

tended our advance southward along the line of the river to Dernancourt, which is cleared of the enemy. Our troops have been clearing up the situation in Albert, but the ruin of the town is now little more than a great gas and shell trap.

GERMANS PLUNGE BACK TO THE AISNE

French Go Through Soissons and Continue Fighting to the Eastward.

ALL LINES NOW BROKEN

Details of Battle by the Hour Told in Series of Despatches.

FALL OF SOISSONS CHEERS ALL FRANCE

Crown Prince Beaten, Is View of Press.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. PARIS, Aug. 4.—The Petit Parisien reflects the general sentiment of the press of the nation over the retaking of Soissons when it says: "It is a great victory when we scored on the anniversary of our general mobilization of four years ago. France has to-day the right to be joyful."

The entire press regards the German retreat as of the utmost importance. Commandant Civieux, a keen observer, says in his Matin: "It is an indisputable victory, the consequences of which will be felt without doubt of considerable amplitude. From messages reaching Paris it becomes evident that this time it is not more or less an involuntary retreat on the part of the enemy, but a deliberate one to avoid pressing danger. It is under the direct shock of the allied armies that the enemy is giving way and falling back in disorder. The two lateral supports of the Germans being lost, they cannot maintain themselves much longer south of the Vesle, nor can they remain in a position to defend beyond that river, now that the Allies are in a position to push on by Soissons to the north of the Aisne."

The Crown Prince is beaten. Clearly he does not seem to have any other resource than to regain in all haste other positions. Later, telephonic messages indicate how the German retreat was executed. The German flank was turned southeast of Soissons by a particularly brilliant advance by French, American and British troops on the high ground overlooking the little River Crise. From here the Allies are able to shell the German artillery and reserve positions in the Crise valley, the high ground and backs of the German troops on a line facing south.

ENEMY FLANKS ARE SAID TO BE TURNED

German Reinforcements in Soissons Sector Reported.

PARIS, Aug. 4.—German reinforcements are reported arriving in the Soissons sector from the north. The Allies claim their advance, according to latest reports, although it is held within prudent limits. The allied left wing has moved faster than the right and further progress in the Soissons region might expose it to a counter attack from the enemy.

Both flanks of the German forces between Rheims and Soissons appear to have been turned. The French have forced a crossing of the Vesle west of Rheims. Allied forces in pursuit of the Germans have passed through various charnel houses, strewn with the debris of war. Bodies of men and horses are mingled with broken down vehicles alongside of mangled ammunition dumps, some partially exploded and others intact. Bodies of Germans found in clusters beyond the range of the allied artillery indicate that severe punishment has been inflicted on the enemy columns by the French, American and British aviators.

Allied troops have crossed the Aisne at several points, including Venizel. The German resistance is faltering on the left wing of the allied advance, while it is growing stubborn and desperate on the right wing, where the Germans are fighting the extreme northern part of the town, where the Germans are offering the most desperate resistance to the Americans.

FATIGUE SLOWS UP ALLIES PURSUIT

Bad Weather Also Hampers Their Operations.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 4.—The almost straight line along the front from Soissons to Rheims, which the enemy retired after, is held in the Marne, remained unchanged during the night and this morning. The German artillery is still in position between the Vesle and the Aisne, is comparatively active and is bombarding the Allies' front lines along the river bank.

The Germans also are firing on the valleys and roads which they think might serve for the concentration or the transportation of troops on the way to reinforce the detachments which had hitherto kept in close contact with them. The somewhat slower rate of advance by the allied troops during the last few hours has been caused, about as usual, through fatigue brought by the continued pursuit since Thursday. The men have had to contend with bad weather, in which they had no shelter, while such a rapid advance has been made has created difficulties in bringing forward supplies of food and ammunition. The passage of the retreating enemy columns and the coasts were often barricaded by shell struck trees.

A certain time must elapse before the Allies can bring their full strength to bear to give the Germans a further push backward. The great question in most minds to-day is whether the Germans intend to stand on the southern side of the Aisne above Fismes or put the river between them and their pursuers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. LONDON, Aug. 4.—The Associated Press of despatches gives a connected story of the operations which precipitated the final German defeat and retreat to the Aisne. They also contain the news that the French have crossed the Aisne near Soissons, and have taken Cuffies, reaching the heights north of the Aisne.

PARIS, Aug. 3, 9 A. M. (delayed).—A detachment of Gen. Villemont's chasseurs reached Cathedral Square in Soissons at 6 o'clock Friday evening. At 8:15 Gen. Mangin was able to telephone to Paris news of the complete victory. His troops then were beyond the town and fighting east.

