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GATHERING UP THE REINS OF BATTLE

General Foch Consolidating Newly Won Positions and Strengthening the Lengthened Lines of Communication. The Enemy Behind Vesle River in no Position to Make or Resist Attack

(Special to The Guardian)
LONDON, August 6.—The battle along the Vesle river between Rheims and Soissons was less violent yesterday. Last night's statement from the French war office said that there had been only local fighting and that the general situation was unchanged. As Foch firmly maintains the initiative, this slight slackening in the struggle is not so much attributable to any improvement in the situation of the enemy by reason of more favorable geographical conditions or any sudden accession of good fortune, as to the fact that the Allied armies must divert a little attention to their lines of communication which have become somewhat attenuated during two weeks of rapid pursuit of the foe. With the enemy behind the Vesle, Foch has been enabled during the past forty or fifty hours to gather in the reins for a new phase of his counter-offensive.

Vast material damage has been done to the enemy. In addition there has been great destruction of the enemy's war material and transport facilities. The despatches also show that the Crown Prince has used large forces in his futile efforts to retard the Allied advance. In the Champagne forty divisions of Teutons were engaged and in the Aisne-Marne battle thus far forty-seven divisions have taken part. This proves that Foch was not beating the air but the utmost of enemy strength.

The German artillery fire is reported to be heavy all along the Vesle river and local efforts of the Allies to extend their gains across the river have been fiercely resisted. Whatever momentary success the foe may possibly win on the north bank of the river for a short distance east and west of Flines cannot possibly balance the importance of the steady progress of Foch's flanking movements immediately west of Rheims, and east of Soissons along the Aisne and Vesle.

GERMAN REPORTS STILL EVASIVE

Yesterday's German official reports spoke of fighting south of Conde at the junction of the two rivers, about eight miles east of Soissons, while a despatch from Reuters correspondent with the French army stated that French patrols had succeeded in crossing the Vesle at several points between Sormoise and Flines. With uninterrupted progress on the enemy's flank any effort of the Crown Prince between Flines and Rheims to gain time for his retreating troops will be poorly spent.

Valuable positions were abandoned by the foe in the region north of Montdidier along the Aisne river. The French forces now hold the entire line of wooded hills overlooking the river valley from Braches to Meault St. Georges, a distance of about ten miles. Fighting is reported in the village of Hargicourt, on the left bank of the river.

It was announced in Berlin yesterday that the Germans carried out their retirement along the Aisne without interference. The truth is that Foch's continual pressure has made the enemy's position north of Soissons uncomfortable as it has in the Albert region too, opposite the British armies.

Ludendorff's man-power has been severely reduced recently, and if for no other purpose than to shorten his line he has sought security in reluctant retreat.

ALLIES GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY SUCCESS

LONDON, August 6.—British, French and American troops are greatly encouraged by the recent successes north of the Marne and I look for great events in the near future and for the Canadian army to play an important role in these events.

GERMAN ATTACKS FAILED

PARIS, Aug. 6.—North of the Vesle the Germans have been repul-

sed in efforts to dislodge French and American units which crossed from the south bank. The official statement from the war office today also reports a French advance to the Aisne, north of Montdidier.

Prisoners were taken by the French in the repulse of a German raid south east of Montdidier.

FRENCH FIRMLY HOLDING AGAINST COUNTER ATTACKS

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, August 6.—French troops maintained their bridge heads across the Vesle River despite two strong German counter attacks. A mile on the edge of village of Braisne, on the Vesle, six miles northwest of Flines, was occupied by the French during the night.

Two bridges in that region were also seized. The Germans are still holding out in Braisne. Machine gun batteries have been installed in Braisne and the enemy is making bitter resistance there.

Artillery of both armies is heavily shelling along the Aisne, Vesle and Rivers. Further north the French are solidly established on the banks of the River Aisne north of Braches and Neuville Wood.

GERMAN GUNS ACTIVE EAST OF AMIENS

LONDON, Aug. 6.—The German guns were active last night in the region north of Villers Bretonneux on the front north east of Amiens, the war office announced today. They threw gas shells into the British lines.

The Germans attempted to pick off a British post in the district east of Merris on the Flanders front but failed under a British counter attack.

