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BRITISH BREAK DROCOURT-QUEANT LINE

HINDENBURG SWITCH LINE PENETRATED

Canadian Troops Attack Astride Arras-Cambrai Road on Front of Five Miles and Break Through Drocourt—Queant Switch Line on Front of Two Miles—British Advance Along Cambrai-Bapaume Road Continues—Peronne Captured.

PARIS, Sept. 1.—The allied forces on the western front have taken a total of 128,302 prisoners since July 15, it was announced in an official statement today. In the same period 2,069 guns, 1,734 mine throwers and 13,783 machine guns were captured.

On the French front 75,900 prisoners and 700 guns had been captured by the French since July 18.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—(2:50 p. m.)—Further advances in Flanders were made today by the British. They captured the towns of Estaires, four miles east of Merville and Steenwerck, three miles southeast of Haglund.

Another attack was launched by the British this morning in the region north of Peronne.

The Drocourt-Queant switch line was broken in two on a six mile front. Many prisoners were captured by the British.

Considerable progress was made by Field Marshal Haig's forces on the whole 33 mile front between the river Scarpe and the river Somme.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—1 p. m.—The British have penetrated the vitally important Drocourt-Queant switch of the Hindenburg line, according to reports from the battlefield this afternoon. They have reached the western edge of Cagnicourt about two miles northeast of Peronne.

A large number of prisoners were taken in this forward push against extremely stubborn enemy resistance. The Germans had seven divisions massed on a front of five miles in this area.

Of Great Importance

The taking of the Drocourt-Queant line, in which tanks co-operated, is considered of enormous importance, if the British can maintain their gains. Very heavy fighting is expected but it will be open fighting and considered likely to be costly to the enemy.

The British advance along the Cambrai-Bapaume road is continuing. On this road the British are approaching the village of Beugny, nearly four miles northeast of Bapaume, but it is not yet reported captured.

The Drocourt-Queant line was smashed through by the Canadians on a two mile front. Field Marshal Haig's men are reported to be in Drury and heavy fighting is progressing in favor of the British.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sept. 2.—Telling progress was made by the allies in the great battle on the western front.

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ALLIES PURSUING ENEMY IN SIBERIA

TOKIO, Tuesday, Aug. 27.—(By Associated Press.)—Entente allied troops operating in Siberia are close by pursuing the enemy forces in the Ussurya river region, according to an official statement issued this afternoon by the Japanese war office. The enemy is said to be still in retreat.

PERONNE WON BY AUSTRALIANS IN SUNDAY FIGHT

German Base in Central Picardy Captured—Everything of Value Removed—Severe Fighting in Bapaume Region—German Counter Attacks Become Shambles.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—Peronne, the German base in central Picardy, was captured by Australian forces Sunday after severe fighting, thus turning the enemy's line and hastening his retreat.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 1.—At Mont St. Quentin the Germans counter attacked again and again at great cost, but the line there remains intact.

The enemy seems to have removed virtually everything he had in Peronne when he realized that the town must come into British hands soon, but there was severe fighting there before the place was captured.

Powerful Attacks

Late yesterday the enemy delivered powerful counter attacks east of Fromcourt on the Bapaume-Cambrai road, the infantry being assisted according to reports by a few tanks. The Germans succeeded in penetrating a short distance, but the British immediately reattacked and the ground which the Germans had occupied briefly became a shambles. In this operation the British captured many prisoners. Among the German dead at this point was a battalion commander.

The British were also counter attacked at Vaux-Vraecourt, the Germans gaining a corner in the north-east section of the village and holding it for a time only to be driven off. South of the Arras-Cambrai road the advance continues. During the night it was held up by a strong fire from a lone trench just south of the road. The Germans appeared determined to hold on here and fought desperately. Finally the British "kicked off" from their position and charged the enemy. During the fight that followed the British either killed or captured every man of the enemy garrison and in addition bagged 15 machine guns. This was accomplished with casualties so light as to sound incredible. In fact the number was so small that it was not make known. In the north the Germans steadily continue their retreat.

