

The Observer

MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY, October 18, 1918

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GERMANY ACCEPTS TERMS OF PEACE

Note From Berlin Says Evacuation of All Occupied Territory Is Agreed To.

Washington.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's inquiry, declares Germany is ready to accept President Wilson's peace terms, evacuate the invaded territory as a prerequisite to an armistice, and that the bid for peace represents the German people as well as the government.

The text of the note follows: "In reply to the questions of the President of the United States of America, the German government hereby declares:

"The German government has accepted the terms laid down by President Wilson in his address of January 8 and in his subsequent addresses on the foundation of a permanent peace of justice. Consequently, its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon practical details of the application of these terms.

Willing to Evacuate Territory. "The German government believes that the governments of the powers associate with the government of the United States also take the position taken by President Wilson in his address.

"The German government, in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian government, for the purpose of bringing about an armistice, declares itself ready to comply with the propositions of the president in regard to evacuation.

"The German government suggests that the president may occasion the meeting of a mixed commission for making the necessary arrangements concerning the evacuation.

Support of Reichstag Claimed. "The present German government, which has undertaken the responsibility for this step towards peace, has been formed by conferences and in agreement with the great majority of the reichstag.

"The chancellor, supported in all of his actions by the will of his majority, speaks in the name of the German government and of the German people.

"Berlin, October 12, 1918.

"SOLE.

"State Secretary of Foreign Office."

LAON IS TAKEN BY FRENCH ARMY

Paris.—Laon, the last of the group of natural obstacles forming the key-stone of the German defense in France, has been taken without a fight.

The German stronghold of La Fere, together with a great part of the St. Gobain massif of which La Fere was a

In the Back



German "Efficiency" has never reached a higher plane than in the foul desecration of the Red Cross emblem in the bombing of plainly marked hospitals in the allied lines.

"Here are many allied officers and men," says the Kaiser. "If they were not wounded, they might dodge our glorious airplanes as bombs are dropped. Being wounded, they cannot move, and so they are killed in their beds or in the air as their beds are blown out from under them.

"Gott being with us, let us blow up all the Red Cross hospitals we can."

So the "Greatest Mother in the World" remains a shining mark for the "Superbeast's" efficient elimination of his enemies.

Since Allied airplanes have become regular visitors to German cities, the Kaiser has discovered such bombing to be a violation of international law.

Your subscription to the Fourth Liberty Loan will mark the earnestness of your approval of the building of great fleets of American airplanes to bring their frightfulness home to the Hun.

GENERAL BULLARD



Gen. Robert L. Bullard, commander of the American Second Field army, recently organized in France.

northerly outpost of the Oise, has been captured by the French.

The entire German line from St. Gobain to the Argonne has cracked on a 60-mile front and it now appears that the enemy will be forced to retreat to a depth of some 30 miles before finding a suitable line of defense.

Between the Oise and Berry-au-Bac the Seventh German army has been forced to abandon the lines of the Ailette, retiring its right in the forest of St. Gobain.

In the Champagne General Gouraud continues his terrific onslaughts on the disorganized adversary. For 17 days his men have been pounding the German positions and making inroads upon the defenses.

335 DIE IN SHIP CRASH

Fatal Collision of Troopships Occurs in North Channel.

An Irish Port.—Revised figures indicate that 335 American soldiers perished in the Otranto disaster in the North Channel.

Three hundred American soldiers and 30 French sailors and 266 members of the crew of the Otranto have been landed at a port in northern Ireland. Sixteen other survivors have been picked up at Islay.

The Otranto is a total wreck on the island of Islay. The Kashmir landed its troops at a Scottish port without loss of life.

The troopships collided while a heavy storm was raging and the Otranto, with a gaping hole in her side, then drifted helplessly toward the rocky coast.

480 Lost When Leinster Is Sunk.

London.—The number of lives lost when a U-boat sunk the passenger liner Leinster in the Irish sea is now placed at 480. The vessel carried 687 passengers and had a crew of 70.

Survivors said that the submarine fired the two torpedoes without warning from a range of about 150 yards.

FRENCH POUND FLEEING GERMANS

Paris.—French troops continue to keep in contact with the retiring Germans, the French war office announced. The French report said the remaining enemy troops were showing resistance on the north bank of the Aisne canal south of Chateau-Porcien.