YESTERDAY'S BRITISH CASUALTIES

LONDON, Aug. 6.—Yesterday's casualties totalled 142 officers, 43 dead, 1,820 men and 452 dead.

PREMIER LLOYD GEORGE'S MESSAGE "HOLD FAST"

LONDON, August 6.—"Hold fast," was the keynote of a message to the British Empire, issued by Premier Lloyd George and promulgated in a dramatic way throughout the kingdom at 11 o'clock to-day.

GERMANS LOOTING KING ALBERT'S PALACE

(Special to The Guardian)
AMSTERDAM, August 6.—The Germans are beginning to plunder King Albert's private belongings in Belgium which they have often declared to be sacred to them.

Last week German, Belgian and Dutch emissaries came to Holland from Belgium with pictures and pieces of furniture known to belong to the royal collections. Among them was a bookcase adorned with the statues of the three kings of Belgium. It was ordered by King Albert not long before the war for his Brussels palace. The size of some of the treasures is such that they could not be smuggled in by thieves who were not in league with the Germans.

BRITISH ARMY LARGEST IN WAR

(Special to The Guardian)
LONDON, August 6.—In addition to Great Britain's immense service to the common cause in holding command of the sea and financing and equipping of the Allies the Mother Country now is maintaining on the field the largest of all the allied armies. She is thus showing fresh strength as the titanic war enters upon its fifth year.

AN ESTIMATED TOLL OF MARNE OFFENSIVE

60,000 Prisoners, 350,000 Killed or Wounded, 1,000 Guns and 1,500,000 Shells is the Probable Loss Sustained by Germans in Recent Drive.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, Aug. 6.—Since the Germans began their retreat from the Marne the Allies have captured a thousand guns, thousands of machine guns and millions of rounds of artillery ammunition. Agency despatches received here from the front announce

PARIS, August 6.—As yet it is impossible to give definite data concerning the number of prisoners and the amount of booty captured by the Allies during the great counter-offensive, which has now necessarily slowed down in order to permit of the re-arrangement of communication lines and other details preparatory to a further pursuit of the enemy. It is known that the booty includes a considerable

number of 77 millimetre guns, many of which were found in the depths of the woods of Archy and Tournelle and the forest of Fere.

The number of 77 millimetre shells salvaged up to the present totals 1,500,000.

Since July 15, the Allies have taken 60,000 prisoners, while 350,000 Germans have been killed or severely wounded.

Over 800 guns were also captured, it is reported unofficially.

More than 500 guns have been captured by one French army alone—that of General Mangin—since the beginning of Allied offensive on July 18th. This army also took an equal number of trench mortars in the same period.

SENSATIONAL FIRE IN MONTREAL

Number of Suspects Arrested Among Them an Alleged Alien. Number of People Injured. Damage Half a Million.

(Special to The Guardian)
MONTREAL, August 6.—Damage of more than half a million dollars, a factory, a public bath and thirty dwellings destroyed, three arrests of persons wanted as witnesses at the forthcoming inquiry, one of them suspect

of being an alien enemy, four firemen hurt, girls leaping from windows, thrilling rescues, more than a hundred residences placed in jeopardy, were some of the outstanding features of a fire which broke out this morning at the premises of the Montreal biscuit factory.

OIL TANK STEAMER SUNK OFF HALIFAX

After Three Hours Running Fight the Steamer Was Burned to the Water's Edge. Two Killed, Several Injured.

HALIFAX, N. S., August 6.—The Imperial Oil Tank steamer Luca Blanca which left here on Monday morning was torpedoed and set on fire after a bitter fight against long odds—thirty-five miles from port.

The survivors were picked up by an American patrol cutter and brought back to Halifax.

(One of the engineers on the Luca Blanca, torpedoed off Halifax, was Mr. William McLaren, of Georgetown, Mrs. McLaren (nee Flo McKenzie) is a native of Charlottetown. A telegram received from Mr. McLaren yesterday announced his safety.)

Five hours after leaving port the ship was shaken from stem to stern by a torpedo striking her stern. All the protection the Luca Blanca had was one twelve pounder and this was immediately put into action. The torpedo, fired by a submarine of the latest and largest type, had blown a huge hole in the stern of the doomed steamer.

