

MENIN AND THOUROUT TAKEN BY ALLIES

ALLIED DRIVE IN BELGIUM IS THREATENING GERMAN U-BOAT BASES ALONG THE NORTH SEA

Capture of Thourout Completely Outflanks the Enemy Base At Ostend.

ALLIES NEARING BRUGES

Lille Salient Gradually Being Enmeshed and Pincers Will Soon Close.

DRIVING IN CHAMPAGNE

Americans and French Face Vigorous Resistance.

(By the Associated Press.)

The entente forces in Belgium and France continue successfully to drive the enemy before them. In Belgian Flanders the advance is somewhat rapid but on all the sectors in France the Germans are fighting with desperation to hold back their foes.

The great wedge that is being driven by the Belgian, British and French troops in Flanders now threatens seriously the tenure by the enemy of many positions in north Belgium from the Lys river to the sea, including his submarine and other bases along the coast, while to the south the Lille salient gradually is being enmeshed and doubtless soon will receive attention for the task of reclaiming this important tract of territory as far as Valenciennes for France.

Meanwhile the French and American forces are struggling valiantly forward in their drive northward from the Champagne region in the country over which the Germans must effect a retirement to their own border in the event of a final debacle. As has been the case always since the offensive began, the Germans are vigorously defending their positions, using innumerable machine gun detachments in endeavors to hold their ground. Particularly vicious are the counter-thrusts that the Americans are being compelled to sustain east and west of the Meuse where the entire enemy front is threatened with immediate collapse should Gen. Liggett's men crash through the line for material gains.

Nevertheless both the Americans and the French are demanding that their armies be served and on various sectors they are meeting with success. In the Romagne sector further gains have been made by the Americans in the face of terrific artillery and machine gun fire and the natural defenses and great systems of wire entanglements which had to be negotiated. Bad weather has fallen over the sector and the airman have been unable to give their usual brilliant assistance to the maneuverers.

To the west the French are slowly closing in upon Reithell on their way to Cleverly, being only two miles distant from the town. West of Grand Eglise they have effected further crossings of the Aisne. About 800 Germans were made prisoners in this fighting.

In Flanders the British have taken the important railroad center of Menin, Thourout has fallen and the Thourout-Lille railroad has almost been won. Numerous towns have been recaptured by the allied forces and large numbers of prisoners have been taken. Many guns also have fallen into the hands of the allies. The capture of Thourout completely outflanks the German submarine base at Ostend and brings the allied troops within ten miles of Bruges whence the railroad line runs northward to Zeebrugge, Germany's main U-boat base on the North Sea.

Reports are to the effect that the Germans are withdrawing what is left of their forces in the north, both naval and military.

In Austria the Italians have occupied the Austrian naval base of Durazzo on the Adriatic while in Serbia the allied forces are continuing to press the enemy troops north of Nish.

CITY OF DURAZZO IS TAKEN BY ITALIANS

Storm the Austro-Hungarian Positions, Capturing Prisoners and War Material.

Rome, Oct. 15.—Italian forces in Albania after storming the Austro-Hungarian positions on the heights in front of Durazzo penetrated the city yesterday morning, taking prisoners and capturing war material, the Italian war office announced today.

From the east our column advancing from Elbasan along the Tirane having overcome on October 15 the lively resistance of hostile rear guards in Kraba Pass again are continuing their march toward their objectives.

Vienna, via London, Oct. 15.—The occupation of Durazzo by the Italians is admitted in the official statement issued by the war office tonight.

More Than 10,000 Germans Are Captured in Belgium

With the Allied Forces in Belgium, Oct. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—British, French and Belgian troops in their offensive begun yesterday in Belgium have captured more than 10,000 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.

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

The Belgian town of Thourout was captured by the allies. Thourout was an important strategic position and a

TRANSPORT AMERICA SUNK AT HER PIER

Sinks Into the Mud at Hoboken As She Was About to Sail For Europe.

