

Huns Retreat 20 Miles, 40,000 Prisoners Taken

GERMANS TO RETIRE NORTH OF THE AISNE

Leading Units of Allies Keep Up With Retiring Enemy—Heavy Artillery May Be Brought Up if Germans Try to Hold Allies Off.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

New York, Aug. 5.—Associated Press war summary says to-day:

Weakened by the defeat suffered on the Soissons-Rheims front, the Germans apparently are preparing to assume the defensive on a front from Ypres to Rheims. While continuing their retirement northward toward the Aisne, the Germans have given up good defensive positions in Picardy east of Amiens. The movements north and south of Somme have been only local in character, but they are an indication that the German command is aware of the danger of an Allied attack north of the present battlefield.

Between Soissons and Rheims, the Vesle virtually has been cleared of enemy troops and Fismes, the important base in the centre, is in the hands of the Americans, having been carried by storm. West of Rheims the French have made important gains and in the region of Soissons the French are north of the Aisne.

Enemy resistance apparently has been growing stronger from Fismes east to Rheims. However, the Vesle is in flood and as large swamps line its course west of Rheims, it is possible the resistance may be due to the inability of the Germans to move to the north bank. The high water cut off many German units elsewhere and these fought until they were killed or hopelessly surrounded.

Allied troops, having flattened out the Marne pocket, have not advanced so rapidly during the past forty-eight hours as in the previous forty-eight. The leading units keep in close touch with the Germans, but it is probable that heavy artillery will have to be brought up if the Germans persist in trying to hold the Allies off at various points along the Vesle. There is little doubt in the Allied capitals that the German Crown Prince will retire to the north of the Aisne.

GERMANS FLEE BEYOND VESLE

Their Right Wing on North Bank of Aisne in Dangerous Position.

PROBABLE DEFENCE LINE

WILL BE THE FAMOUS CHEMIN DES DAMES RIDGE.

Many More Towns and Villages Fall Into the Allies' Hands in the Great Advance From Soissons.

Paris, Aug. 5.—The French Army on Saturday was holding several fords across the Vesle River. The Germans had evidently given up the idea of making a stand there.

The enemy is retreating north of the Vesle with great precipitation.

Great fires are raging in the territory evacuated by the enemy. The German right wing on the north bank of the Aisne is in a dangerous situation, and it is expected that they will be unable to hold their present position.

The simultaneous advance of the Allies towards Fismes from the east and west indicates that the gap at the top of the Soissons-Rheims pocket has been reduced to about thirty and one-half miles. This is the distance between Cernuel, west of Fismes and Jonchery, east of Fismes, both of which places the allies have reached.

Fismes is Entered. American Army on the Aisne-Marne Front, Aug. 5.—Saturday night's official report says: American troops entered the southern part of Fismes, while other forces of the Allies held the southern banks of the Aisne and Vesle rivers from Soissons to Fismes. Eastward it is almost a straight line through Courville, Brancourt, Courcelles and Chambray.

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THE DEFENDER OF RHEIMS AND HIS STAFF



In the centre with right sleeve armless is General Gouraud, the hero of the Dardanelles, who held the Huns at bay till the counter thrust was ready to fall.

shown actively also north of Bethune and between Hazenbrook and Ypres.

Enemy Making Stiffer Stand. (Canadian Press Despatch.)

Paris, Aug. 5.—There was a lull in the battle along the Soissons-Rheims front last night, and the breathing spell extended into this morning. The Germans are being favored by weather conditions, which have transferred the Vesle river banks into swamps and morasses, and they are making a stiffer stand here than was anticipated.

A FISHING SCHOONER SUNK OFF YARMOUTH

An Enemy Submarine Torpedoed It—The Crew Took to the Boats.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

A Canadian Atlantic Port, Aug. 5.—Capt. John Simms and his crew of seventeen of the Yarmouth schooner Nelson A., have arrived and report that their vessel was blown up by an enemy submarine twenty-five miles south-by-west of this port by a U-boat, which finally gave up the chase after sighting a larger steamer in the offing. Some tons of fish for Canadian markets have been sunk with various fishing vessels in this vicinity lately.

