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GERMANY AGREES TO STOP ATROCITIES IN REPLY SENT TO PRESIDENT WILSON

ALLIES PUSH BOCHE BACK IN BELGIUM

British Smash Way Through Formidable Defenses Along Selle River Capturing 3,000 Germans and Outflank Ghent Forest and Cut Dutch Border is Cleared—Bad Weather Fails to Check Advance.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. Oct. 21.—British troops in smashing through the formidable German positions along the Selle river, north of LeCateau, captured more than 3,000 prisoners. The Germans were forced from positions of great natural strength on a wide front and the British gains were maintained notwithstanding enemy counter attacks. The British now hold the heights between the Selle and Harpies rivers and are in a position to outflank the Mormal forest and cut the railroad between Valenciennes and Avesnes. Further north the allied forces continue their progress through Belgium and French Flanders from Denain to the Dutch frontier. On the north the Belgians are approaching Ghent while in the center the British are marching on the Scheldt river and outflanking Tournai, an important railway junction. Both towns have been made useless to the Germans.

Railroad Lines Cut
The railroad running through Avesnes is the principal avenue of communication between the German armies north and south of the wedge driven into their line by the allies. If it is cut, or if it is taken under artillery fire, the enemy will be seriously embarrassed in keeping the two wings of his army in touch with each other.

The bad weather that has prevailed in France during the past few days has not checked the Arzonne forest the French have moved ahead once more. They have reached the outskirts of Terron-sur-Aisne, north of Vouziers. This seems to be a stroke at La Chesne, northeast of the Arzonne forest.

The village of LeChesne is an important railway center and is on a railroad which runs toward Bazancay, behind the front where the Germans are striving to stop the American drive on the line from the Arzonne to the Meuse.

American forces are apparently meeting with desperate resistance along the front west of the Meuse. This front is so important to the enemy that he is making a great effort to hold it firmly. He apparently has succeeded for the time being at least in holding up the Americans.

(Continued on Page Six.)

DOUAI LEFT IN RUINS BY HUNS AS IS ROUBAIX

Once Beautiful Cities of France Scene of Waste and Desolation—Furnished Piled in Street and Smashed—Systematically Looted by Angry Germans—Bridges Intact.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE Sunday, Oct. 20.—(Havas.)—Douai in its waste and desolation is a sad sight. The streets are filled with furniture and articles of all kinds. It might be said that in Douai all the insane asylums had been opened and that mad men in their fury had taken delight in destroying everything. The material losses are incalculable.

At Roubaix and Turcoing
WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Sunday, Oct. 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—Roubaix and Turcoing today celebrated their deliverance from the enemy.

The people of the two cities were wild with emotional joy. There were kisses, hugs and handshakes for every British soldier. There was good reason for Roubaix and Turcoing to celebrate. The swabbering German had gone, though they left in their wake as much ruin as they could do. Nearly every home in the city had been sacked and things that could not be carried away were destroyed.

Pinned at being forced to leave the towns, the Germans went to extreme lengths to defile, destroy and steal. Roubaix and Turcoing were systematically burglarized. In Roubaix the Germans cut fine leather seats from chairs, ripped pictures from their frames and even took cloth coverings off mattresses. Apparently they went through the fine old homes of the city with the idea of seeing how thoroughly they could wreck the interiors. In many places they deliberately broke up everything they could lay their hands on.

For miles around Roubaix and Turcoing the countryside has been sined and scorched by the red heat of war. Broken cannon, rifles, pieces of shell, barbed wire and bayonets and other equipment of soldiers are scattered all about. There are miles of mangled fields where the shell craters are so thick that it is impossible to tell where one begins and the other leaves off. Here and there are old machine gun mounds of stone, concrete and dirt. The trees are leafless and many have been elevated to pieces by flying shells and bullets.

Scenes at Bruges

LONDON, Oct. 21.—Scenes of humpiness at Bruges, eclipsed those at Lille after the liberation of the two cities, according to the correspondent of the Daily Mail. During the occupation of Bruges by the Germans the people there were not allowed to receive news from the outer world, unless the news was handled by the German officers. The correspondent writes:

"When the only American woman left in Bruges was told of the deeds of Americans in France, she cried with happiness: 'Oh, if I had only known that!'"