300 SOLDIERS ON BOARD

So Far As Known Is No Loss of Life—Vessel the Former German Liner Amerika of 22,622 Gross Tons.

Hoboken, N. J., Oct. 15.—Shortly before the American troop transport Amerika, formerly the German transatlantic passenger steamer Amerika, was about to sail today for Europe with soldiers and supplies the vessel sank at her pier here.

In the early morning darkness, while the troops aboard were sleeping, the Amerika settled with her keel in the mud, leaving only three of her eight decks together with parts of her funnels above water.

So far as known there was no loss of life. Troops were placed on guard outside of the pier and details regarding the sinking were denied to inquirers.

The cause of the accident remained a mystery even to navy department officials. A theory expressed in some quarters that water poured into the holds as a result of uncompleted repairs apparently did not conform with the fact that the ship was ready to weigh anchor today for a foreign port. It was learned that a gang of machinists was at work at the time the vessel settled and it was suggested that one of these men being a civilian not familiar with marine mechanisms, inadvertently opened a seacock under the impression that he was closing it.

The submerged Amerika, next to the largest of the government's transports, was under the sight of persons crossing the lower Hudson river on ferry boats. The Amerika of 22,622 gross tons, has a capacity for carrying 3,000 troops and a crew of 1,200 men. Of the troops on board at the time. Nearly all the coal had been placed in the bunkers.

Inasmuch as all the troops and the crew are reported to have escaped, it was believed the vessel sank slowly, although not so leisurely as to give the men time to take their belongings. One estimate was that the ship went down in 25 minutes.

Red Cross workers were summoned to administer to the shivering soldiers. Regarding possible loss of life, a naval official here in authority, said: "Only incomplete information is in the hands of the authorities of the port. Any loss of life must be determined by a checking up of the muster roll."

The officer and other investigators stated that no circumstances of a suspicious character had been learned, but that the inquiry was continuing.

The sinking of the Amerika makes the second transport thus put out of commission in New York harbor since the war. On April 25 last, the liner St. Paul sank while being warped into her pier.

FIVE MEN ARE MISSING BUT ALL ARE BELIEVED SAFE

Washington, Oct. 15.—Reports to the navy department on the sinking of the transport Amerika at her dock at Hoboken, N. J., today said there were 300 soldiers on board in addition to members of the crew and that all hands except three privates and two sailors had been accounted for. It was thought probable that the missing were safe.

The transport took a sudden list to port and it is believed to have been set down by water pouring into her compartments, she was reported to be open for loading, coal.

A court of inquiry has been ordered.

vital transportation center. Upon it hinged a large part of the German transportation system.

The fighting continued throughout the night and at various places severe resistance was encountered, but at most points the British, French and Belgians pressed forward. In this region the battle may be said to be almost as much against the weather and the mud as against the Germans. But while this sort of sticky ground hampers the allied troops, it hinders even more the enemy who is trying to move his materials under a heavy fire and through the mire of ground of the Flanders lowland.

The Belgian-French line now runs from Handzeeme to Peereboom to Borne to Thourout, from the Cortemarck road to Heile to Leirebosch to Driewegan to Gits to Gitsberg to Beveran to Zuidhoek, east of the Roulers-Lys canal to Iseghem, to Bosch.

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WIDEN BREACH IN KRIEMHILDE LINE

Pershing's Men Advance in Face of the Most Stubborn Resistance.

COUNTER ATTACKS FAIL

American Gains are Made Through Pursuance of the Strategic Policy of Surrounding Rather Than Storming.

With the American Army Northeast of Verdun, Oct. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—In the face of the most stubborn resistance conceivable, including literally hundreds of machine gun nests, the Americans advanced again today and widened the breach in the Kriemhilde line.

The Germans heavily shelled the center and left center of the American line and desperate counter-attacks were carried out. These counter-attacks failed.

The Americans who captured Hill 299 and penetrated the strong wire defenses between Landres-Et-St. Georges and St. Georges have passed St. Juvin.