Sunk Off Virgin Coast. (Canadian Press Despatch.)

New York, Aug. 5.—The tank steamer Jennings was sunk by a submarine off the Virginian coast yesterday. This indicates that at least two German submarines are operating off the Canadian and United States coast now.

LONG RANGE BOMBARDMENT.

Of Paris Again Opens From St. Gobain Forest. (Canadian Press Despatch.)

Paris, Aug. 5.—The Germans began a long range bombardment of Paris again Monday with small results. In several instances during recent months the Germans signaled the opening of a new offensive with a renewal of long-range bombardment of Paris. Although the Allies in the recent advance uncovered emplacements for long-range guns, the guns themselves were not there, but had probably been returned to the forest of St. Gobain, where they are probably now operating safe for the present at least from the menace of the Allies' offensive.

Big Rise in Cotton. (Canadian Press Despatch.)

New York, Aug. 5.—Cotton advanced between \$6 and \$7 a bale in the market Saturday, attributed to favorable war news, unfavorable weather in the south-west and increased consumption of American cotton abroad. Cotton has risen approximately \$15 a bale since the government report of Thursday.

IS MAJOR W. J. SHARP ALIVE?

THOUGHT HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN DROWNED.

Bloodhound Followed Scent Inland Instead of to the Water—The Major Seen in Automobile on Friday Night.

Nothing has been discovered respecting the whereabouts of Major W. J. Sharp, casualty officer of M.D. Association employed a diver to search in the water within a radius of one hundred feet from the spot where his clothing was found. The work was conducted on Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday morning.

On Sunday afternoon an English bloodhound was given the scent and taken to the spot where the clothing had lain, but, it is stated, that instead of going toward the water it turned inland, which indicated that the major never walked into the water, but may have walked away from it. Those who have been employed in the search are said to be of the opinion that the body will not be found in the water and the mystery of the disappearance and the finding of the clothing at such an unlikely place deepens.

The major was last seen at 9.30 o'clock on Friday evening, when, it is stated, he left his office in the armouries and got into an automobile that was waiting on the street in front of the building. This would be an unlikely hour to go bathing and his habits do not strengthen the supposition that he went to swim at the spot where the clothing was found.

When interviewed, Mrs. Sharp stated that she is mystified by the finding of her husband's clothing. She identified the articles as his. She last saw him when he left home to go to the armouries on Friday evening.

Lieut. Askwith telephoned her Friday evening that he had invited the major to his house for the evening and he might be late returning home. He was not financially embarrassed nor worried in any way, she knew of. When at the front he was shot through the right hand and had slightly injured his knee cap. His money belt that he always wore was missing from the clothing returned. Mrs. Sharp states that she often remonstrated with him for carrying considerable sums of money in his belt. He was in a happy frame of mind when he was last at home with his family.

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LED HIS MEN ON HORSEBACK

The Splendid Deed of a British Brigadier-General Near Soissons.

BRITISH TROOPS CAPTURE

HIGH CHESTS IN FACE OF GREAT RESISTANCE.

A British Battalion Encircled a Village and Captured Part of a German Unit.

With the British on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry front, Aug. 5.—After three small operations the West Country and Scottish troops, with the French army, attacked and took important positions south of Soissons Thursday. Skirting near Grand Royat at dawn on that day they captured Beugueux and the high crests beyond in the face of the most determined resistance on the part of the enemy. Then the French troops passed through them or, as the academic expression has it, "infiltrated" upon the new vantage point, 205 metres high.

I have just concluded a day and part of a night with the British, who executed the operations to within less than a mile of the front line. I have shared with the French who took part in the operation their high admiration for the splendid conduct of the British in this minor, but exceedingly important operation. One example of many was that of a British brigadier-general who led his brigade into battle on horseback.