The taking of Soissons was the culminating point of a series of decisive and important events along the battle front. The whole German delaying position between Soissons and Rheims had fallen and the enemy was in full retreat northward. The Crise valley had passed completely into French hands. The Allies had pushed beyond the Vesle forest and were advancing on Fismes. Ville en Tardenois had been taken and a great "rear-guard battle" had ended in a defeat and a general retreat.

There seems no possibility that the enemy will find a solid line until he reaches the Aisne. The Vesle positions may give the opportunity of turning around and attacking the rear of the enemy. The high ground and positions on both sides of the Crise pierced at several points. The French pushed back the German pillars of smoke giving a clear indication of the enemy's immediate intentions.

The German bulletins may do their best to camouflage the actual situation, but the reports of the capture of Soissons and the capture of the Crise valley are as quick as they can. Unless the enemy gets out of the northern part of the line with speed he runs the risk of being cut off from the rear.

11 A. M.—The operations which resulted in the capture of Soissons and the German retreat probably will long remain a model of military operations. The country south and southwest of Soissons is a tricky and cut up series of ridges, each of which had to be turned in order to reach the main line of strategically neighboring ridges. Just as these local operations were dependent one upon the other so the general advance of the Allies depended on the events on the center and the right.

While the advance at various points appeared to be insignificant on the map, the capture of certain key points and French was all important and the gain of a kilometer (two-thirds of a mile) at a vital point after hard fighting gave the Allies command possession of wide stretches of country.

Decisive Moment in Battle. The decisive moment of the French attack came at the capture of Cuffies-Chateau, which brought with it almost logically the capture of Fere-en-Tardenois. From there the positions of the French and the Germans became threatened and Gen. Mangin got to work both from the south and north from the salient lying between Soissons, Cuffies-Chateau and Fere-en-Tardenois.

Their task was important and its success one of the essential elements of the plan on the left of the battle front. The capture of Cuffies-Chateau and the desperate resistance of the enemy made its accomplishment exceedingly difficult.

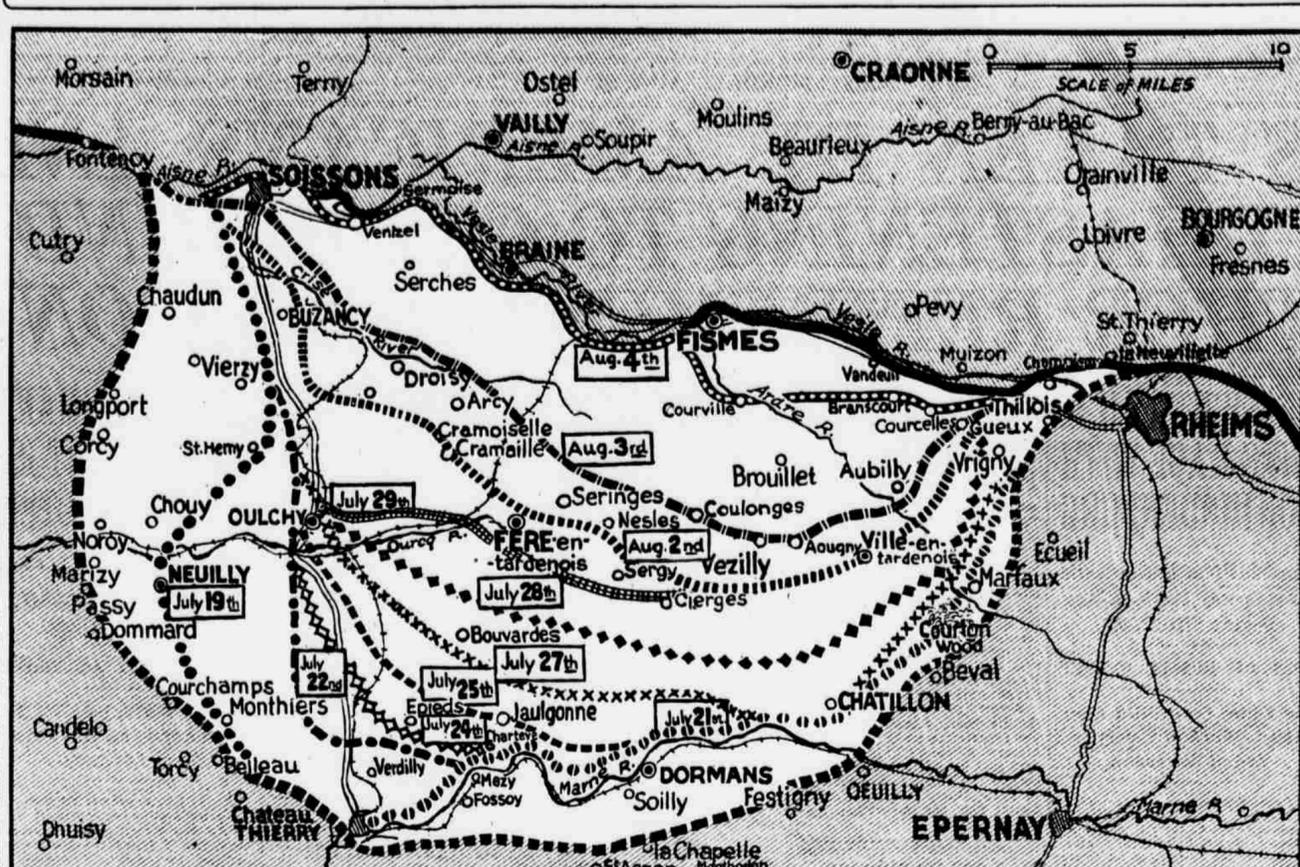
These Scottish troops, two hours after the capture of Soissons, were ordered to take Buzancy. Their first attack was checked, but the next day they pushed beyond the village, church and cemetery of Buzancy. French troops fighting on the right reached a position, which was a perfect labyrinth of old trenches and strongly held by machine guns, but were unable to advance beyond the ground. The Scottish troops had to give ground and take defensive positions along the Aisne, which was a village, and an awkward salient which the enemy had reason to think would be easily carried.