In the Lys Salient

In the Lys salient the British are on the heels of the Germans. Beyond Vierstraet and Voormezele the enemy has fallen back east of the Pres-Comines canal. The British have reached Donit and La Creche. Ravelsburg ridge has been captured after some opposition from the German rear guards who put up a fierce though brief fight. Other advanced troops are on the outskirts of Neuve Eglise, Lindenhoek and Kemmel villages have been captured.

STEAMER ESCRICH TORPEDOED AT SEA

A CANADIAN PORT, Sept. 2.—The British steamer Escrich, 4151 tons, bound from Bordeaux to Montreal, was torpedoed on the night of August 16 when about 300 miles off the French coast. Thirteen survivors of the crew of 47 have arrived here on an oil tanker which picked them up.

An engineer and two firemen are believed to have been killed when the torpedo struck. Two life boats containing the remainder of the crew, including the captain, are missing, but the survivors believe they may have been picked up by another vessel.

The survivors were about in the oil tanker for three days before the oil tanker came along.

Chief Officer Jewell, in command of the survivors, said the Escrich sank in 20 minutes.

WILSON SETS 1919 PRICE OF WHEAT AT \$2.20

President by Proclamation Guarantees Farmers Maintenance of Present Prices—Commission to See Whether Increased Costs Justify Increase—Nation Takes Risks.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—By proclamation issued today President Wilson set \$2.20 a bushel as the minimum price guaranteed by the government for the 1919 wheat crop.

A disinterested commission, the president stated, will be appointed next spring to see whether the increased cost of farm labor and supplies would justify an increase above that price.

The proclamation fixes as reasonable guaranteed prices for number 1 northern spring wheat and its equivalents at the principal primary markets, the following:

New York \$2.39½; Philadelphia \$2.39; Baltimore and Newport News \$2.38½; Duluth \$2.22½; Minneapolis \$2.21½; Chicago \$2.26; St. Louis \$2.24; Kansas City and Omaha \$2.18; New Orleans and Galveston \$2.28; Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, Astoria, San Francisco and Los Angeles, \$2.20; Salt Lake City, Great Falls, Pocatello and Spokane \$2.60.

Peace Possibility

Possibility of peace before the middle of 1920 was indicated in a memorandum written by the president and accompanying the proclamation, as a factor in determination of the president to maintain the present price for the 1919 crop.

"In giving a guaranteed price for wheat for one year in advance (the only industry guaranteed by the government) there is involved a considerable national risk," the president said.

"If there should be peace or increased shipping available before the middle of 1920, Europe will naturally supply itself from the large stores of much cheaper wheat now in the southern hemisphere; and, therefore, the government is undertaking a risk which might, in such event, result in a national loss of as much as \$500,000,000 through an unsalable surplus; or in any event, in maintaining a high level of price to our own people for a long period subsequent to freedom in the world's markets."

LENINE REPORTED RECOVERING FROM WOMAN'S BULLET

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 2.—According to a dispatch received here today from the official Russian telegraph agency, Nikolai Lenine, the Russian premier, who was shot Friday night by a Russian female revolutionist, 43, who was reported to have succeeded to his wounds, is out of danger.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 2.—An announcement by the Bolshevik government to the effect that 5,000 social revolutionaries who have been arrested and sentenced to death, will be executed if the revolutionary party conducts fresh intrigues against the soviet government is quoted in a Moscow dispatch to the Vossische Zeitung.

Other dispatches to the same newspaper adds that all roads leading to the Kremlin and also the main streets of Moscow are occupied by troops.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—The assassin of Nikolai Lenine, the Russian Bolshevik premier, who was reported to have died at the result of bullet wound inflicted on him at Moscow Friday night, was Dora Kaplan, a prominent Russian revolutionist, according to a dispatch from Petrograd received today by the Evening Star.



The solid line at the left shows the Germans' farthest advance this year; the broken one at the right is the famous Hindenburg line to which they are now retreating. The white line is today's battle line. Arrows show about where British are smashing the Hindenburg line and below where the Americans are advancing.

CHINESE ENVOY SLAIN AT VICTORIA BY COUNTRYMAN

VICTORIA, B. C., Sept. 2.—The motive for the murder here last night of Tang Hui Lung, minister of education for China, by Mah Chew, a barber, is thought to have been political. The barber committed suicide.

