

TO HELP WIN THE WAR
BUY LIBERTY BONDS.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

TO KEEP THE WAR WON
BUY MORE LIBERTY BONDS.

Forty-eighth Year.
Daily—Thirteenth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1918

NO. 175

ALLIES TAKE 10,000 HUNS IN FLANDERS

SEVEN MILE ADVANCE ON WIDE FRONT

British, French and Belgian Armies Push Rapidly Into Belgium, Forcing Boche Back—Thourout and Roulers Among Towns Captured—10,000 Prisoners and 100 Guns Taken—Heavy Rain Handicaps Operations.

WITH THE ALLIED FORCES IN BELGIUM, Oct. 15.—(By Associated Press.) British, French and Belgian troops in their offensive begun yesterday in Belgium have captured more than ten thousand prisoners and have taken more than 100 guns.

Advanced allied troops have signaled that they are from six to seven miles inside the German positions. The Belgian town of Thourout was captured by the allies.

Thourout was an important strategic position and a vital transportation center. Upon it hinges a large part of the German transportation system.

Heavy rain fell in Flanders throughout the night, tending to turn the battlefields into seas of mud. The low-lying clouds show no signs of clearing. A continuation of the steady downpour would undoubtedly result in slowing up the battle.

Allied Drive Renewed BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FLANDERS, Oct. 15.—(Reuter's.) General Plumer's troops pushing forward in Belgium have captured 3729 prisoners, including 131 officers. They have taken more than 50 guns and a regular harvest of mortars and machine guns.

The allied drive in Flanders resumed this morning, the troops striking out from the advanced line reached last night after the first day of their successful offensive.

The German army suffered heavily yesterday during the progress of the Flanders battle. Twenty of their machines were brought down by the allies.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—Belgian troops are on the outskirts of Menin and are within two miles of Courtrai. The allies also are in effective artillery range of the railway from Lille to Thourout by way of Courtrai. This means that the allies dominate the connecting link between the German troops around Lille and those in the Ostend sector.

8000 Prisoners Taken LONDON, Oct. 14.—(Monday.)—The official statement issued tonight relative to the offensive in Belgium says: "The Flanders group of armies under the king of Belgium attacked at 5:30 o'clock this morning. The second British army advanced about four and one-half miles in the direction of Courtrai, capturing the important villages of Ledeghem and Moorselle and reaching the northern outskirts of Menin.

The Belgian army advanced also nearly five miles toward Thourout and captured the villages of Rumbekke, Ispegem, Cortemarck and Handzaeme.

The French army attacked with the Belgian troops on both flanks and occupied Roulers as well as the villages of Davren, Hoogstede, Gits and St. Joseph. They also captured the plateaus of Gits, Hoogstede and Gibbete. The prisoners counted exceed 8,000. Thirty-three hundred were taken by the Belgians, 2500 by the French and 2300 by the British. The exact number of guns taken is unknown, but six complete batteries

YANKS CHOPPING FRESH NOTCHES IN GERMAN LINE

From Meuse to Grandpre. Americans Swing Hammer Blows for Gains—Most Savage Fighting About Romagne—Germans Put Down Heavy Defensive Barrage.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 15.—(Noon. By the Associated Press.)—Tanks were brought into action by the Americans today to break a way through the enemy wire entanglements west of Romagne.

Despite German resistance the progress of the Americans early today was satisfactory. The Germans apparently were ready to contest the ground as stubbornly as they did yesterday. The enemy artillery was being used freely to hold the Americans, but the Yankee gunners were doing much to break down the German resistance.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Monday, Oct. 14.—(7 p. m. By the Associated Press.)—From east of the Meuse to the vicinity of Grandpre, American troops chopped a series of fresh notches in the German lines today. They kept up their swinging blows for early morning until late afternoon.

Although they extended to the west bank of the Meuse, the most savage fighting took place about Romagne and westward, where the enemy is striving to maintain that section of the Kriemhild line running north-westward from Romagne. The battle has been in and over the wire entanglements. Hanging on the wire tonight are Germans whose equipment bears evidence that another fresh division has been brought up to meet the steady pressure of the Americans.

German Barrage There was some artillery preparation for the American attack but it was not much heavier than that offered by the Germans in defense until late in the day when there was a slight falling off. At that time there was a movement of artillery toward the rear of the German positions.

On the least indication of movement in the American lines the Germans laid down a barrage of such intensity as is ordinarily used only preliminary to an offensive. Not content with their artillery defense, the Germans made an extraordinarily liberal use of gas. Although the gas clouds along tensaciously to the ground, the Americans were not seriously hampered.

Heavy clouds and rain prevented airmen from giving material assistance. In spite of the drizzle, however, several flying craft did get over the lines late in the day. They contributed somewhat to the success of the advance. Flying low, they launched heavy gusts of machine gun fire on the enemy. The roads, woods and fields over which the men fought were softened by the long rains and progress was difficult. Nowhere was there any apparent reduction in the spirits of the men.

Line Straightened The greater part of the resistance of the Meuse was from machine guns, but in spite of them and the reinforced German lines the Americans straightened their line between the Sirey and the Magenta farm.