Bruges was fired on various occasions, the correspondent says, and everything made of metal was taken away.

LIEUTENANT GENERALS



GEN. HUNTER LIGGETT



GEN. ROBERT BULLARD

PROMOTIONS FOR LIGGETT, BULLARD FOR WAR SERVICES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—Major Generals Hunter Liggett and Robert L. Bullard were nominated by President Wilson today to be lieutenant-generals.

General Liggett commands the First American field army in France and General Bullard commands the Second. They became the only lieutenant-generals on the active list, their new rank being for the war period, like that of General Pershing. General Liggett is a major general in the regular establishment, and General Bullard is a brigadier.

General Liggett was given direct command of the First field army when it was organized and led in the first major offensive when the St. Mihiel salient was wiped out in a day.

CAPTAIN GRANT KILLED IN ACTION

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMIES NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—Captain Edward Grant, former third baseman of the New York National League club, and attached to the 307th infantry, was killed by a shell while leading a unit to the aid of the famous "hot battalion." The battalion was surrounded for five days in the Arzonne forest and Captain Grant was killed during one of the attempts to reach it.

EVERY EFFORT MADE TO CHECK PERSHING'S MEN

Germany Drawing Heavily Upon Other Parts of Line for Reinforcements to Hold Americans Above Verdun—Every Point Disputed and Heaviest Possible Losses to be Inflicted.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—Germany is drawing heavily upon other parts of the western front for reinforcements to check the Americans north of Verdun. General Pershing's communique for Sunday says during the heavy fighting of the past week a constantly increasing number of German divisions have been brought up and are bitterly contesting every foot of ground.

The communique adds: "West of the Meuse our troops have continued their pressure on the enemy. East of Bantheviller in the course of local fighting in the Bois des Rappes they captured over 100 prisoners. On the entire front north of Verdun there has been heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Severe counter-attacks have been thrown back with heavy losses to the enemy."

Dispute Every Foot WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 21.

—(By Associated Press.)—Fierce fighting took place in the Bois des Rappes, on the western end of the American line. In the face of terrific machine gun fire the Americans were forced to fall back. Later they counter-attacked and regained the part of the wood that had been lost.

When the German government on October 12 told President Wilson that it was ready to comply with the proposition of the president concerning evacuation, the German army had completed arrangements for a withdrawal from France. This assertion is made by German prisoners captured by the Americans Sunday in the region of Grandpre.

It is the purpose of the German command to dispute every foot of the American advance on the line west of the Meuse and to inflict the heaviest possible losses. German prisoners captured Sunday declared. They added that the Americans in taking over this sector would find more formidable opposition than any place on the front and would suffer accordingly.

TO GIVE HUNGARY COMPLETE FREEDOM

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 21.—Emperor Charles will shortly issue a manifesto to the Hungarian people announcing the independence of Hungary, according to the Budapest correspondent of the Rheinisch Westphalian Gazette. Hungary, the manifesto will say, is to have economic independence and will maintain her own army and her own diplomatic corps.

The state highway thru the Sacramento canyon where the new work was reported being done is reported in a badly demoralized condition. The road is so badly cut up as to be almost impassable.

CEASE TORPEDOING PASSENGER SHIPS

HUN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



DR. VON SOLF

Dr. von Solf has been secretary for the colonies and succeeds Admiral von Hintze who for a few brief months held the foreign affairs ministry. He signed the peace note.

SCHELD T. CROSSED BY BRITISH FORCES: 750 HUNS TAKEN

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN BELGIUM, Oct. 21.—(Reuter's.)—In the region east of Courtrai the Second British army today was advancing on a line of three and one-half miles along the Scheldt river. They had gained this line by a great bound forward Sunday.

During the battle which resulted in this gain more than 700 prisoners were captured and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

The Second army encountered stiff opposition in places when it resumed its attack Sunday. When the fighting lull had evening the British had driven a big salient into the German front from St. Louis to Belleghem to a far as the vicinity of Kneek and to a depth of about five miles. This morning the British line ran from Wansbeck along the Belleghem salient and thence past Worroing and Baillet to the west of Tournai.