Scottish Troops Push On. All day and all night the Scottish troops repulsed assaults of the enemy and on the dawn of last Tuesday they again advanced sweeping everything before them, carrying the village and taking 300 prisoners. The capture of Buzancy facilitated operations against Hartennes, which was carried on Thursday evening in a dash and by nightfall the French had taken the village of Hartennes. Its fall meant the collapse of the whole Fere-en-Tardenois front and the great rear-guard battle was continued in earnest for yesterday the Germans already were indications that the enemy was on the move.

4 P. M.—Hartennes was attacked on three sides by the Franco-British troops and in spite of a spirited defense the Germans were unable to hold it and started falling back toward Droisy-Launoy.

1 A. M.—The French were streaming down toward the Crise. A few days later the armies of Generals Degoutte and Berthelot, with American and Italian forces, joined the movement and the entire battle front from Soissons to Rheims flamed with activity.

German Public Deliberately Deceived in the Official Reports as to the Disaster on the Marne.



How the German War Office deceived the German public as to the truth of the disaster on the Marne is best shown by a comparison of the German official reports with a map showing the battle line from day to day after the great counter offensive of the Allies began.

The great counter drive of Gen. Foch began July 18, with the Germans far south of the Marne. Every day since then has shown a retrograde movement for the Germans until now they are beyond the Vesle and on their right beyond the Aisne, with the great front and artillery lines at isolated points and in pressing back our line. Afterward our line divisions, together with reserves which have been held in readiness, frustrated the enemy from breaking through.

This was the frankest admission of the entire period of the retreat. In the French report for July 20 appear these words: "Not a German remains south of the Marne except prisoners or dead." The German report reads: "During the night our troops south of the Marne were withdrawn to the north bank of the river without being noticed by the enemy."

The splendid attack of the Americans and French which drove the enemy step by step to and across the Marne was utterly ignored.

Chateau Thierry was taken July 21. On this day the German report said: "Northwest of Chateau Thierry our regiments, who during the last few weeks have over and over again been vainly attacked, yesterday also victoriously held their positions against many times repeated strong attacks by the Americans. The Americans have suffered especially heavy losses, and during the night undisturbed by the enemy, we withdrew our defenses in the territory north and northeast of Chateau Thierry."

July 24 marked the most important gains for the Allies since July 18, when the Germans were thrown back six miles. Against great resistance the French and Americans battled through the enemy in the Oureq region toward Fere-en-Tardenois, the very heart of the German position. The work of the Americans was particularly good. They took the villages of Epieles and Trugny and pushed on to Courpail, which is more than six miles north of Chateau Thierry. These operations the German report said: "Gen. von Boehm's army completely

defeated repeated enemy's thrusts. The French and Americans again suffered very heavy losses. Villemont's was recaptured from the enemy, who were fired at by our artillery."