The American gains in general were accomplished through pursuance of strategic policy of surrounding the objectives rather than storming them. The machine gun-filled woods and heights lying in the path of the American advance were taken for the most part by going around them on the left and right and joining forces again on the north side and clearing up the areas thus encircled.

The day's fighting began early when the Americans pushed forward and encircled the difficult position at Hill 288 from which a machine gun fire estimated as coming from at least 200 guns concealed in the adjacent woods was directed at the Americans. The patrol pushed forward despite the enemy opposition into the Batherville woods.

Hill 288 was taken early notwithstanding a withering machine gun fire and a deluge of gas shells which compelled the Americans to fight for hours with their gas masks adjusted. They also encountered vast quantities of wire which had not been sufficiently cut by the artillery and faced an enfilading fire from both sides.

BERLIN REPORTS ATTACK BY STRONG AMERICAN FORCES

Berlin, via London, Oct. 15.—Strong American forces yesterday attacked the German positions between the Aire and Meuse rivers, the German general staff announced today. The allied troops which yesterday took the offensive in Belgium captured from the Germans the town of Handzeeme and Courtemarck, the statement adds.

The town of Roulers fell into the hands of the enemy after stiff fighting. West of the Meuse, where the Americans are in the fighting line, partial attacks resulted in victories for the Germans, according to statements from general headquarters tonight. The allied attacks on the Flanders front continue, the statements add.

OWNERS OF SCHOONER FILE SUIT FOR \$100,000 DAMAGES

Norfolk, Va., Oct. 15.—Master W. A. Barton, in behalf of the owners of the American schooner Stimson, rammed and badly damaged at sea by the steamship Northland of the Old Dominion Steamship company's line, today filed an admiralty suit against the latter charging negligence and responsibility for the disaster. Damages to the amount of \$100,000 are asked. The owners of the Stimson charge that the collision which occurred off the coast last Sunday, was due to the faulty navigation of the Northland.

AMERICANS HOLD A MOST VITAL FRONT IN VERDUN REGION

Fate of Germany Possibly Depends Upon the Enemy's Success There.

HUN ORDER REVEALS IT

Pershing's Men Threaten Large Part of Germany's Steel Supply.

With the American Forces Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—How great is the importance attached by the Germans to holding back the Americans is shown in a recent order of Gen. Von der Marwitz, commander-in-chief of the fifth army.

"It is on the unconquerable resistance of the Verdun front," reads the order, "that depends the fate of a great part of the western front, perhaps even of our nation. The fatherland must rest assured that every commander and every man realizes the greatness of his mission, and that he will do his duty to the very end."

"If they do this the enemy's attack will be heretofore break against our firm will to hold."

With the American army already across the Kriemhilde-Stellung line, it might be expected the Germans will fall back rapidly to the third line of defense from Stenay to Sedan, but because of the vital necessity of preventing the allies from cutting the lines of communication before the greater part of the German forces are able to extricate themselves, it is assumed that they will increase rather than decrease their resistance.

When the British forced their way through the Argonne near Cambrai, it is pointed out, the Germans rapidly fell back to their third defenses, but the strategic reasons for their continued resistance in the open are not clear. It is pointed out, however, compared to those in front of the Americans.

Added evidence has been secured that instead of reducing his opposition the German commander in chief is endeavoring to bring up fresh divisions and to throw them after those already broken by the Americans.

The object of this attack," the order continued, "is to cut the Lorraine-Sedan line, the most important artery of the west. Moreover, it is the enemy's intention to render it impossible for us to exploit the Briey basin on which depends in large part our steel productions."

ANOTHER STEP BEYOND THE KRIEMHILDE LINE TAKEN

With the American Forces North of the Argonne, Oct. 15.—(Reuters.)—Another step beyond the Kriemhilde-Stellung defenses was taken yesterday by the Americans. The patrol moved their line up to the St. Georges and Landres-Et-St. Georges, northwest of Romagne. It was the third phase of General Pershing's operations between the Meuse and the Argonne front.