West of Romagne the Germans had fortified one bit of sunken road with machine guns in such a manner that it was regarded necessary to blast it away with big guns. The Germans had tunnelled openings for machine guns through the banks on the sides of the road and every little tunnel was lined with cement. All attempts to take this position were fruitless until the machine guns were silenced by direct hits.

SUGAR BOARD CONTROL COFFEE BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—To adjust coffee imports with shipping conditions and to insure necessary supplies, control of the importation of coffee has been taken over by the sugar equalization board. Outstanding licenses have been revoked as to ocean shipment after October 15. The food administration said rationing is not contemplated, but that the people would be expected to reduce consumption.

THE PEACE BEGGAR



The Answer Is Buy More Liberty Bonds.

LIBERTY LOAN STIMULATED BY PRESIDENT'S REPLY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Liberty Loan subscriptions have been stimulated by President Wilson's reply to the German peace note, according to reports to the treasury today from loan committees throughout the country.

From cities and rural communities came telegrams saying both Liberty Loan workers and citizens who had not yet subscribed took new interest in the campaign.

With only five days of the campaign left, about three billions remained to be raised. All reports indicated renewed assurance that the nation would not fail.

"The greatness of the task during the balance of the week may be a precedent," said the Liberty Loan headquarters today, "when it is realized that each day of the remainder of the loan period of the country must raise an amount equal to the entire expense of running the United States government for a six-months period of the war.

"In most sections of the country the loan has been made the chief business of the week. In reply to Secretary McAdoo's telegraphic request, state governors have issued proclamations calling upon their people to do their utmost this week."

GERMAN PRESS SHOWS CONFUSION OVER WAR CRISIS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Swiss dispatches today say the German newspapers are now showing a confusion equal to that which they showed in the interval between the proposal of Prince Maximilian and President Wilson's message of inquiry. Some of them are quoted as follows:

The Frankfurter Zeitung: "Evidently if the negotiations cannot be carried out we still turn back to arms and in desperate combat defend the German territory, but we must have no illusions in this respect. At the most important time of her history Germany feels the lack of that very energetic military help, which according to ancient beliefs stands for right. However terrible this disillusion may be for the German people, brought up among military display, humanity will benefit by it if President Wilson is able to establish a real and true justice."

The Morgen Post: "The army high command believes too that the continuation of war in the present circumstances will bring no good results."

600 BODIES OF VICTIMS OF FOREST FIRES RECOVERED

DULUTH, Minn., Oct. 15.—More than 600 bodies of victims of the forest fires that raged in this vicinity Saturday and Sunday have been recovered. Rescue parties believe other hundreds are yet to be found.

During the night rescue workers covered miles of territory which has yet been untouched by searching parties and sent to the relief stations many trackloads of badly burned, half starved settlers who were found wandering aimlessly.

Many of the bodies brought in today bore indications that death was caused by exposure and lack of food, rather than from burns.

The first rescue party into Fond Du Lac Indian reservation brought reports of many deaths among the Indians. Some saved themselves by taking refuge in lakes and streams.

Parties of veterinarians were sent from here today in an effort to save some of the livestock which is wandering through the burned districts.

CHICAGO, Oct. 15.—Property damage by the forest fires in Minnesota amounts to \$75,000,000 and the insurance losses will total \$25,000,000, insurance men here computed.

VON HINDENBURG SOUGHT PEACE NOT CHANCELLOR

Field Marshal and Not Prince Max Caused Germany to Accept Wilson's Peace Terms—No Supply of Raw Materials for Exhausted Munition Supplies.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—It was Field Marshal Von Hindenburg himself and not the supposedly pacifist premier, Prince Maximilian, who caused the German government to accept President Wilson's peace terms and seek an armistice, according to advices which reached Washington today through official sources by way of a neutral country.

According to this version, Von Hindenburg, knowing the desperate condition of the German army himself better than any civilian and especially the fact that there is now no supply of raw material to replenish the exhausted stock of munitions of war, insisted upon the application for an armistice. Prince Maximilian is said to have resisted strongly, disclosing himself in the light of a true conservative and autocrat, only to be overruled by the majority of the war council at which were present the heads of the German states. This is pointed to as the explanation of why the German note in response to President Wilson's inquiries was signed by Dr. Solf, the minister of foreign affairs, although the prince had initiated the correspondence.

Only Three Months Longer From the same source is called a prediction that the German defensive cannot be continued for more than three months at the outside without a debacle. This statement, from a well informed neutral source, regarded as semi-official, is based upon belief that a great revolution is impending in Germany, the majority of the people being determined to have peace at any price.

Rumors of the probable retirement of Prince Maximilian and that Scheidemann might take his place as chancellor are regarded as important only as an index to the fever working in Germany. President Wilson's opinion is that it matters little who is the German chancellor so long as the chancellor and the government are answerable to the kaiser.

Some observers here think the Germans will make any sacrifice rather than go through another winter of war or within their borders, and that the next move in Berlin may come more quickly than is generally expected.

