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THE GERMANS HAVE LOST SOME IMPORTANT GROUND

Unofficial Reports Announces the Capture of Lavigny by French Troops---The Huns Are Still in Possession of Chaulnes and Roye---French Continues to Make Progress Despite German Resistance

North of the Somme the Germans have lost further important ground. In the former region they have evacuated their positions over a five-mile front to the British north of Albert, while in the latter they have been beaten back in the hill and wooded districts just north of the Oise river by the French.

German front line trenches at Beaumont Hamel, Serre, Puisieux, Aumont and Bucquoy have been found untenable by the enemy in the face of the recent activity by the British all along the line from Albert to Arras while the French have persevered in their violent attacks against the Germans on the sector which dominates the lower Picardy plain and the Oise valley and have encroached further south have captured the important town of Ribecourt.

Unofficial reports have announced the capture of Lassigny by the French and of all the German positions between the western outskirts of Bray-Sur-Somme and Etinehem by the Australians. There is, however, no official confirmation of them.

Holding on Well

From the Somme to the Oise, except in the latter region where the French have made further gains, the Germans seemingly have had further success in holding back the Allied troops and are still in possession of Chaulnes and Roye, upon the capture of which the efforts of the British and French have been centred. On this central part of the battle front the enemy continues to deliver violent counter-attacks and also has further reinforced his line with men and guns and is using them without stint to retain his positions, realizing that their capture would spell disaster.

The giving up of front line trenches north of Albert possibly may mean that the German high command foresees the ultimate success of the American and British operations along the Somme and is readjusting the German positions to meet any eventuality. In any event the retrograde movement, seemingly indicates that the ten mile salient between Beaumont, Hamel and Bray on the Somme, with Albert its apex must now give way in order that the German front there may come into alignment with that in the south across the Somme. In fact, it seems not improbable that the Germans purpose to readjust their front from the Somme to Arras, and possibly further northward.

Capture of Ribecourt

The capture of Ribecourt by the French mark an important epoch in the offensive which has for its immediate purpose the freeing of the region between the Somme and the Oise of the enemy. As a gain from the strategic standpoint it ranks with the taking by the French of the forest and hill positions between the Matz and the Oise, which brought the French almost to the gates of Lassigny.

Through Ribecourt lies an open route up the Oise Valley to Noyon—a route by rail and the big national thoroughfare, not to mention the canal which parallels the roadways for the greater part of the way. Noyon is only a little more than six miles northeast

of Ribecourt.

Although they are still encountering violent resistance, the French are continuing to make progress through the wooded and hilly country between the Matz and the Oise, where the Germans from recesses in the forests on spurs and in the canyons are using machine guns innumerable. Gas also is being loosed in great quantities by the enemy. Almost the entire control of the Thiescourt Plateau and the other high ground on this sector is now in the hands of the French.

Along the Vesle the Germans again have made unsuccessful attacks against the French and Americans, who are still holding their positions.

In the mountain region on the western front, the Italians have captured several important positions from the Austrians.

Call Them Yanks

Washington, Aug. 14—Official reports to the American government show that the Allied thrusts in Picardy extended over a fifty-three mile front and had attained a maximum penetration up to yesterday. General March, United States chief of staff disclosed this today in his semi-weekly conference with newspaper correspondents, adding that at no point is the enemy now within fifty miles of Paris.

The chief of staff took occasion to urge newspapermen to discourage the nickname "Sammy" in speaking of the American troops. The term is disliked by the men themselves, he said nor do either the French or British understand why big, strong men like the Americans should be tagged with such a nickname. The British soldiers called their American comrades the "Yanks."

Demanded Twenty Divisions

Geneva, Aug. 14—Twenty divisions of troops were demanded of Germanys allies by General Ludendorff during the retreat from the Marne, according to the Democrat, which received the news from German sources. Austria-Hungary refused, but after General Ludendorff had made threats, Vienna sent two divisions to the western front.

For this reason the Austro-Swiss frontier was closed recently.

HUN PRESSURE BEING EXERTED IN FINLAND

Washington, Aug. 14—A report from Stockholm reaching the state department today from sources considered reliable, says the German government has addressed an ultimatum to the Finnish government requiring that the Finnish army prepare to march against the Entente forces on the Murmansk coast within two weeks.

Another Stockholm despatch says the Russian sailors are declaring that they will fight the German Government rather than give up their speech or will blow up the Russian navy rather than have it fall into the hands of the Germans. This report is based on information obtained on August 11. It is stated the Bolshevik leaders Lenin and Trotsky have been sent to Kronstadt by Russian soldiers. It is also reported in these advices that the German Ambassador to Russia and the German consul at Petrograd are in Helsingfors on their way to Berlin. Previously it has been reported that the German ambassador had moved to Pskov.

A despatch from Archangel today says the diplomatic corps of the entente nations are living aboard warships in the harbor owing to the lack of accommodations, and the crowded conditions of the city of Archangel.

Pressmen Organize.

The Maritime Press Association was revived at a meeting of newspaper men held at Sackville yesterday. Officers were elected as follows: J. C. Keating, Moncton Times, president; Edwin C. Young, Halifax Chronicle, vice-president for Nova Scotia; J. P. Malaney, Woodstock Press, vice-president for New Brunswick; J. R. Burnett, Charlottetown Guardian, vice-president for P. E. I.; R. A. N. Jarvis, Newcastle Advocate, secretary; J. W. H. Sutherland, New Glasgow News, auditor

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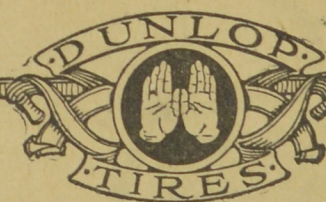
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"A Petticoat Pilot"

PATHE NEWS.

HAROLD LLOYD IN COMEDY.

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"SPECIAL DUNLOP TRACTION"

Mr. W. H. McQuade of St. John, motor Vehicle Inspector arrived in the city last night.

Rev. Canon Armstrong and Rev. Canon Crowfoot of St. John are at the Queen.