

been established. The Germans have massed heavy artillery on this front and are heavily counter-attacking.

Lions, which the Germans took in a counter-attack, has been recaptured by the British. The Allies have taken 40,000 prisoners and 700 guns in their offensive.

The towns of Albert and Chaules seemed today to be held by the enemy, and Roye has not fallen.

Close in on Roye. The French are continuing their advance between the Avre and the Oise and have captured the town of l'Échelle-St. Aurin, three miles directly west of Roye, and are closing in on Roye, the dispatches state.

The advance, however, appears to have slowed up.

Apparently the attack on the southern part of the front was being continued by the French this morning. Main interest centered in the sector around the Lassigny Massif. It is difficult to say whether the French are on the crest, but they must be close to it. The whole position on the southern line depends upon possession of it.

French troops have advanced nearer to the important point of Roye from the southwest by the capture of the villages of Armancourt and Tilloy, according to the official statement from Field Marshal Haig today. South of the Somme British troops have captured 200 prisoners. British positions east of Mericourt, south of the river, have been linked with the British line east of Etinehem, north of the river.

Smash Attack. The British positions south of Lihons were attacked last evening by the Germans. The attack was repulsed.

Today's British statement reads: "Yesterday evening the enemy again attacked our position south of Lihons. He was repulsed.

"As a result of a successful operation carried out by us immediately south of Mericourt, we captured 200 prisoners and linked up our positions east of Mericourt with the line east of Etinehem, on the north bank of the river.

"On the right of the Fourth British Army our Allies made progress yesterday afternoon in the direction of Roye, capturing the villages of Armancourt and Tilloy. British troops in one and one-half miles southwest of Roye.

"On the northern portion of the British front we effected local improvements in the direction of Etinehem and between Vieux-Berquin and Meris."

Present Battle Line. As nearly as can be learned the battle line from north to south runs today near Mericourt, Proyart, Rainecourt and Lihons, from which the British are fighting; thence west of Chaules, through or near Chilly, which has changed hands twice since the fighting; thence west of Chaules, through Quouscourt, Parvillers, Damery, Ancy, l'Échelle, Armancourt, Dancourt, Pipincourt, Roye-sur-Matz, Mareuil, Sanson and Astival, striking the old line near Ribecourt.

The battle appears to be approaching the end of the first phase, with the line steadily extending to the front, speaking generally, that the Germans held when they retired to the Hindenburg line.

The assistance that has been rendered by the Americans in this fighting has been comparatively small but nevertheless important, for they have captured and held positions strongly defended by the enemy at one of the most difficult points in the line at a time when the German resistance here was threatening to hold up the left flank of the advance.

By the Associated Press. Paris, Aug. 12.—Nearly 40,000 prisoners and 700 guns have been taken by the Allies today, according to reliable information here.

Seven hundred guns is the greatest the Allies ever have captured on the western front during the first days of an offensive.

Extremely bitter resistance is being encountered from the Germans along the line of Chaules, Roye-Noyon. The enemy is bringing up strong reinforcements, while the Allies are preparing for further advance.

The Germans are reacting on the line of the Hindenburg, and are attacking, having had time to get into the divisions rushed frantically from the north. It is believed here the fresh troops left behind in the fight in a desperate endeavor to block the Allied advance toward Neale.

General von Hutler, who escaped badly during the battle, is now being taken to Noyon, where his strong rests on the Oise, but should the British succeed in debouching from the villages of Lihons, Chilly, Fransart, Presnoy and Goyeville, von Hutler's retreat to Roye would not only be turned back, but would be off and hopelessly lost. The entire line, it is believed here, would then go down.

Should von Hutler succeed in holding on sufficiently to get his guns and material away his next move probably would be back toward the Somme, pivoting on Noyon. He would swing his right flank back on the line of Nesle and Noyon.

There was no marked change in the fighting situation on the French front during the night, says the official statement from the other side. There was artillery fighting in the territory southwest of Roye. The statement reads:

"Between the Avre and the Oise the situation is without change. During the night there was artillery fighting in the region of Marquilliers and Grivillers. Nothing is reported from the remainder of the front.

By the United Press. With the French Armies in the Field, Aug. 12. German casualties on the new Picardy front are estimated at more than 100,000.

German reserves rushed into action, partial reorganization of the demoralized retreating elements and arrival of fresh artillery have succeeded in showing up, but not stopping, the advance of General De Beney's and General Humbert's French armies.

The line last night shows progress between the Oise and Matz Rivers. Little Switzerland—as this is sometimes called—becoming untenable for the enemy.

Against strong resistance the French have captured Montigny Wood, Ellincourt and Antheval.