Another was that of the British battalion who took the first objective, a small hill near Beugueux, at the point of the bayonet, and then encircled that village, capturing all that remained of a German battalion, including its staff officers, before proceeding to assault the heights behind a creeping resistance, which, as in other instances in the past few days, discounted all reports that the Germans had intended to withdraw promptly. If they planned to escape without loss that idea was dispelled by the rapidity and energy of the British and French.

GERMAN RETIREMENT ON BRITISH FRONT

British Have Recaptured Most of German Positions West of the Ancre.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

London, Aug. 5.—The official statement of Field Marshal Haig says: "The British in the Albert sector have recaptured most of the ground previously held by the Germans west of the Ancre. Numerous German attacks have been repulsed." On the British front the Germans have withdrawn between Montdidier and Moreuil, a distance of ten miles.

Hon. Dr. H. S. Beland reached his home in Beauce, with his daughter, and was enthusiastically welcomed.

BRITISH FRONT IS WELL GAS-SHELLED

Some Artillery Activity in North But No Sign of Infantry Operations.

British War Correspondents' Headquarters, Aug. 5.—The situation along the British front is reported to be unchanged. There has been a certain amount of artillery activity in the Hazebrouck district and Nleppe Forest, especially at Strazeele, which was heavily gas-shelled, no doubt owing to its proximity to Meteren and Merris, lately recovered from the enemy. If a heavy rain falls today it is likely to cause the gas to hang about dangerously.

Reports from prisoners show that the news of the German reverse on the Marne is slowly filtering through to the enemy's forces in Flanders and much dissatisfaction is felt. Prisoners taken at Merris, about 170 in all, were unaware of the Allied counter-attack in that region. A captured order shows the equipment for a German private in infantry assault consists of the following articles, namely, a rifle and bayonet, two hand grenades, three days' rations, one extra pair of boots, one field cap, half a bivouac tent, two water bottles, one entrenching tool, a great coat strapped round the pack, from 150 to 200 rounds of ammunition and a gas mask, and yet he moves. Each company has eight rifle grenadiers, each carrying ten rifle grenades.

GERMAN CHIEFS ADMIT THEIR PLANS FAIL.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Copenhagen, Aug. 5.—Field Marshal Hindenburg and Gen. Ludendorff made a statement to German correspondents and openly admitted their strategic plans had failed.

G.W.V.A. WANTS PRICES FIXED BY GOVERNMENT

Claimed That the High Cost of Living is Causing Numerous Strikes.

(Toronto, Aug. 5.—The G.W.V.A. convention Saturday passed a resolution calling upon the Government to fix the prices in the necessities of life. It was claimed that the high cost of living was causing numerous strikes.

A resolution relating to the war veterans holding Government positions caused a lively discussion. There seemed to be a difference of opinion as to whether G.W.V.A. officials should retain their status on assuming offices under the Government.

Comrade Goodwin of Kingston moved that the matter be laid over. This was carried.

There seemed to be a feeling at the convention that the Government should take over the Patriotic Fund and raise the money by direct taxation.

A motion to that effect, moved by Principal Bruce Taylor, Queen's University, Kingston, was received with applause. It was referred back, however, in order that the whole question should be covered by a resolution.

Lieut.-Col. W. P. Purney, president, was re-elected to this office by acclamation.

Col. W. Hendrie, Hamilton, will be the first vice-president. Principal Taylor, Queen's University, withdrew from the contest for the office of second vice-president; Comrade Wakefield was elected.

Those soldiers who volunteered prior to the operation of the M.S.A. and who have failed to go overseas, though fit to do so, will have to immediately decide to go over or will be discharged from service and replaced by returned soldiers, if the Government follows out the resolution passed on Saturday.

The same resolution pointed to the need of the employment of returned soldiers in munition plants.

A resolution was passed calling for the need of placing only returned soldiers secured enforcing the M.S.A. This resolution also pointed to the need of employing only returned soldiers on the demobilization staffs. The prior claim of returned soldiers to all civil service appointments was also a clause of this resolution.

VETERANS RAID LABOR OFFICES

Result of 24-Hour Strike in Vancouver Following the Shooting of Draftee.