Sixty-five hundred civilians were liberated when the French troops entered the city of Laon. The statement issued at the war office says that the French have passed far beyond the town on the whole front between the Oise and the Ailette rivers.

Newspapers here believe that as a result of the continuous advance of the allies the Germans will be forced hastily to retreat to the Lille-Metz-Metz line.

The German retreat is being carried out with difficulty owing to the bombardment of railroads by airplanes. British troops are reported to have outflanked Bouchain and to be advancing on Denain, from which town they are only three miles distant.

American forces are advancing in the direction of Dun-Sur-Meuse, in the Argonne sector, according to the transatlantic.

BRIEF NEWS OF THE WAR

The battle line in France continues to bend under the attacks of the allies, and the enemy almost everywhere is retreating toward new positions. But his retreat is orderly and the British, French and Americans are being compelled to fight their way forward slowly in the face of enemy machine gun detachments acting as rear guards.

To the south the French have blotted out both La Fere and Laon and the greater portion of the St. Gobain massif standing in the elbow where the line runs eastward toward the Swiss frontier.

The Chemin des Dames no longer stands as a bulwark for Laon in the Aisne region and to the east in the Champagne the French, by a swift advance, have entered Vouliers and carried their line so far north that the communications between the German northern armies and those east of the Champagne bid fair to be cut.

On the extreme allied right in the active battle area the American First army is keeping up its hammering tactics and daily gaining more of the most valuable ground remaining to the Germans in northern France—that protecting their communicating lines from the home soil through the Metz and Montmedy regions.

Both in the Macedonian theater and in Palestine the allied forces are pressing the enemy hard. Albania is fast being cleared of the Austro-Hungarian troops, while in Serbia Nish, the capital of the little kingdom, after the invasion by the Austro-Hungarians, has been recaptured and the enemy driven to the hills north of it.

Huns Retreating in Belgium.

With the Allied Armies in Belgium.—Menin has fallen. Allied troops are a mile east of Roulers and advanced patrols are within a mile of Courtrai. The Lys river has been crossed between Comines, which has been captured, and Warneton. Reports indicate another crossing effected at Merivieq. Everywhere the Germans are fighting rear guard actions with large numbers of men involved.

British Troops Reported in Lillp.

Paris.—British patrols entered the southwestern suburbs of Lille Tuesday morning.

..... We must have pure fresh milk. Count it economy to see that each child in the family has at least a pint of milk a day. Get the milk habit. Encourage the dairymen to keep up his dairy. He is willing to do his share but he can't do everything without co-operation.

The self-denial of the American home, added to the efforts of the American farmer, have removed fear from the minds of our Allies, for this year, at least. Let's keep it up.

Second U. S. Field Army in France. With the American Armies in France.—America now has two armies in the field.

The second field army began operations under the command of General Robert L. Bullard, while General Hunter Liggett has been assigned to the command of the first field army.

Influenza Increases at Camp Lewis. Camp Lewis, Wash.—There were 437 new cases of influenza here last week, as opposed to only 128 cases the previous week, according to the weekly health report. The number of deaths, despite this increase in influenza, decreased.

THE MARKETS.

Portland.

Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$54 per ton. Barley—Standard feed, \$46.75 ton. Corn—Whole, \$75; cracked, \$76. Hay—Timothy, \$30 per ton; alfalfa, \$27.

Butter—Creamery, 63c per pound. Eggs—Ranch, 55c per dozen. Potatoes—\$1.75@2.25 per hundred. Poultry—Hens, 23@25c; springs, 25@26c; roosters, 18c; ducks, 32@34c; geese, 15@18c; turkeys, 28@30c.

Seattle.

Butter—Creamery, 64c per pound. Eggs—Ranch, 56c per dozen. Poultry—Hens, 26@28c; springs, 28@32c; roosters, dressed, 27@28c; ducks, 25c; geese, 21c; turkeys, 30c.

NOT HIS THE FIELD

Wall of One Whom Fate Forbids to Carry Sword and Shield.

Hard-Hit Lot, He Can't Get Old Bill Meundgott—But Here at Home Has All the Fun (?) While Others Fight to Crush the Hun.

