

the Somme right into Peronne. It is clear that the British pressure is compelling the enemy to change his front much further than was originally intended. Reuters correspondent with British headquarters in France in a despatch dated to-day says: "If attrition is really going to end this war, then indeed the present tactics of the Allies in the west are making rapidly for victory. "Down to Sunday night it may reasonably be estimated that the enemy had been forced to use between the Scarpe and the Aisne at least seventy divisions since the British counter-offensive started August 8. The extension of the battle front northward by the attack behind Arras yesterday morning probably led the Germans to hurry reinforcements into the threatened area, and so the heavy drain upon their shrinking man power goes on. "Enemy Shells Ova Men. "Up to 9 o'clock last night I hear that we had about 2,000 prisoners and some guns, taken in the new zone. While some prisoners were passing through a town on their way back from the front the enemy artillery shelled the place spitefully. We have had very definite proof before that German gunners do not avoid shelling their own people when they have been taken prisoner. "Our progress has been excellent considering the difficulties of the ground, and even better still our casualties are reported to have been very light. "Comparison is made by the London papers of the advance made in this region by the British in 1918 and that achieved in the last few days. Two years ago the British required four months to conquer forty-four square miles in the Somme area; now they have taken 110 square miles in four days. "It may be significant that with this increased activity of the British and French the American troops on the Vesle front were in a bitter struggle for the towns of Flamette and Bazoches, a little to the west of Fismes. The result has not been definitely reached, but the Americans seem to have the advantage in both places.

WEAKEN GERMANS FOCH'S AIM NOW Allied Leader Paving Way for Delivery of Final Blow When Time Comes.

By H. SIDEBOTHAM. One of the Foremost Military Critics in Europe.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times Service.

LONDON, Aug. 27.—Today brings another example of what, to use a musical metaphor, may be described as aspergic tactics of attack. A new note has just been struck by Marshal Foch in the region immediately east of Arras, where our retirement before the German offensive early this year was least marked. Between the Scarpe and Cojeul, where Gen. Byng is attacking, the total depth of our retirement was little more than four miles. The capture of positions at Monchy, Guedappes and Wancourt brings us close at this end of the line to the old Hindenburg line. Our retreat is not the good retreat of France seen to have reached an end, though the subsoil here, like that of Flanders further north, is fairly firm. The main reason for our retreat was to bad if the weather turns wet. Further south we are just west of Croisilles, which is some miles west of Bullecourt, the scene of some of our worst fighting during the summer of last year. Mory, where such the resistance was made to the German advance this spring, has been left behind.

But of Bapaume and south of that city we are still some distance short of the Peronne road, but our troops are believed to have passed Longueval, presumably the last of the German brave men died during the battle. Along the Somme River we are once more approaching Maricourt. Our progress, especially near Arras, has been very satisfactory and not very costly. There is still a certain amount of misunderstanding concerning the main military objects of the present fighting. The operations are not designed to "break through" in the old fashioned way. What we are doing is to take advantage of the fact that a revolution is now going on in the German General Staff.