FIGHTING DIES DOWN ALONG VESLE FRONT

By the United Press. With the American Army on the Vesle, Aug. 12.—American and French troops opposing the German advance in the night north of the Vesle have encountered fresh Prussian divisions.

AMERICANS WITHSTAND THREE COUNTER-ATTACKS SPECIAL CABLES

ATTACK ON ROAD BRITISH TROOPS RUSHING TO FRONT BY MOTOR

ALLIES ON VESLE Germans Assail U. S. Lines to Prevent Sending Aid to Somme

THRUSTS PROVE FUTILE Three Counter-Blows Are Foiled—Foe Digging in to Hold Line

By EDWIN L. JAMES. Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger. Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. With the American Army in France, Aug. 12.

With the evident intention of hindering or blocking any proposed attack by the Americans along the Vesle while the drive from the west is on, the Germans since Saturday have delivered three counter-attacks in force on our lines in that sector.

These attacks, while of a local nature, were far different from the type ranging to the Vesle. The Germans have been putting up against us on the Vesle. They were delivered by fresh troops, who attacked in numbers superior to our troops at the points where they hit.

We met these attacks with machine-gun fire, and in one case with hand-to-hand fighting. The third German counter-attack, which was the most serious, was repulsed by our troops, who were aided by the fire of our heavy artillery.

These attacks were made in an effort to prevent the Americans from sending aid to the Somme. The Germans are trying to prevent the Americans from sending aid to the Somme.

Great Confusion Visible Among Transports Hastening East From There

HOPE TO CHECK BRITISH Sixteen Divisions Identified Among Reserves Being Hurried Into Action

By H. W. NEVINSON. Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger. Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. War Correspondents' Headquarters, Aug. 12.

I hear that at Albert, on the Ancre, the enemy is now withdrawing to the east. A suburb is also being evacuated, visible from the air in Peronne and that transports are hastening along the roads eastward from the Vesle.

But the enemy is moving up reserve divisions in hopes of checking our progress, and sixteen divisions have now been identified against the British front alone.

Cavalry which I saw coming into action in the direction of Albert, on the Ancre, Sunday morning, I cannot yet learn with what result, but just as I am writing this a colleague who has been in the cavalry tells me those gallant cavaliers are still in the line, and that they are still in the line.

Further south, where the Germans have been chiefly due to excess of zeal, as when cavalry charged in dashing style straight up to woods strongly held by machine-gunners, they were repulsed.

Lenine and Trotsky Flee From Moscow

Continued from Page One. Diplomatic circles, reviewed the correspondence that led to the decision of the ambassadors to go to Archangel, and to the evacuation of the city.

My message expressing friendly feelings for the people of Moscow, and my desire to maintain relations with them is appreciated, but you have not had time to say that you are not in agreement with such expressions.

Perhaps I may digress into a brief description of the scenes from which I have just been obliged to return. The roads were long streams of thick and yellow dust as thick as the driver could seldom see far enough ahead to know whether it was safe for him to pass a slower vehicle in front.

Further on we moved through a series of ruined villages, a general picture of human labor, hopes and comforts. Such disasters no restoration can ever repair. A point between the ruins of the Vesle, north of the Vesle, was occupied by the Canadians and French, respectively.

Loss of Guns Hampers Foe. Since July 15 the Germans have lost more than 100 guns, a serious matter in view of the difficulties they have experienced in the last six months in the manufacture of artillery.

Country a Vast Plain. The country all around is a vast plain extending right up to the Vesle, not really flat, but is varied by low waves of ground hardly perceptible, and yet capable of concealing whole batteries and battalions.

Small woods are also scattered over it, especially around the villages. For good reasons the fertile lands have been cleared for three years. They are intersected by trenches of every kind and dugouts facing both ways, for the ground has been cleared and defended by the Allies and the enemy.

Denies Lloyd George Claim. German Paper Says 150 U-Boats Have Not Been Sunk

By the Associated Press. Amsterdam, Aug. 12.—With reference to the recent statement by Premier Lloyd George in the House of Commons that 150 German submarines had been sunk, the Dusseldorf Nachrichten newspaper today published a report which says that the Russian side of the Vesle is being held by the Germans.

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PRICE DECREASES INITIATIVE IS REGAINED BY ALLIES

General Maurice Says That Is First of Several Advantages of Present Victory—Battle Developing Satisfactorily

By MAJOR GENERAL SIR FREDERICK B. MAURICE. Former Director of Operations of the British Army. Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger. Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

London, Aug. 12. The battle continues to develop most satisfactorily. The British forces have established themselves within close range of the important railway junction of Chaules, and should now be able to strangle the enemy's communications in the Montdidier salient in the same way as Foch did by striking at the Vesle.