To the north the Belgian and French troops had an excellent day of sustained progress. Here and there the Germans were pressed into tight places and are fighting vigorously to extricate themselves.

The town of Sweveghem, three miles east of Courtrai, was penetrated by soldiers of the Second army only after a hard conflict.

OSTEND CHANNEL BLOCKED BY HUNS

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN BELGIUM, Sunday, Oct. 20.—(By Associated Press.)—Before leaving Ostend the Germans scuttled a large mail boat alongside the old British warship Vindictive, which was sunk in the channel there last May. They thus made doubly sure that the channel will be blocked for a long time.

GERMANY DENIES INHUMAN ACTS CLAIMS COUNTRY DEMOCRATIZED IN NOTE BEGGING FOR ARMISTICE

Hopes United States Will Approve No Demand Irreconcilable With the Honor of German People—Protests References to Illegal and Inhuman Acts and Proposes Neutral Probe of Same—Future Governments Must Possess Confidence of Reichstag Majority as Constitution Has Been Changed to Provide It—Claims Property Destruction Justifiable.

LONDON, Oct. 21.—The German reply to President Wilson's note, the text of which was received here today by wireless, says Germany hopes the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with the opening of the way to a peace of justice.

Germany protests against the references of President Wilson to illegal and inhuman acts. Denial is made that the German navy purposely destroyed lifeboats with passengers. The German government proposes that the facts be cleared by neutral commissions.

Germany has dispatched orders to submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships.

Claim Country Democratized
The German government suggests to President Wilson that an opportunity be brought about for fixing the details of the evacuation of occupied territories.

No future German government will be able to take or hold office unless it possesses the confidence of a majority of the reichstag, the note announces.

Germany has agreed that conditions of an armistice should be left to the military advisers and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field should form the basis for arrangements.

Announcement is made of a fundamental change in the German constitution providing for representation of the people in the decisions concerning peace and war, and it is said that the present government has been formed in complete accordance therewith.

Germany claims the sanction of international law for carrying out destruction of property during retreats and says her troops are under strict instructions to spare private property and care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur, the note says, the guilty are being punished.

Text of German Note

The text of the German note, as received by wireless, is as follows: "In accepting the proposal for an evacuation of occupied territories, the German government has started from the assumption that the procedure of this evacuation and of the conditions of an armistice should be left to the military advisers and that the actual standard of power on both sides in the field has to form the basis for arrangements safeguarding and guaranteeing this standard.

"The German government suggests to the president that an opportunity should be brought about for fixing the details. It trusts that the president of the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with opening a way to a peace of justice.

"The German government protests against the reproach of illegal and inhuman actions made against the German land and sea forces and thereby against the German people. For the covering of a retreat destructions will always be necessary and they are carried out insofar as is permitted by international law. The German troops are under most strict instructions to spare private property and to exercise care for the population to the best of their ability. Where transgressions occur in spite of these instructions the guilty are being punished.

Denies U-Boat Atrocities

"The German government further denies that the German navy in sinking ships has ever purposely destroyed life boats with their passengers. The German government proposes with regard to all those charges that the facts be cleared up by neutral commissions.

"In order to avoid anything that might hamper the work of peace, the German government has caused orders to be dispatched to all submarine commanders precluding the torpedoing of passenger ships without, however, for technical reasons, being able to guarantee that these orders will reach every single submarine at sea before its return.

"As a fundamental condition for peace the president prescribes the destruction of every arbitrary power that can separately, secretly and of its own single choice disturb the peace of the world. To this the German government replies:

"(Hitherto the representation of the people of the German empire has not been endowed with an influence of the formation of the government."

(Continued on Page Six.)

TWO MILLION YANKS IN FRANCE--THEY'D STRETCH FROM CHICAGO TO NEW YORK CITY



The war department has announced that there are now two million American soldiers in France. It's hard to realize the size of such a force. If this army was lined up at attention as in this cut, it would reach from Chicago to New York—1000 miles; 2000 men to the mile!