The daily papers that I see all cry in tones of wonder, the praise of our fine lads in France who face the German thunder; and not a single day goes by but some kind friend will hail me, and with a two-inch line of type with gestures will assail me. "My friend," he cries, "The Tanks are there! And that big boob, the Kaiser, will all too soon their anger feel, and sadder be and wiser! 'Twas only yesterday they took a mile or two of trenches; and soon in Berlin's parks they'll be, sitting on the benches! Now, I don't grudge that praise a bit—I like to hear them boasted; I like to hear our boys in France get cheered and sung and toasted; I wish that I were over there and scratching at the vermin, and now and then from time to time I'd get a husky German. I would that I might lie and snore among the mud and thistles, and eat cold chow and hardtack moist where shrapnel screams and whistles. But since I can't be over there among my friends and neighbors I'll call respectful notice to my own emphatic labors. I do not have a two-pound bomb across the German border; instead I plot a diagram and keep the room in order. I do not wear a hero's togs nor sport a hero's medal; instead I grade ten million logs and work the hot-air pedal. I do not help to crush the Hun with bayonet emphasis; but I explain the why and when of fields electrostatic. I can't at present strafe the Boche with shell and sword and fire, so I'm content to teach a class the ways of braided wire; and though I pause to envy those who share the fun heroic, I force myself to lesser tasks with an expression stolid. I do not much enjoy the job while I am wading through it, but, good or bad, the job is here and someone has to do it! Although I sit in peaceful ease, enjoying things delightful, I long for Flanders' mud and seas and other torments frightful. So while the papers cheer for those who fight beyond the ocean, I join with them my heart and voice and register emotion. I wish that I could be in France to battle for our nation; but meanwhile how about a bit of home appreciation? So I just mount a near-by chair, where those about can view it, and give three lusty cheers, since no one else will do it! At it! If I must stay at home my courage is consistent; I'd rather be in France than here, a Theory Assistant!—Exchange.

BUY A FOURTH LIBERTY BOND

By H. V. Neal.

Hark, & voice to you appealing, Men of Freedom, Thought and Feeling, Innocents implore you kneeling, "Buy a Bond."

Hosts of Hell are right defying, Spurring not the sick or dying, Broken hearts to you are crying, "Buy a Bond."

For our boys who, in the fight, Stand for U.S.; for God and Right, Keep their hearts from burning bright, "Buy a Bond."

In the name of Liberty, Strike the blow to make men Free, Help to win the Victory, "Buy a Bond!"

MANY PEOPLE DIE IN FOREST FIRES

Duluth, Minn.—Information from fire-swept northeastern Minnesota tended to confirm reports that nearly 1000 persons lost their lives in the forest fires of Saturday and Sunday in this section.

Twelve thousand homeless and penniless refugees, all in need more or less of medical attention, are quartered in hospitals, churches, schools, private homes and in the armory here.

Cloquet, Brookston, Breavor, Corvus, Adolph, Thompson, Arnold, Moose Lake and Wright have been wiped out, according to refugees.

Scores of hamlets and hundreds of settlers' homes have been destroyed. The property and timber loss will total many millions of dollars.

Liberty Bonds Build Tanks

This is one of the light tanks which played such an important part in the recent allied drive on the Montdidier-Amiens front. Known in the British army as "Whippets," they are also in use by the French. No American communication has mentioned their use as yet.

The "whippet" is said to be able to outpace and outmaneuver a man. Their greatest use has been in crushing the machine gun posts which the retreating Germans left behind to hold off pursuers. The enormous bag of prisoners was due to the "whippet's" ability to drive lanes through all obstacles, evade hostile artillery fire by their speed and maneuvering ability, and even force the surrender of artillery.

A large part of the Fourth Liberty Loan probably will be needed for the building of such land "destroyers."

What are those Verdampft Yanks yelling about now?

..... "The Schweinleges have just heard that the Fourth Liberty Loan was oversubscribed fifty per cent," the Sergeant in Special Charge of Baby-Killing said.

The German sergeant and sixteen men had just reached safety after a glorious retreat of 2.1 kilometers from the Aisne.

"What made that Yank so mad when he couldn't catch up with us?" inquired a corporal when they had recovered their breath.

"He was all hopped up with a report that the Fourth Liberty Loan was way oversubscribed," said the sergeant, who had been in the United States and knew how those things worked.

Fatter Fritz, Free France—Buy Liberty Bonds.

COLONEL STIMSON



Col. Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war under Taft, now commands the Thirty-first Field artillery, Camp Meade, Md.

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