The German report for July 27 makes no mention of the advance of three miles in the Oureq sector and the retirement of the Germans from Chateau-sur-Marne. The report reads: "This also has been a quiet day on the battle front. Again refusing to admit the success of the Franco-American drive on July 28, the German war office report contained no statement of the triumphant entry of the Americans into Fere-en-Tardenois, an objective toward which the Allies had made consistent daily advances for a week. The German report merely said: "The enemy," according to the German report on Saturday, August 3, was "repulsed," "frustrated" and "suffered completely" during the day. The Allies took Soissons and dominated all that remained of the Marne salient. The German report describes heavy actions, but declines to be specific. The report is a gross misinterpretation of the day's fighting.

Without admitting the great retreat of Saturday night the report for Sunday regular the German public with this statement: "There have been no fighting operations on the Aisne north and east of Soissons. On the Vesle we are in fighting contact with the enemy."

The stubborn battle for Sergy on July 29, followed after six attacks by the retreating Germans, was treated by the German war office as an admirable maneuver to enable the German gun-

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

LONDON, Aug. 4.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in France and Flanders:

FRENCH (NIGHT)—During the day we reached the Vesle to the east of Fismes. The enemy's rear guards opposed spirited resistance, especially between Muizon and Champigny. Our light elements succeeded in taking a footing on the north bank of the river at several places.

Fismes is in our possession. Northwest of Rheims we have won ground up to the village of La Neuville, which the enemy is defending with great energy. On the left bank of the Aisne (in Picardy) between Castel and Mesnil-St. Georges the Germans were forced to abandon a part of their positions. We have occupied Braches and penetrated into Hargicourt. We took prisoners.

FRENCH (DAY)—On the battle front the situation is without change. There were no events to report during the night.

GERMAN (DAY)—During the night there was reviving artillery activity, which increased to great intensity at times south of Ypres and on both sides of the Somme.

On both sides of Albert we withdrew, without enemy interference, our posts on the west of the Ancre to the eastern bank of the river.

In successful forfied engagements south of the Luce Brook and southwest of Montdidier we captured prisoners. There have been no fighting operations on the Aisne north and east of Soissons. On the Vesle we are in fighting contact with the enemy.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—A hostile raiding party was driven off this morning south of Arras, without loss to us. Our patrols captured a few prisoners during the day in La Bassee sector. There is nothing further to report.

BRITISH (DAY)—Our patrols have reached the Ancre River between Dernancourt and Hamel and are in contact with the enemy on this line.

The hostile artillery showed some activity during the night in the sectors north of Bethune and south of Ypres.

that we can do. First we can comb out the army back of the front as a whole country as it has never been combed. While the general headquarters clamors for reinforcements there are still numbers of fighting men back of the fighting line. You find no such state of affairs behind the French lines.

"The second thing is that we ought to raise troops for service in the fighting line of the western front. France has already raised more than 900,000, nearly all fighting men. In Africa, the Sudan, in the heights of the Aisne and in the world, Indian troops should again be used in the west."

"It is also imperative for the Allies not to be recklessly wasteful of man power in the fifth year of the war. No nation, certainly not Germany, has been so prodigal of man power in the battle line as Great Britain has been. France learned her lesson early. We have not learned it thoroughly. Even our operations have been conducted as though we had an inexhaustible reserve of men. As most men know, the evil consequences which flowed from Pashendale directly contributed to the break through near St. Quentin last March, which placed France and the allied cause in jeopardy."

"There has been far too much secrecy in the official statements regarding these battles. In the fifth year of the war it is time that British generalship should not necessarily be taken for granted. It should be submitted, when necessary, to close, competent, ruthless scrutiny."

"In the interest of real fighting men the range of selection for the highest commands should be widened."

"There are still one or two things

points, such as trenches, crossroads, battery positions and command posts, have to deal with moving targets and scatter shells over a wide area to reach points where the attacking force is likely to advance.

The enemy had a wide field to cover yesterday with this hazardous firing, as along the greater part of the thirty mile front the depth of the ground covered during the day by the French in their advance is not less than five miles.

The second form of artillery fire in which the Germans are able to indulge—the search for new French battery positions—was much in evidence as I made my way yesterday afternoon into and out of Soissons thirty hours after the Germans left. They were throwing shells as far back as Missyen-Brois, artillery fire the Germans in the Crise, and also along the valley of the Crise, and on other points which they imagined the French would be likely to choose as gun emplacements.

Once or twice a venturesome German airplane tried to get a view to regulate the firing, which from the results looked about as promising as the ancient custom of drawing the bow at a venture, but the observer always was quickly driven away.

THREE U. S. SHIPS SUNK BY A U-BOAT

Fishing Schooners Sent Down Off Nova Scotia Coast.

HALIFAX, Aug. 4.—Three American fishing schooners were sunk by a submarine off Seal Island, Yarmouth County, on the Nova Scotia coast yesterday. The crews landed on the Nova Scotia coast today.