The attack began early on Monday morning but it was not until late in the day that any material progress was made. Almost the entire day was taken up in a bitter struggle through gas-filled woods and over the shell-swept hills that separated the Americans from the Germans entrenched behind wire entanglements.

To the east of the Meuse the line moved forward to Silveray and the Ogenta farm but just to the west of the river little advance was registered. Less effort was made there because the problem was to straighten the line from the French near Grand Pre.

It is at Romagne that the Kriemhilde position swings in a northwesterly position and there the forces of general Von Gallwitz fought valiantly to hold back the Americans. New guard divisions were brought up at that part of the line and every device of the Teutonic fighting machine was used to smash the pressure.

Except for a brief period in the latter part of the day when the visibility slightly improved, it was a battle without adequate observation for either side. Clouds without a break covered the field throughout the day and during much of the time a drizzling rain was falling.

This condition, coupled with a lack of wind, made the time for gas attacks almost ideal and the German took full advantage of the weather. Every wood and ravine through which the Americans moved was a flood of gas.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers to The Star, both in the city and by mail, should not complain if they fail to receive their paper, if the subscription is in arrears. Under the ruling of the War Industries Board we are required under oath to eliminate every subscriber who is not paid in advance. It has been impossible to notify many, except by liberal advertising in the paper, which the subscriber may or may not have seen. If your paper fails to come and you are uncertain about your subscription, the safest plan is to enclose remittance for renewal and you will be given credit for the full amount.

Hindenburg, Seeing Defeat, Was Responsible for the Offer of Peace By Germany

Declared to the Military Leaders That Germany No Longer Had the Necessary Munitions and Materials For Carrying On the War—Official Reports Indicate That Virtual Chaos Exists in the Central Empires.

Washington, Oct. 15.—Internal political conditions in Germany and possibly in Austria-Hungary as well as the military situation on the western front are expected to determine the nature and time of the German reply to President Wilson's communication of yesterday definitely closing the door to peace negotiations with German autocracy. The president's note probably already has reached Berlin through the Swiss foreign office.

Reports reaching Washington today through official sources by way of neutral countries not only indicated the existence of almost chaos in the central powers but also said it was Field Marshal Von Hindenburg himself who was responsible for the German gov-

ernment accepting the president's peace terms and seeking an immediate armistice.

It was said that at a recent meeting of the military leaders and the heads of the parties in the reichstag, Von Hindenburg boldly declared that Germany must have peace at once on the best terms she could get. He said the armies no longer had the necessary munitions and materials to continue the struggle nor was there any source of supply so far as he was aware.

In the light of this situation, the field marshal said, he felt the time had come to try first for an armistice and then for peace and he urged that this could be put in the light of a concession to the demands of the socialists and pacifists in Germany. Prince Maximilian, the chancellor, is reported (Continued On Page Three)

NEW REGISTRANTS TOTAL 12,778,758

Final Returns Received From All States, Texas Being Last to Report.

ESTIMATE IS EXCEEDED Belated Enrollments and Registrations in Alaska, Porto Rico and Hawaii May Bring Number Up to 13,000,000

Washington, Oct. 15.—Final returns from all states show that 12,966,549 men registered for military service Sept. 12. This was 187,836 in excess of the estimate of 12,778,758 made by experts in the office of Provost Marshal General Crowder based on projections from census figures.

Texas was the last state to report. Its registration as announced tonight by General Crowder was 521,474 against the original estimate of 546,187.

The total amount today does not include registrations received by mail by local boards after Sept. 12 nor belated enrollments by men who were absent from the country that day. Including such cases, it is believed the actual figure will be approximately 13,000,000. This will be still further increased by the registrations in Alaska, Porto Rico and Hawaii which are to be held on later dates recently fixed by the president.