In looking to the future, we must remember that not only can the enemy never be so strong again as he was before the battle, but we have achieved what we have achieved with the aid of only a small portion of the force which America will eventually put into the field.

In these circumstances this last victory, following so closely on the victory of the marne, enables us to say quite definitely that we have only to exert our effort, to be certain of final and complete success.

The attack which the Germans have just made on the Kemmel front was obviously intended to prevent us from detaching troops from Flanders and sending them to the Somme. The fact that it was made by a comparatively small force and met with no success is an indication that the enemy has not at present troops to spare for any considerable diversion.

The withdrawal which he carried out before the battle began in the neighborhood of Bethune and of Albert shows quite definitely that he had no intention of making a back-swing in our effort, to be certain of final and complete success.

It is foreseen to all German principles of war to accept passively two such setbacks as he has just received, but we are confident that he will not do so. Therefore we can have no surer test of the enemy's strength and fighting power than will be given by his action during the remainder of the campaign.

It may quite possibly be that he is contemplating a general shortening of his front, having failed in his attempt to break through the Kemmel front. If that is so the third battle of the Somme must have effectively damaged his plans, and the general appreciation of which we have fighting Sir Douglas Haig must now be but skeletons and must be replaced from the already reduced reserves.

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GERMANS MOVING BACK ON PERONNE

Speed of Attack Surprise to Foe

Continued from Page One. seeing the enemy flying in confusion before them.

I visited Saturday the ground in the neighborhood of Moreuil and Morizel and was able to see the devastation wrought by the French artillery. Shell holes pitted the ground everywhere.

The roads to Moreuil and Morizel are more heaps of ruins, while a chateau in the neighborhood in which a German colonel has been taken was a splendid tribute to the accuracy and intensity of the French gunfire.

The chateau itself had been thoroughly and conscientiously shelled, and there were great shell holes some fifty yards across, but out and shell holes virtually ceased, proving, as an officer who had been carefully studying the ground, said to me, how deep a lesson had been the French artillery practice.

French collaboration with the British effort has been more comprehensive than had at first been expected. It is now clear that the first and third armies are engaged. It will be remembered how General De Beney's army co-operated with the British in dealing the hammer blow to the enemy. On the disturbance of the line was achieved, the right of De Beney's army came into action, delivering its offensive at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 9th.

By evening of that day it had met with very strong German resistance at Arrillers, where reserves had been brought in to reinforce the men in the line. After a violent struggle these reserves were defeated and thrown back and the village was taken, the French also capturing Dancourt and the part to the west of Contoire.

The whole of the 4 o'clock attack delivered southwest of Montdidier was a complete success. The Somme, Fretoy, Le Tronquoy, Vaux, Assainvillers and Faveroles fell successively, the capture of Faveroles cutting off the communications of the German soldier and making the eventual capture of the town a certainty.

Since August 8 the French have taken complete success. The Somme, Fretoy, Le Tronquoy, Vaux, Assainvillers and Faveroles fell successively, the capture of Faveroles cutting off the communications of the German soldier and making the eventual capture of the town a certainty.

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PICARDY BATTLE MAY BE A RECORD

Likely to Set Mark for Captures on West Front in Short Time

BRUSILOFF'S GREAT BAG

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger. Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. New York, Aug. 12.

If the Allies' bag of prisoners and guns shall surpass this morning 25,000 men and 300 guns, exclusive of machine guns, it will establish a new record for three days.

It may still be behind the Austrian stalks at Caporetto last October and Brusiloff in July, 1916. These, however, may be qualified by the fact that the Austrians included in their capture all public servants—civil as well as military—while the major part of Brusiloff's prisoners were made up of Czech-Slovaks, who, later freed and armed by Kerensky, now oppose the Red Guards of the Soviets and German and Austrian prisoners in Russia acting with the Red Guard.

In the first three days of the German offensive—March 21-24—Berlin alleged the German capture of 25,000 men, 400 guns and 300 machine guns. In the first three days of the fifth phase of their offensive—July 15-18—the Germans claimed 17,000 prisoners. In the three days following in Picardy, the Allies captured 13,000 prisoners, the French and Americans took 20,000 men and 400 guns.

Big Bag in Champagne. But while the present captures of men and guns cover a front of thirty miles, with a penetration of the line to the Germans, in March, covered a front of sixty miles and a penetration of thirty for the three days covered. Again, in this respect, the Allies would reach the crest of the hills west of the Oise and have virtually cleared the Matz Valley of the enemy.

An important Allied advance is reported in the fact that the French have reached Antoval, on the crest of the hills west of Ribecourt. In the German drive early in June the Allies reached the crest of the hills west of the Oise and have virtually cleared the Matz Valley of the enemy.

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