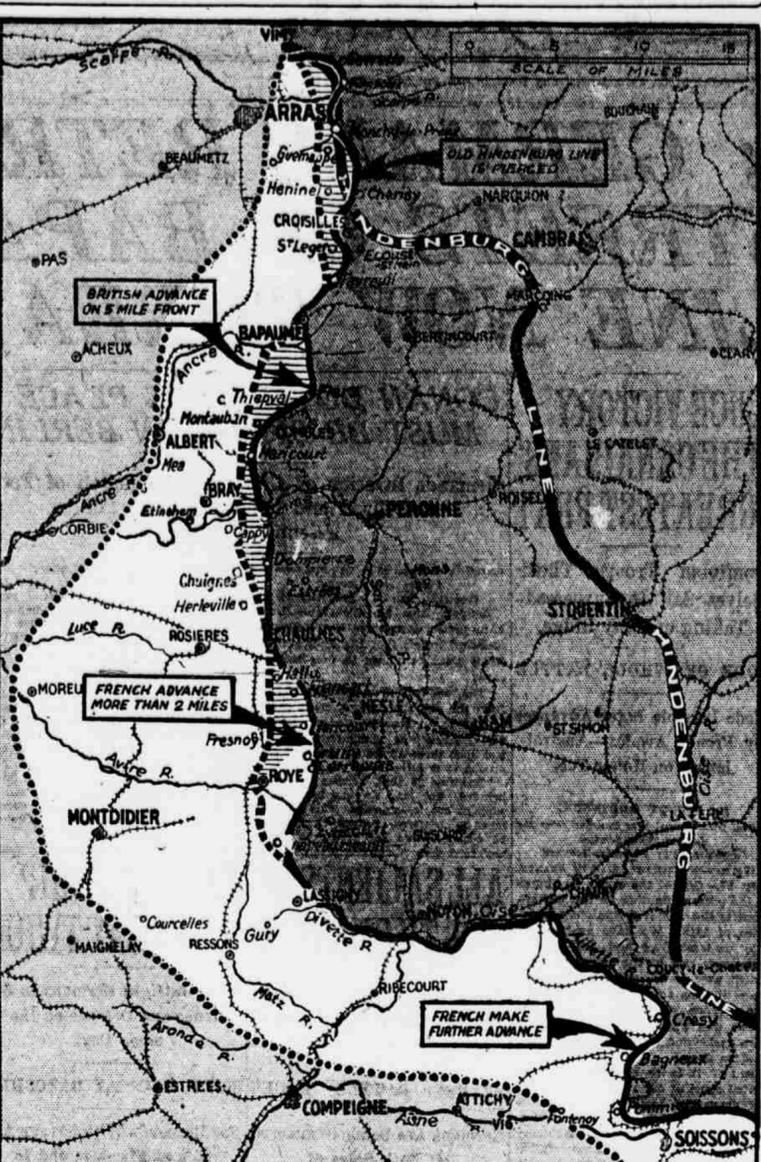
After the 1916 Somme battle, when Hindenburg had just come into power, the enemy began a new orientation of his military policy, and the first stage in the new policy was the so-called voluntary retreat from the Somme, but what really was a "deferred dividend." The Germans propose to repeat this manoeuvre now and to arrive back of the old line by the time winter sets in.

Marshal Foch is hurrying that retreat, harassing it at every step and with every means in his power, but he is not anticipating the moment when our decisive blow ought to be struck. We are not ready yet to "strike once, strike no more." That moment will come when our strength has reached its maximum and when the enemy's powers are at lowest ebb. This may come next year or year after next.

In the meantime our immediate business is to inflict the heaviest possible loss on the enemy, by the minimum of loss to ourselves, and above all to retain the initiative. When their retreat began in 1917 the Germans for some time had been on the defensive, except at Verdun, and must have had in their minds for some time the alternative retreat, for they made elaborate preparations for it.

Not so now. We know that right up to the time of Foch's great victories in July the German high command still clung to the idea that it might be possible to finish the war by a "break through." Since then they have suffered a succession of defeats worse than any thing they have had in the whole war, and it is likely they have the same defensive lines in any thing like a complete state of preparation? What they want above all things is time to prepare to set down, and that is precisely what Marshal Foch is denying them. It is possible, but not likely, that we can keep up the pressure, but if we can we may be able to prevent the Germans from settling down in their new defensive lines. We may overrun these lines. At any rate, it is our duty to take fullest advantage of the moment when the enemy's plans are in a state of transition, as are the Germans' now.

Where French and British Are Eating Into the Old Amiens Salient



LARGE gains were made by both the French and British in their joint operation yesterday of flanking out the old Somme or Amiens salient, the French, according to unofficial reports, advancing several miles east of Roye and taking six villages besides that town, while in the north the British made very important progress on a front of nearly five miles north of Bapaume, actually penetrating the old Hindenburg line and reaching it at several other places in the same vicinity. The French made further gains also on their extreme right, near Soissons. The map indicates that the great operation, of which the actions up to this time have been regarded as preliminaries, has begun.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLES ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

LONDON, Aug. 27.—The official statements of to-day on the fighting on the western front follow:

BRITISH (NIGHT)—This morning our troops operating astride the Scarpe again attacked. Overcoming the resistance of the enemy in his old front line defences held prior to his offensive of March 21 the Canadians penetrated deeply into the German positions between the Seneze and Scarpe rivers and captured Cherisy, Visen-Artois and Boisdu Sart, with many prisoners.

On the right of the Canadians Scottish troops crossed the Seneze and seized Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, establishing themselves on the slopes of the spur south of the village and taking several hundred prisoners. North of the Scarpe other Scottish battalions carried Roux, Greeland (?) and Gavrelle, and English battalions gained possession of Arleux-en-Gohelle and the old German line south of this.

Between Croisilles and Bapaume and to the south English and New Zealanders again in heavy fighting repulsed numbers of determined counter attacks delivered by German divisions recently brought up to reinforce the battle front. Heavy losses were inflicted on these divisions in their unsuccessful attacks.