Tang Hui Lung, who was former minister of the interior, was leaving the Chinese club where he had been dining with friends and consular officers, when Mah Chew, who had been waiting outside the club with a revolver in each hand, fired two shots at the minister. One penetrated his jaw and the other his breast.

The murderer took to his heels and after running several blocks, turned one of his weapons upon himself, dying in the street as his pursuers came upon him. Minister Tang, who had been here since August 26, had been in Washington on a secret mission for the Chinese government, it was said. Well informed local Chinese said today that it was known the minister had avoided going home via San Francisco, as he was warned that he was marked for killing there.

The minister was a northerner and his assassin was from the south. The murder caused intense excitement in Chinese quarters and the local police have been called upon to offer their protection to a number of Chinese of prominence politically and in business.

Minister Tang was 51 years of age and highly educated, having attended American colleges.

AUSTRALIANS TAKE 4000 PRISONERS

LONDON, Sept. 2.—Le Transloy, the important point on the line between Bapaume and Peronne where the Germans have been holding stubbornly is considered by the British today as virtually in their hands. They have captured the village of V9 res-Au-Flos, to the north, and La Tréau, now is outflanked on both sides.

The capture of Reuilly, northeast of Bapaume, was reported this morning.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 prisoners were taken by the Australians in the vicinity of Peronne yesterday.

T. R. DENOUNCES AS TRAITORS ALL SHIP SLACKERS

NEWBURG, N. Y., Sept. 2.—Slackers in American shipyards who load individually and unions of shipbuilders which limit the output of ships were denounced by Theodore Roosevelt today as traitors to the country. Colonel Roosevelt delivered an address on the occasion of the launching of the Newburg shipyard of the first of ten vessels, each of 9,000 tons dead weight, which are to be built for the United States.

"A slacker in our shipyards is as shameful a creature as a coward in the army in France, and a good worker in the shipyards stands honorably forward like a good soldier in the army. I have come to Newburg largely because my inquiries have convinced me that here there has been no organized limitation of output and practically no loafing. I am convinced that, generally speaking, there is a fine spirit of patriotism in shipbuilding labor in all parts of the country."

"Yet it has been alleged that in certain yards men have loaded individually and that in certain yards unions have actually limited the output so as to limit the number of rivets driven in a day, or the number of days that they work, or in other ways to prevent the development of our utmost speed. Such men are traitors to the country."

"If I had my way I would take any such man and any man who aided or abetted him, put him in the army at once and send him across the water to the hardest work in the most dangerous position and I would not give him a rifle until he had learned the spirit of patriotism. On the other hand, you, whom I am convinced represent the enormous majority of the shipyard workers, you who are doing your utmost night and day, week in and week out, stand on the honor roll of American citizenship as second only to our troops in France, and I honor you."

HUNS MOVING TO HINDENBURG LINE

PARIS, Sept. 2.—(Havas Agency.)—Entente allied airplane observers report that German convoys are moving eastward in the region of Reuilly and beyond that town. Reuilly is about seven miles east of Peronne. The Germans are said to be rapidly removing their stores or blowing them up.

AMERICANS WIN FIRST BATTLES BELGIAN FRONT

In Their Initial Fighting, Voormezele and Several Strong German Positions Captured—Counter Attacks Fail—Heavy Losses Inflicted on Germans at Bullecourt.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—(4:45 p. m.)—American troops fighting with the British on the Flanders front made further progress today in Voormezele region. The Americans have passed through Voormezele in an easterly direction, overcoming stiff enemy resistance.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FLANDERS, Sunday, Sept. 1.—In their first fighting in Belgium the Americans captured Voormezele and several strong German positions in that immediate vicinity. On their entrance into Voormezele the invaders found that all that remained of the town were piles of debris, for the shell fire had been so intense that hardly one brick was left standing upon another.

