the Franco-American forces in an effort to break up their advance. The attack was entirely unsuccessful and the allies continued their steady progress in furious fighting.

French Advance Continues

By John De Gandt
Paris, Aug. 30, 11 a. m. (U. P.)—French and American troops attacking north of Soissons are approaching the westward side of the Soissons tableland. Ten fresh German divisions (120,000 men) have been rushed up to oppose the advance, which seriously threatens the whole western portion of the enemy's Aisne-Vesle line.
Beyond Noyon the French are pushing toward Guisard and Chauny. The Germans are offering resistance along the Crozat canal.
In the Ailette region the French have reached the border of Coucy forest, which merges into St. Gobain forest, generally regarded as one of

ALLIES ARE ACROSS THE RIVER SOMME



Today's map again shows the allied line several miles to the east of Thursday's, with the Somme crossed for a considerable distance south of Peronne, Brie, on the east bank of the Somme reached, and the allies practically at Peronne. They have cut the roads leading to Ham and have taken Comblès. Arrows indicate the three centers of allied activity in the north, where the British are fighting five miles east of the old Hindenburg line (shown as a jointed line on the map), on the Somme south of Peronne and in the wooded country northeast of Noyon.

the greatest defensive positions on the west front.

The first steps in the American advance were taken yesterday. At that time the Germans held an important salient extending between Juvigny and Chavigny. General Petain wished this salient wiped out and entrusted the operation to the Americans incorporated in General Mangin's shock army.
French artillerymen previously had

shelled the German positions daily for some time. Just before daybreak high explosives, shrapnel and gas shells were hurled at the enemy, together with a few cylinders of artificial fog to screen the advance of the Americans.

Only a small amount of gas was sent over, just enough to lead the Germans to believe that there would be no infantry attack, as attacking troops are rarely sent through a gassed area.
The Boches just put on their gas

masks and waited in their dugouts. Then all the French batteries opened up with high explosives, shrapnel and smoke cylinders, but this time no gas was intermingled.

When the enemy felt the bombardment and saw the smoke screen they thought it was merely another feint like the first. The next thing the Boches knew the Americans burst among them through the artificial fog.
Seeing the Americans were unmasked,

the Boches doffed their masks and desperate fighting ensued at close quarters in which the bayonet was freely used.

The Americans rushed the narrow gauge railroad embankment at the left, implanted machine guns and started a withering enfilading fire. A Jaeger platoon commander, recognized the American uniforms and yelled, "It's the damned Americans again." Then he threw up his hands and surrendered. About a hundred Germans followed suit and were made prisoners.

The Jaegers met the Americans on the Marne front, east of Chateau-Thierry, in June and July. The prisoners declared that they were well aware of the prowess of the Americans.

Shortly after noon the Germans counter-attacked heavily and succeeded in driving the Americans back slightly on the right, but the American batteries opened up with a heavy fire and prevented the enemy from debouching farther.

DESPERATE FIGHTING ON NORTHWARD OF SOISSONS

By Fred S. Ferguson

With the American Armies in France, Aug. 30.—(U. P.)—The Germans are fighting desperately and doggedly to hold the line of the Aisne heights north of Soissons, which have been assailed by the French Tenth army, in which Americans are brigaded. If these are driven back any considerable distance it will be by the superior fighting qualities of the French and Americans and their greater gun power.

In yesterday's attack there was no indication that the line would be found soft behind the usual rear guard machine gun nests. The element of surprise cannot enter this fighting, as the German staff obviously recognizes the importance of the line under attack and undoubtedly has expected the assault for some time.

The fighting is over ground which has been a battle field since 1914. It contains a series of great plateaus with

an extensive cave and a network of old trench systems. We are fighting, in consequence, a curious mixture of open and old trench warfare, the latter requiring strong artillery preparation.

Every Foot Contested.
Yesterday's operation carried the French and Americans forward, but the fighting is of a far different nature than that encountered in the recent rush from the Marne when the Americans marched for miles without encountering a German.

Every foot of the Chavigny-Juvigny region is contested. The famous Prussian Seventh regiment is opposing the Americans. Prisoners taken are unusually large.

When one officer was asked where he came from, he came to attention, pulled himself to his full height and answered defiantly, "Prussia!"
There are instances of a lone American picking up several Prussians.

A sergeant from Wisconsin ran upon four emplaced in a shellhole. All surrendered. The sergeant marched them to the rear. One of them said the German soldiers are being fairly well fed, the physical condition of boys under 21 receiving special attention. They are given extra bread rations.

It was an ideal day for a battle yesterday. It was clear and cool, but a ground haze obscured movements in the early morning. Later the sun penetrated the mist, unfolding a remarkable picture—a vast field of moving men and war equipment. These plateaus are remarkable for a constant silhouette view given to moving men, guns and horses. Sharp dips and rises here and there cause the groups to be thrown into sharp relief, suggesting a series of living Remington drawings.

The Americans enthusiastically praise the work of the tanks in cleaning up trenches and machine gun nests and breaking through wire entanglements.

One tank placed itself across a short trench, enfilading and driving out the Boches. The doughboys said they didn't see how the tank was going to get off, but it climbed on across without any trouble.

When the Americans encountered sev-

eral strings of caves into which the Boches had burrowed, they used great numbers of grenades with telling effect. From the heights where the Americans and French are fighting the spires of Soissons cathedral are visible.

Yanks Have Captured 25,000
Washington, Aug. 30.—(U. P.)—Twenty thousand to 25,000 German prisoners constituted America's portion of the great allied haul of 112,000 captives since July 1.

These figures are based on estimates of important war department officials today. The last official figures on American totals were 17,000 towards the end of Soissons-Rheims struggle. After that time several sizeable bags were made.

Columbia Park Boys On Four Days' Hike

About 20 boys of the Columbia park military training company started at noon today on a four-day "hike" to Eagle Creek, near Boring, where they will fish and swim and enjoy the pleasures and hardships of camp life. Their

director and drillmaster, W. P. Richardson, is in charge of the party. The lads range in age from 8 to 13. Recently they won the Mayor Baker cup as the best-drilled company of the playground youngsters. A city motor truck took the lads out to their camping ground, but they will hike back. Each lad takes his own blanket roll and provisions. They will sleep in the open. They plan to return Tuesday morning.

Scientists Examine Gas From Vesuvius

Naples, Aug. 30.—(I. N. S.)—In order to examine and discover the nature of a new explosive hydrogen-like gas emitted from Vesuvius, A. F. Perret, an American scientist, and Alexander Malledra, at the risk of their lives, examined the various gases of the great volcano, now in the worst eruption since November. The American and the Italian spent nine hours at the bottom of the mine crater of the volcano. They have just returned.

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