Vancouver, Aug. 5.—Upward of 200 returned soldiers, officers and men paid an unannounced visit to the Labor Temple late Friday afternoon, broke down some inside doors, secured entrance to the offices and threw books and records into the street. V. R. Midgley, a prominent labor man, was taken into the street and secured his freedom only after he had kissed the Union Jack. The building was searched, but no other leaders could be located, and the soldiers departed peacefully for the Cambie street drill grounds, where they planned to pass resolutions protesting against the 24-hour strike called because Albert Goodwin, alleged draft evader, and once prominent in labor union circles, was shot by a Dominion policeman, who is now charged with manslaughter.

BRILLIANT WORK BY THE BRITISH

In the Storming of the Highest Point in the Region They Showed Courage.

ALLIES DOMINATE PLATEAU

CAN DIRECT MORE ACCURATE FIRE THAN HITHERTO

Depending on Machine Guns Had an Attack On Them is a Matter of Difficulty—The Idea of a Frontal Rushing of Machine Guns.

With the British Army, Aug. 5.—British divisions particularly distinguished themselves by the capture of Hill 200—the highest point in the whole region north of Beugueux.

The Allies have thus a dominating observation post over the countryside back to the Vesle, and can direct a more accurate fire than was hitherto possible on the communication centres at Braime, Fismes, and Baroches. The height would also be extremely useful in view of the coming operations against the wide plateau that extends from Soissons to the river Muxe, an affluent of the Vesle, and forms the right bastion of the German resistance.

As before, the Germans are relying chiefly on machine guns for the actual work of defence, their artillery being mostly employed upon communication centres and points of concentration behind the firing line.

An attack against machine guns is a matter of considerable difficulty. To begin with, these weapons are almost never aimed or fired directly against the advancing troops. Cross-fire is employed nearly exclusively—that is, the gunner directs a steady stream of bullets against a pre-determined point on his right or left. It thus creates a wall of lead to bar an adversary's progress. When a number of machine guns act in concert, as is regularly the case, advance becomes impossible until one or more of them have been silenced.

The idea of a frontal "rush" of machine guns of which one often hears in accounts of the fighting given by persons unfamiliar with the actual situation, is literal suicide. What happens is this:

The attacking force spreads out, taking such cover as is available. Then from the flanks the rifle mitrailleuses direct fire at the machine guns—not continuous so as not to overheat the weapons—upon the machine gunners. Rifle grenades are also used for the same purpose. Then and not until then when the machine gunners are "routed" or have turned their attention to the assaultant, it is possible for the "rush" which may, though rarely, culminate in the use of the bayonet.

Generally speaking, the machine-guns are either dead or wounded by the time the rush is possible. It is sometimes possible in the case of a nest of machine guns, that artillery fire is required before the assaultant can progress. In any case, there is little hand-to-hand fighting, save when the enemy counter-attacks—and even then rifle mitrailleuses and grenades play a far larger part than the bayonet—or in the streets of a village, where the adversaries, having used up their grenades or rifle cartridges, actually come to grips. And in such a melee the revolver or clubbed rifle is usually more serviceable than the bayonet.

War Tidings

General Pershing has estimated American casualties in the present drive at 12,000.

After the revolution against the Bolshevik had been brought about an Allied detachment was landed at Archangel, occupying the telegraph office with insignificant resistance.

Gen. Mewburn declares the present condition of the Canadian expeditionary corps at the front extraordinarily satisfactory, no corps in France having higher rifle strength in proportion to their ration strength.

German soldiers generally welcome the news that more American soldiers are arriving in France, believing that the faster they arrive the sooner there will be a decisive battle or a definite peace move.

Three tons of bombs were dropped on Bruge dock on Friday by the British, who brought down two hostile machines and one balloon. All British machines returned safely.

Canadian Pacific Railroad earnings for week of July 23st were \$3,861,000; decrease, \$206,000.

40,000 Germans Taken Prisoner

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

London, Aug. 5.—Since the Crown Prince began his retreat his armies have fallen back twenty miles, and have lost forty thousand prisoners, says a Reuter's despatch to-day.