As the Americans advanced the German rear guards from what little cover remained, opened up with their machine guns, but these were quickly silenced without much trouble. Elsewhere in the same locality the Americans also advanced the line, keeping in contact with the retreating enemy. Counter attacks by the Germans resulted in their gaining little more than a slight foothold, which in every case was quickly loosened by British and American attacks. In most places the Germans did not even get a foothold for the advancing formations were met with hurricanes of fire under which they melted away. There has been especially heavy fighting in the whirlpool of the battle around Bullecourt and Hendecourt, where the British are holding positions almost resting against the Drocourt-Queant, or Wotan line.

Bullecourt Thrice Won

It is believed that Bullecourt itself has been lost and won in the past two days. First the British were in the town and then the Germans. While one side had the control of the machine guns and bombers from the other would filter in and get the position and then the place would become most active. From ruin to ruin, through cellars and through old and new trenches the fighting has continued and all of the time almost the same tactics were being followed in the country surrounding. In the language of the British soldiers it has been a "dog fight" here for two days.

The British have retired only when hordes of Germans appeared but their retirement usually has been to the positions where they could pour machine gun bullets into the enemy.

Heavy Losses

Heavy losses were inflicted upon the Germans. Just now it appears that Bullecourt and Hendecourt are again in British hands and that the cellars, dugouts and hiding places are being mopped up. Similar fighting has been going on in the villages of Ecourt St. Mein and Longatte, and these places also are in the possession of the British.

Piled With Dead Huns

The ground in front of the British

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SUBMARINE SINKS FISHING SCHOONER

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Sept. 2.—Twenty-five men from the fishing schooner Elsie Potter of Lunenburg, N. S., and five of the schooner Potentate of La Harve, N. S., landed here today, reporting that their vessels were sunk by a German submarine last Friday. The captain of the Potentate was held a prisoner on the submarine.

YANKS WIN 3 DAY FIGHT AT JAVIGNY

Americans Have Never So Far Yielded Ground in France and Keep Record Inviolate by Cleaning Plateau in Three Days of Fierce Battle—Germans Outpointed in Working Their Way Through Enemy Lines—Every Foot Contested.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—The Americans, says the correspondent of Reuters Limited at American headquarters in France, have so far never yielded ground in France and they kept that proud record inviolate by the successful advance on Juvigny after three days and nights of the bitterest fighting. The correspondent says that the Americans encountered a stout-hearted and extremely skilful enemy showing no signs of a lowered morale.

Every foot of the way into Juvigny had to be contested with machine gunners who fought until none was left to fight.

The sad heap of what was once the homes of Juvigny, captured by the Americans, was not even of tactical importance, says the correspondent.

Germans Outpointed

Continuing the dispatch says: "There was very little fighting done in Juvigny itself but in the neighboring valleys where the fighting resolved itself into general infantry work, woodcraft and groundcraft proved invaluable to the Americans. They outpointed the Germans in working their way thru without losing touch with their own line or being enveloped by the enemy. It was in consequence of their craft and good shooting that the American captures reached such a large figure."

It was the 194th German regiment that tried to bar the way of the Americans and the men of this regiment have nothing for which to reproach themselves. They left many dead in these dark valleys and only surrendered when there was no other option. The enemy's measures to hold this plateau proved how seriously he must have regarded its loss.

"Shortly after dawn Sunday morning when the American advance recommenced it became plain that the enemy's resistance was broken and that he had decided that the plateau could not be held. Even then it seemed for a short time as if the Americans might have to pay dearly for what was left of the valley but the men flushed with victory showed even greater determination than on the day before and after four hours, during which no forward movement was possible, more cheerful news began to come to the Americans. Before noon the struggle reached a point where one could breathe freely. For all tactical purposes of the future the Juvigny plateau may be considered the allies' position."

GOMPERS GIVEN WARM WELCOME

DERBY, England, Sept. 2.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, met with a rousing reception this morning when he arrived at Central Hall for the annual Trades Union congress. It was not only a jubilee, but by far the most representative congress ever held by members of the British labor party, upwards of 800 delegates being present.

President J. W. Ogden told the delegates that it was the duty of workers to take advantage of every opportunity that might present itself for a termination of the war. That did not mean that the seeker of peace sought a dishonorable peace or a peace at any price, but a peace that would secure for future generations immunity from the present horrors.