To Reject Terms Military officials here, however, are almost united of the opinion that Germany has not been brought to the point where she will seek an armistice on the terms laid down. On the contrary, they think the military elements still in control will hold up the president's communication to the German people as proof of their contention that their enemies are determined to bring about the destruction of the nation. Then they will continue the retreat of their armies on the western front in the hope that an early winter will find them behind shorter and very much more powerful lines of defense, close to the German border but still on her enemy's soil.

THREE DRIVES FORCE BOCHE FRONT BACK

Blows in Flanders and North of Loan to Verdun Drive Germans Back—French and Americans Pressing Enemy Hard From Oise to Meuse and Cross Serve River—Six Mile Advance North on Laon—Tanks Used to Great Advantage.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 15.—In Flanders and from the Oise to the Meuse the allied troops continue their vigorous blows for important gains. As the French press on in the Laon-Aisne region, the allied offensive in Belgium and the American operations west of the Meuse are being renewed today with success.

Smashing their way thru the network of railways in western Flanders, the Belgian, French and British forces under King Albert are now within two miles of the important rail center of Courtrai. The allies also dominate with their guns the railroad running from Lille to the Belgian coast by way of Courtrai and thus hamper if they have not cut off, all communication between Ostend and Lille.

Evacuating Belgium The German resistance in Flanders appears to be only for the purpose of delaying the allies until the evacuation of Belgium can be completed. The enemy is reported to be sending large boatloads of troops away from the coastal region.

Between the Oise and the Argonne the French are pressing the enemy hard and giving him little chance to dig in. East of the Oise the French are within a half mile of the Serre river and have advanced between five and six miles from Laon. The French now threaten Rethel, having captured Nanteuil-sur-Aisne, two and one-half miles west of Rethel and about the same distance east of Chateau Porcien.

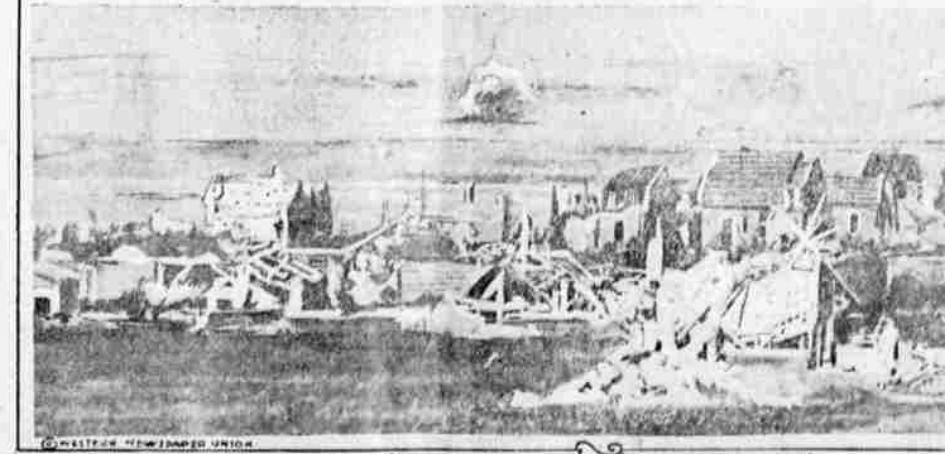
Keeping step with the American operations east of the Argonne, the French are moving forward west of the forest. West of Grandpre, General Gouraud has moved north of the Aisne and taken the towns of Oilly and Termes, straightening out a bulge in the allied line.

Americans Go Forward Between the Argonne and the Meuse the Americans are battling forward today thru the German wire entanglements. Tanks have been brought up, especially in the region west of Romagne. As on Monday the Germans are resisting stubbornly, but satisfactory progress is being made.

American troops have carried their lines well past the Kriemhild position west of the Meuse. They are now holding a front that runs from north of Cuneil, north of Mommagne and thence northeastward to the vicinity of St. Georges at which village it turns to the southwest and meets the French lines at Grandpre.

This sector is so important to the future development of German defensive measures that it may be expected that the enemy will strive by all means to hold back the Americans.

GERMANS UTTERLY DESTROYED LENS AND ITS COAL MINES BEFORE EVACUATION.



PARIS, Oct. 15.—(Havas.)—It will be from 18 months to two years before it will become possible to take out any coal from the mines in the Lens region, which the Germans damaged to the best of their ability before they retired from the city, an inspection of the mining properties has revealed. It is estimated that it will take five years to restore the normal production of the pits. Of the ten thousand houses in Lens not one is left standing, the town having been completely razed.

HUNS ASK ALLIES TO TAKE REFUGEES

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 15.—The German government has proposed to France that in cooperation with her allies, France undertake to restrain from bombarding the large towns of northern France and enter into an agreement with Germany to permit, at any rate, a portion of the population of Valenciennes to pass into French lines, says an official statement from Berlin.

The Berlin government in making this proposal, represented itself as unable to prevent the eastward flight of the population of Valenciennes, owing to their fears that the allies would bombard the town. The proposal was made thru the Swiss government.

PACKERS CLEARED OF SELLING UNFIT MEAT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Wilson and company, Chicago packers, were cleared today of charges alleging sale of unfit meat to the army which have been pending before the federal trade commission since last March. The commission announced today that the charges were dismissed for lack of evidence.