Notwithstanding this the Luca Blanca put up a running fight against shell fire.

Finally the steamer was in flames from stem to stern and the Captain and crew abandoned her and took to the boats; the fight having lasted nearly three hours.

Two of the members of the crew were killed and a number injured.

B.V. ON OAT LEAVES MEANS BRITISH VICTORY

(Special to The Guardian)
LONDON, August 6.—"British victory" is the handwriting on the leaves of the oats, according to the interpretation of Scarborough farmers who have recently discovered a "V" on the oat leaves in addition to the letter "B" which has been noticed in many sections this year. Sheriff Alex. McCowan is given credit for being the first to notice the addition of the letter V to the B on the oat leaves.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE, TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TORONTO, Aug. 7.—Northwest to north winds, generally fair and warm. High tide this morning at 11:32; tonight at 12 o'clock and tomorrow at 1 o'clock. Sun rises today at 6:11, sunset 8:35. New moon, August 6th first quarter 14th. Full moon 22nd. Last quarter 28th.

GERMAN MINISTER IN ZURICH RESIGNS

(Special to The Guardian)
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, August 6.—Admiral Von Capelle, German Minister of Marine, will resign shortly, according to Berlin despatches to the Stuttgart Tagblatt, the Munich Zeitung and the Augsburger Zeitung.

AIR RAID ON ENGLAND PROVED A FAILURE

(Special to The Guardian)
LONDON, August 6.—Hostile airships approached the east coast of England about 9:30 o'clock Monday night, the Admiralty announced early this morning. The enemy aircraft did not penetrate far inland.

WAS A COMPLETE FIASCO

LONDON, Aug. 6.—The attempted raid by German Zeppelins on a east coast of England last night proved to be a complete fiasco, according to reports thus far received. British flyers who are ever on the alert along the coast were ready for the visitors and met them some distance out at sea and brought one down in flames damaging a second and driving a third away. The fact however that the report said "Zeppelins crossed the coast" is ground for the presumption that these did reach land.

IGNORANT CRITICISM OF BORDEN'S ABSENCE RESENTED IN LONDON

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, August 6.—Informed Canadians here resent the criticisms levelled against Sir Robert Borden because of his prolonged stay in England. The Prime Minister hopes to get away shortly, but is detained in connection with problems of vital importance to the welfare of the Canadian army and the Allied cause. When the facts are known some of the impatient writers in Canada will regret their present attitude.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HUTS

(Special to The Guardian)
PARIS, August 4.—Gen. Pershing granted an interview at the front recently to Dr. E. B. Buckley and J. J. McGraw, Knights of Columbus directors, who are in Europe inspecting the work being done by the order along the front. The two commissioners returned to Paris after three days' trip in the battle zone. Knights of Columbus huts are being built everywhere at a rapid rate.

REGISTRATION RETURNS ARE NOW COMPLETE

(Special to the Guardian)
OTTAWA, August 6.—Hon. Senator Robertson, chairman of the Dominion Registration Board, was able today to announce practically complete returns of the men and women power registration taken June 22nd.

HON. N. W. ROWELL ARRIVES IN OTTAWA

(Special to the Guardian)
OTTAWA, Ont., August 6.—N. W. Rowell, president of the Privy Council, who recently returned from overseas arrived in the Capital today and will attend a sitting of the Cabinet council.

REDUCTION OF SUGAR IS REQUESTED

(Special to the Guardian)
OTTAWA, Ont., August 6.—Reduction of household consumption of sugar in Canada to a ration of one and one half pounds per person per month for personal use, is requested by the Canada Food Board, in a statement issued today.

GERMANS LEADING REVOLT IN THIBET

(Special to The Guardian)
PARIS, August 6.—The government has received a report from the ex-administrator of the Czechuan frontier that the Thibetans have revolted, and have Germans as their military advisors.