357 AMERICANS WERE LOST ON THE OTTANTO

Including Soldiers, Members of the Crew and Others the Total Who Perished Was 527.

Islay, Scotland, Sunday, Oct. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—According to figures compiled here today and checked with army records, the total loss of life as a result of the disaster to the transport Ottanto is 527.

These figures represent one American officer, Second Lieut. Bernie E. Coffmann, of Robinson, Ill., 356 American troops, 194 of the Ottanto's officers and crew and six members of the crew of a French fishing boat.

Up to tonight 266 bodies had been recovered. Only two were found today as the result of a change in the wind, which now is blowing strongly off shore and, according to seafaring men, may sweep the bodies far out to sea. The two bodies found today were an American soldier and a chief petty officer of the Ottanto. The unidentified dead include two Asiatics.

The work of recovering the remaining bodies of victims of the disaster washed up on the shore of Islay island is extremely difficult, owing to the rugged coast and the tons of wreckage which fills every crevice in the rocks.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER IS WHAT CANADA DEMANDS

Toronto, Oct. 15.—The unconditional surrender of Germany or such occupations of that country as will insure the carrying out of allied peace terms are the only conditions on which Canada is willing to end the war, Newton Wesley Rowell, president of the privy council of Canada, declared in an address here today.

"Canada sent her men across the sea to help save liberty and democracy and she will not call them back until the object for which they went over has been accomplished," Mr. Rowell said.

HALF OF LOAN IS NOT YET RAISED

More Than Three Billion Dollars Must Be Subscribed In Four Days.

SITUATION DISAPPOINTING

Reports From Liberty Day Celebration Fail to Meet Expectations—Richmond District Has Raised 48 Per Cent.

Washington, Oct. 15.—Only \$156,000,000 of new liberty loan subscriptions trickled in today, according to reports from the whole nation gathered by the treasury, and raised the total for the loan so far to \$2,954,870,650, still short of three billions, the "half-way figure."

In view of the expectation that fruits of liberty day celebrations last Saturday would be fully reflected in today's reports, treasury officials declared the outlook grave.

"Those in charge of the liberty loan campaign made no concealment of the fact that the situation was very disappointing," said the official review of the loan's progress. "With only four days of the loan period remaining, the country now faces the task of raising in excess of three billion dollars, or more than \$700,000,000 a day."

Early morning messages to headquarters stimulated hope, not borne out by tonight's figures, that President Wilson's rejection of the German proposal for an immediate armistice would create a wave of enthusiasm which would sweep a multitude of subscriptions on its crest. Tomorrow's figures will be watched carefully for evidence of this situation reported in scores of telegrams from field workers, which would sweep a multitude of subscriptions on its crest. Tomorrow's figures will be watched carefully for evidence of this situation reported in scores of telegrams from field workers, which would sweep a multitude of subscriptions on its crest.

Richmond district reported \$135,223,000 subscriptions, 48 per cent. of its quota.

Tomorrow will be liberty loan navy day. Rear Admiral Cowie challenged the country to match the efforts of the navy.

"Fight or buy bonds—the navy does both," is the navy's slogan. Secretary Daniels sent the following message to all men in the navy today:

"Let every navy man answer the Hohenzollern toast of 'Der Tag' by making navy day, October 16, the day of days in this battle for freedom."

WILL FLY TO NEW YORK TO FIND A MAN TO MATCH BARUCH Washington, Oct. 15.—Since the Sunday when Secretary McAdoo, out canvassing for liberty bond subscriptions, got Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the war industries board, to say: "Well, guess I can take a million," the Washington loan organization has been trying in vain to find a man to match Mr. Baruch. Today Douglas Fairbanks, movie actor, on arriving in Washington, guaranteed to get "a million" to match Barney Baruch if he were provided an airplane to fly to New York. Arrangements were made and he will leave Central Park, Maryland, near Washington, at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning in a mail-carrying airplane, arriving at Belmont Park, New York, shortly after 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

ONE HUNDRED KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK IN RUMANIA

London, Oct. 15.—One hundred persons were killed and 200 were injured in the derailling of the Bucharest express near Eatria, Rumania, according to a dispatch to the Central News from Amsterdam quoting advices from Vienna. The dispatch adds that several of the coaches of the train fell into the Bistritza river.