The commander of one submarine told an American skipper that he had sunk more American schooners halting from Boston and Gloucester Friday afternoon. He did not give the names of the vessels or mention what became of the crews.

The names of the schooners sunk Saturday afternoon are the Rob Roy, Capt. Freeman Crowell; Annie M. Perry, Capt. James Goodman; and the Muriel, Capt. E. Nickerson. The crews came ashore in dories today at Woods Harbor, Shelburne, Lockport and other points along the coast.

HALIFAX, Aug. 4.—King George, according to a message from President Wilson on the occasion of the anniversary of Great Britain's entry into the war, says: "I am proud that my forces and those of the United States are fighting side by side, and you may rest assured of my unwavering determination to continue with all our strength until a victory of right over wrong is achieved."

King George also wired approval messages to the heads of all United States states expressing a determination to continue the struggle and continue to the dawn of a victorious peace for all far distant.

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HERE never has been a time in the history of our storekeeping when our clothes for men and boys have not been worth quite a little more than they sold for. That means thrift in the broadest sense of the word, more particularly now than ever when thrift has become a national institution.

Noteworthy "Stamp Collectors" those who buy "Thrift" and "War Savings" Stamps.

BROKAW BROTHERS 1457-1463 BROADWAY AT FORTY-SECOND STREET

GREAT FIRES MARK RETREAT OF ENEMY

Flames by Night Illumine Skies for Miles Ahead of the Pursuers.

VILLAGES MADE RUINS

Fismes a Mass of Smoke Before the Americans Reached the Outskirts.

By HERBERT BAILEY. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from London Times. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 3 (delayed).—The Germans are still in retreat and at the moment the Americans have difficulty in establishing contact with them. This morning the Germans crossed the Vesle and reached Fismes. Great fire illuminated the skies for miles around last night.

I stood to-day on the heights of the Vesle and could see patches of big black smoke and colored flames indicating the places where the Americans were concentrated by the German offensive against Paris, were being destroyed. The famous Brussels Guards on July 30, the moment the Germans could not face their stand last week and clear away at the place was necessary on the light railway recently built near Clergy on which were trucks loaded with metals. Smoke was seen issuing in thick columns from Fismes this morning.

Pursuit at Close Quarters. Accepting an invitation from an American officer, I was able to see at close quarters on Friday from Fismes, something of the day's pursuit. The farm is situated on the slopes of Hill 273 and has a commanding view of the valley. The American line, at the moment of my arrival, was immediately in front.

The Mamelukes in the valley below, Charny, where Lieut. Quentin Boudet's battery was, a little to our left, while the town of Coulognes, where there was machine gun fighting, stood on the opposite heights and could be distinguished in a clump of trees. Near it was there a fitter setting for such a scene.

The edge of the Bois de Meunier's lay across the hill, on one side which sloped gently away to the valley. We could distinguish seven Germans in one party making their way to the rear, but their details were not clearly visible. Meneel a German suddenly arrived with a machine gun on his shoulders. This he deposited on the ground and disappeared. We returned through Charney and Meneel a German suddenly arrived with a machine gun on his shoulders. This he deposited on the ground and disappeared. We returned through Charney and Meneel a German suddenly arrived with a machine gun on his shoulders. This he deposited on the ground and disappeared.

Meanwhile we could see the Americans preparing to go forward. Suddenly on one ridge a single file of Americans appeared with their packs, some carrying machine guns on their backs, and moved down the valley at a walking pace. Their khaki uniforms contrasted vividly with the verdant scene about and they certainly presented a splendid sight, with their fine physique and soldierly bearing, as they went forward in pursuit.

They disappeared a moment and then were joined by other files. At last they came to a stop and stood on the heights in open order, while shells were being hurled from the batteries of the division of Charny and Coulognes. Several minutes passed, then once more they moved forward with alacrity into the villages and farms in front of them.

Disappear in Mist. Mist from the downpouring rain came and they were lost to view, but away to the left we still could see a French patrol moving up the slopes toward the farm. Apparently the machine guns were stationed here, for after a short time they drew back and then were enveloped in the rising mist, which just outside the fifteen dead Germans around a machine gun emplacement and five Americans not far away, were seen to be ever watchful that the Germans have been. Some of them had been dead a considerable time, but the comrades had not buried them, the majority of the dead, however, were victims of yesterday's fighting.

The Americans that I saw going forward have been fighting extraordinarily hard in the last few days, and that reveal the terrible strain they had been under. I noticed that they seemed pleased to be going forward once more.

KING GEORGE SEESPEACE NEAR Wires President Wilson He Will Fight on for Victory.

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