Despite their efforts to prevent our advance our troops stormed the village of Beugnatre and progressed at several points between Beugnatre and Croisilles. Astride the Somme Australian, English and Scottish battalions forced the enemy back on the whole front of our attack. Our troops gained the high ground east of Maricourt. Fontaine-lez-Cappy and the woods between there and the Somme have been taken, with some hundreds of prisoners, and Verdandovillers is in our hands.

BRITISH (DAY)—Severe fighting took place on the field of the old Somme battle between Maricourt and Bapaume, and also north of the latter town yesterday afternoon and evening. The enemy counter attacked repeatedly in strength, incurring great losses from the fire of our troops, but being unable to arrest our progress.

English and Welsh troops pushed through Montauban and advanced along the crest of the ridge, capturing High Wood and reaching Longueval. In the latter village we were heavily counter attacked and forced back toward Bazentin-le-Grand and High Wood. On this line we broke the enemy's attack and, again advancing, established ourselves well to the east of High Wood.

Early in the night a second enemy counter attack was driven off by rifle fire before the Germans reached our positions. North of High Wood the enemy twice counter attacked in the neighborhood of Ligny and Thillois, pressing back our advanced troops some 400 or 500 yards. There his infantry was stopped and driven back.

At Bapaume the New Zealanders after fierce fighting established themselves in the northern outskirts of the town. Further north English troops progressed toward Beugnatre. We have had hard fighting about Croisilles.

South of Bapaume also English and Welsh troops gained ground in the face of strong opposition. We reached the western outskirts of Fliers and have driven the enemy from Longueval, Delville Wood and Bernafay Wood. Counter attacks by the Prussian Guard in this area were repulsed.

On the right of the battle front the Australians continued their advance astride the Somme and made substantial progress toward Dompierre and to the east of Suzanne.

On the left of the battle front the Canadians yesterday captured the ridge to the east of Wancourt and established themselves to the east of Guemappe.

North of the River Scarpe Scottish troops renewed their attack last night and they have made substantial progress toward Plouvain. Prisoners taken since the morning of August 21 exceed 21,000.

FRENCH (NIGHT)—The enemy was forced to-day to hasten his withdrawal on both sides of the Aisne.

On a front of twenty kilometers our troops advanced more than four kilometers at certain points. We occupied Hallu, Fransart, Cremery, Grunty, Carreput, Roye, Baucourt (Laucourt?) and Crapeau-Mesnil.

BRITISH IN BAPAUME; ROLL ENEMY BACK

German Morale Shows Steady Decline as Haig's Troops Press On.

JEER THEIR OFFICERS Hindenburg Line 'Mopped Up' at Heninel—Peronne Only Six Miles Distant.

By the Associated Press. WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 27.—Having been still further extended by attacks launched north of the River Scarpe, the battle to-day was raging along a field almost forty-five miles long, and the British with resolute vigor were rolling up the Boche before them and sweeping constantly eastward.

Nearly in the centre of the battlefield hard fighting has been in progress along the old Hindenburg line in the neighborhood of Croisilles, Fontaine-lez-Croisilles and Bullecourt, and once through the Germans' strong defences in this locality open fresh ground remains beyond.

The Hindenburg line actually has been pierced at one place, east of Heninel, and the weaker portion of northwest of Fontaine-lez-Croisilles has been captured and mopped up.

In to-day's fighting the British captured high ground from which they can overlook the country occupied by the enemy for miles around, and have thus attained a great advantage. The Bois du Sart, one of those places, lies south of Arras, and it was feared that here the enemy might hold up the advance for a time. It was captured, however, after a short but fierce struggle, in which the Germans lost heavily.

Enemy Ousted From Montauban. Another similarly valuable point in Montauban, northwest of Mamez, which fell this morning after the Germans had been given orders to hold at all costs. These orders suddenly were changed, and the enemy retired in retreat.

Still another is Dompierre, southeast of Cappy-sur-Somme. Dompierre was reached in the forenoon. From this point there is low rolling country all the way back to Peronne. Incidentally, the British at this place now are only six miles from Peronne, where the Somme bends to the south.

Bapaume, having been almost surrounded, has been entered by British patrols and they have been fighting in the streets. The town, therefore, is a sort of no man's land for the moment, but its complete capture seems only a matter of hours.