GENERAL HAIG STILL PRESSING FORWARD

His Patrols Have Pushed Forward to Pacaut Wood East of Pobecq. Enemy Has Covered Withdrawal Across the Ancre by Destroying the Bridges.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, August 6.—General Haig continues to nibble at the German line. Last night's official statement said that patrols pushed forward the British posts slightly at the Pacaut wood, east of Robecq and about five miles northwest of Bethune. The foe again displayed his nervousness by vigorous bombardment of the British positions south of Ypres.

line says that following the withdrawal of the foe to the Albert region all the bridges across the Ancre in the sector covered by the retirement have been destroyed. The latter still hold the river crossing at the town of Albert itself.

A despatch from Sir Douglas Haig's

The new line which now runs south of the town of Dernancourt to Meaulin about two miles to the northeast and thence to Albert, is under heavy bombardment by the German guns.

THE ITALIANS AGAIN SCORE SUCCESSSES

A surprise Attack Drove the Austrians from the Positions Won by Them on June 15.

(Special to the Guardian)

battalion, under the Archduke, who was a major, won the edge of Dorso Alto mountain by Lante Garda.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS, Aug. 6.—A sudden surprise attack by the Italians has wiped out the temporary Austrian success which had gained promotion and decoration for Emperor Charles' brother, the Archduke Maximilian. On June 15th an enemy

Now the Italians have taken back the ridge with four officers and 172 men as prisoners. The position is useful as it has a direct observation of the mouth of two great valley routes through the Trentino.

ANOTHER HOSPITAL SHIP TORPEDOED

105 to 130 Lives Lost Including Several Women Nurses and V.A.D.'s. Of 600 Sick and Wounded Soldiers and 200 of Crew 650 Survivors Have Been Landed.

(Special to The Guardian)

were brought here shortly after eight o'clock and were given first aid treatment, food and clothing. The patients were placed aboard special trains which had been waiting to receive them and sent to various hospitals in different parts of the country. The torpedo struck the after part of the engine-room killing the third engineer and two other members of the engine-room force. The dynamo was destroyed plunging the ship in darkness.

LONDON, August 6.—The Admiralty this evening issued the following communication concerning the torpedoing and sinking of the homeward bound ambulance transport Warilda; torpedoed and sunk on the 3d of August:—

"The torpedoing early Saturday morning of the British ship Warilda was one of the most harrowing disasters in the history of submarine warfare. The number of dead is variously estimated at from 105 to 130, and upward, and includes several women nurses."

The ship carried 600 sick and wounded to England. Among them were seven Americans, two officers and five enlisted men, all of whom have been accounted for except one private. There were on board 89 nurses and members of the voluntary aid department and the crew comprised about 200 men. More than 650 survivors

Victim of Huns Was Prominent Waac
(Special to The Guardian)
LONDON, Aug. 6.—One of the women lost on the torpedoed ambulance ship Warilda was Miss Viola Long chief controller of the British women's Auxiliary corps, better known as the Tommy Waaacs. With her sister Mrs. Long started the work of the Corps early in the war.

Mrs. Long, a witness says, became entangled in the ropes as she was being placed in a boat and was caught between the boat and the side of the ship. She was injured seriously and begged to be released but there was no way to help her. Finally the small boat went adrift and Mrs. Long disappeared in the sea.

MORE RIOTING IN TORONTO

(Special to The Guardian)
TORONTO, August 6.—There was an attack made yesterday on an Earlscourt store, Lansdowne and St. Clair and P. C. Mitchell was badly beaten at Broadview and Queen. These were the only outbreaks of the civic holiday but tension was high on the streets.

*TO DAIRYMEN—SANITARY BUTTER paper, printed, "Fresh Dairy Butter"—35c, per 100. Per post 40c. Guardian Office. 9025-6-24REV.

MILITARY HELD READY FOR CALL

NIAGARA CAMP, August 6.—On instructions from Colonel Bickford, Toronto, 500 men of the C. R. T. depot here were held in readiness all day to respond to a call in case one should come to go to Toronto to help quell any rioting that might occur there. However, no call came.

CONDENSED SPECIALS

*GOOD CHANCE FOR SMART BOY to learn linotype machine. Apply at Guardian Office. 732-8-6MGT.

*FOR SALE A FIVE PASSENGER Overland Car. Apply by letter "B.A. C." c/o Guardian Office. 714-9-6M31