Washington Gets Note. Washington, Oct. 15.—Turkey's long delayed note asking, like Germany and Austria, that the present take in hand the restoration of peace, was received today at the state department. The note, differing only slightly in phrasing from those of the greatest central powers, was delivered by the Spanish ambassador.

WILSON'S REPLY IS APPROVED BY PRESS OF LONDON

Made in Such Way As to Be "Read and Digested" By the German Public.

SPEEDY END OF WAR SEEN

Proper Guarantees to Be Exact-ed Before An Armistice Is Signed.

London, Oct. 15.—The London Evening newspaper comment on President Wilson's reply to Germany is generally favorable in tone. The Standard, under the heading "The Right Note" says that the note "has removed certain false impressions which were possible in regard to his three questions to Germany." The newspaper regrets that President Wilson did not refer to punishment for U-boat crimes and the burning of towns.

The Pall Mall Gazette says that President Wilson's reply "reaches his highest standards of point and promptness" and adds that the declarations he made "have been made before, but never before in such a dramatic setting or with such securities for their being read and digested."

The Globe finds that there is no ambiguity about President Wilson's stern reply and is "afraid the Germans will not like the manner in which President Wilson received their request."

"Foch, Halg and Pershing," the newspaper asserts, "will determine in concert the guarantees they must have in hand before granting a cessation of hostilities."

The Westminster Gazette gives first place to President Wilson's demand for "the destruction" of every arbitrary power.

The Manchester Guardian says that Germany has surrendered and though much remains to be defined and settled, that great central fact stands established which means a speedy end of the war. The newspaper considers President Wilson not likely to accept the chancellor's reply as to the exact meaning of the German note and says the problem would be vastly eased by the Kaiser's abdication.

On the question of an armistice the Guardian thinks the immediate and vital question for President Wilson to consider in consultation with the allies and especially in consultation with Marshal Foch is the nature of the security to be exacted for the withdrawal of the hostile armies and that the enemy does not utilize the interval to build up fresh his means of resistance or attack and suggests the temporary occupation of Brest as the best security against the piling up of munitions, the evacuation of the whole of Alsace-Lorraine and the surrender of the German U-boat fleet.

MANY GENERATIONS TO READ WILSON'S NOTE

Will Be Handed Down As One of Historical Documents of the World, Says Belgian Minister.

New York, Oct. 15.—President Wilson's latest note to Germany will be handed down from generation to generation as one of the historical documents of the world, declared Baron Emil de Cartier de Marchienne, Belgian minister to the United States, in an address here tonight. He expressed the gratitude of Belgium to the United States "which found us by the wayside where we had been left half dead."

Capt. Giuseppe Bevilone of the Italian army, former member of the Italian chamber of deputies, asserted that Italy expects not only the overthrowing of the Hohenzollern dynasty, but that of the Hapsburgs and the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary.

Edouard de Billy, acting French high commissioner, said it was with a thrill that he had read the president's message and realized Germany was to be punished for all crimes.

DEMAND UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER BY TURKEY

British Reply Will Inform the Turks That They Must Negotiate Armistice With Allies.

London, Oct. 15.—Great Britain's reply to Turkey, the Evening News says is understood to be a demand for unconditional surrender. The Turks will be required to negotiate an armistice with General Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine and in Syria.

Washington Gets Note. Washington, Oct. 15.—Turkey's long delayed note asking, like Germany and Austria, that the present take in hand the restoration of peace, was received today at the state department. The note, differing only slightly in phrasing from those of the greatest central powers, was delivered by the Spanish ambassador.