The Germans are exhibiting still greater anxiety to get away from the advancing British, and even the morale of the enemy machine gunners seems to be diminishing, as they are not holding to their posts with as much determination as early in the battle.

Various sections of the front saw fresh attacks launched to-day. North of the Scarpe, where the operations taken in conjunction with those south of the river are gradually releasing the pressure on Arras, the outskirts of Plouvain were reached, and the line then ran at an angle slightly west and due north from this point, with the British still going forward, and the enemy resistance decreasing.

South of the Scarpe the British artillery fighting continued lively in the region of Lassigny and between the Oise and the Aisne.

FRENCH (DAY)—South of the Aisne French troops accentuated their progress this morning in the region of St. Mar, after having repulsed a number of enemy counter attacks. We have taken more than 1,100 prisoners during these combats. Of these thirty-six are officers, two of whom are battalion commanders.

Between the Oise and the Aisne German counter attacks, west of Chavigny, broke down last evening. Thirty prisoners remained in our hands. In the region east of Bagnieu we have advanced our line about 1,200 meters.

During the night there were lively artillery duels between the Ailette and the Aisne.

GERMAN (NIGHT)—The main point of the attempt to break through by the English and Canadian troops lay south of the Scarpe. The thrust was stemmed in our positions on both sides of the Arras-Cambrai road.

GERMAN (DAY)—During the day there has been heavy fighting between Arras and the Somme. East of Arras the enemy attacked on both sides of the Scarpe. North of the river his attacks were arrested before our battle line, which had been bent back on Roux.

South of the Scarpe our foremost troops yielded on command to enemy attacks made with numerous tanks and strong infantry forces and withdrew to the heights of Monchy-lez-Preux.

There the fire of our infantry and artillery, standing ready to repel the attacks, received the enemy, and after a bitter fight the adversary pressed forward on Monchy and Guemappe heights. Our counter attack threw him back to the east slope of the heights.

A storming attack directed against Cherisy collapsed before that place. The enemy continued his attacks on both sides of Bapaume with the heavy bringing in of tanks. North of Bapaume the heights southeast of Mory and Beugnatre were the foci of the battle. After several futile storming attacks the enemy got a foothold in the heights in the evening. Beugnatre, after long fighting, still remained in our hands.

Southwest of Bapaume the enemy established himself in Thillois and Martinpuch. The remainder of the enemy attacks, repeated here on a broad front until late in the evening, collapsed sanguinarily.

Destroyed enemy tanks are lying before and behind our lines. South of Martinpuch the enemy pressed forward over Bazentin into Montauban. We threw him back out of Montauban by a counter thrust. Enemy attacks south of Montauban also came to a standstill.

KERMIT ROOSEVELT CITED. Military Cross for services in Mesopotamia, was announced in the Official Gazette to-night.

LONDON, Aug. 27.—The award to "temporary and honorary Capt. Kermit Roosevelt," son of Col. Roosevelt, of the British army in Mesopotamia of such duty until he joined the American forces in France.

PRESIDENT WILSON "RETURNS TO WASHINGTON MUCH REFRESHED FROM A FEW DAYS' SOJOURN AMID THE DELIGHTFUL SCENERY AND INVIGORATING AIR OF NEW ENGLAND."

Keeping fit to Win the War is best accomplished by a trip to "New England, The Vacation Land." Automobile Map New England Tours free by mail.

WILLIAM M. KIMBALL, Secretary, New England Hotel Association, Northampton, Mass.

reached Pelves, but the situation there is uncertain. Almost directly south of it, however, the Bois du Sart and surrounding ground have been captured and thus Pelves cannot possibly hold out for long.

London troops approached close to Croisilles, but a hot machine gun fire from that town and other indications that it was held by a large garrison, still protected in prepared positions, caused them to pause for a moment at the same time other troops attacked to the north against Fontaine-lez-Croisilles. Having reached the outskirts of that place they then swung southward to outflank Croisilles. They are meeting with stiff resistance here, but the Germans rapidly are being overcome.

To the south of this place the British have pushed well to the east of St. Leger and now are fighting just northwest of Recoust-St. Mein, between that town and Croisilles. Fighting likewise in progress in the outskirts of Vaux-Vrancourt.

East of Bapaume the line has been extended along the railway to Cambrai. Maricourt and the ground to the east of it are well in British hands. Trones station and wood and the ground to the east, which is valuable because it is high, were captured, as well as Moulins-lez-Fermy, on the Somme River bank, which was within the British front lines at the opening of the first battle of the Somme. Vaux Wood also was occupied and is held firmly.

High Ground Captured. After an all night fight Wancourt Tower and town, south of the Scarpe, were taken, and the important Heninel Ridge, as well as Heninel Village, also were captured.

Most of the operations south of the Somme have been carried out by a comparatively "peaceful penetration" for the Germans in this territory are offering hardly any resistance, and the Australians simply are pushing ahead, rounding up villages, woods and ground without having any definite objective.

It was to the north of the Somme that the formidable organized attack was launched by the British on an 8,000 yard front this morning, and it was this which had such good results in ground gaining. All the British guns have been moved up and are following close behind the infantry and the tanks.

The barrage laid down to-day north of the Somme was as heavy as any since the battle began, but the enemy counter barrage was so thin that it hardly deserved the name. Obviously the Germans are trying to save as many guns as possible. But, despite this, they lost a considerable number to-day. One small British formation alone has captured two complete 77 German field batteries since yesterday. The capture of these light batteries is very significant. The Germans ran for their lives when the British suddenly appeared close to them, and did not even make an effort to save their guns.

The enemy machine gunners have shown a similar spirit, their principal idea apparently now being to save themselves, if that is possible.

Prisoners Jeer Their Officers. German soldiers also have begun to exhibit the greatest contempt for their own officers and are carrying their feet

AMBASSADOR PAGE, ILL, RESIGNS POST

President Reluctantly Grants Plea of Envoy to Great Britain.

Special Despatch to THE SUN. WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—President Wilson has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Walter Hines Page as United States Ambassador to Great Britain. It became known to-day that Mr. Page, who has represented the United States at the court of St. James' more than five years, has recently made several requests to be relieved on account of his health, and the President has finally felt constrained to accept the resignation. The question of when Mr. Page will return home or when a successor will be named in his place has not been settled.

An Ambassador to Great Britain Mr. Page proved his worth especially during the trying period of this country's neutrality. His role was particularly difficult, because the British thought from the start that the United States should array itself against Germany, especially after the evidence of Germany's flagrant violations of the rules of civilization. The British expected information of their cause from Mr. Page and looked continuously for evidence of official indorsement by the United States Government.

AMBASSADOR PAGE steered a straight course of official neutrality, but at the same time made it very clear that the principles of right and justice which America as a nation indorsed would eventually bring the United States in conflict with any nation or group of nations which sought to trample them under foot.

Although he said little and made no public speeches during this period, Mr. Page became known in Great Britain as a man whose sympathies and ideals were all on the side of the Entente and the Impression became general that he firmly believed it was only a question of time before the United States became a belligerent.

Mr. Page's work in London at the time of the sinking of the Lusitania made a profound impression on the British. In the State Department at that time are said to have made a deep impression.

LONDON, Aug. 27.—Walter Hines Page, the American Ambassador to Great Britain, who has resigned on account of ill health, has been in poor health for some months owing to the long strain of war work. He took a vacation of two months early in the summer and then returned to London for a brief time. He was unable, however, to keep engagements for public appearances and was again compelled to go to the country. He and Mrs. Page will soon return to America.

PERSHING AWARDS D. S. C. TO 11. Brig.-Gen. Buck Among Those Honored for Gallantry.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—Distinctions Service Crosses have been awarded by Gen. Pershing to four officers, including Brig.-Gen. B. B. Buck, and several enlisted men of the American Expeditionary Forces in France for acts of gallantry.

In addition to Brig.-Gen. Buck, among those honored were Capt. Edward U. Meehan, Infantry; Capt. William G. Williams, Infantry; First Lieut. James C. Barnes; Sergeant John U. E. Hough; Infantry; Corporal John J. Lott, Infantry; and Private (First Class) Andy Younglar, Infantry.

BRITISH RAID NEAR ASIAGO.

Rome, Aug. 27.—Enemy positions west of Asiago have been raided by British troops, who in a hand to hand struggle overcame the garrison in the enemy posts. The British took 270 prisoners, according to an official statement issued to-day by the War Office.

LOVERS OF LOUISIANA By George W. Cable. This delightful romance opens at Atlantic City. There two old New Orleans families, between which a certain inherited hostility existed, are thrown together for a time, with the result that the younger lawyer who is destined to be the head of one falls in love with the beautiful Creole daughter of the other. When the scene shifts to New Orleans the plot develops rapidly, involving many dramatic incidents, including an attempt at assassination caused by the conflict between the new and the old ideas. \$1.50 net. CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS FIFTH AVE. AT 48th ST. NEW YORK

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