

German Armies in Full Flight Before the Allies

GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN ST. QUENTIN AND CAMBRAI CONTINUED YESTERDAY WITH FURY ALLIES ADVANCING TO DEPTH OF TEN MILES

AMERICAN AND FRENCH SOLDIERS OUT IN OPEN IN PURSUIT OF ENEMY

Many Villages and Towns Overrun by the Allies

11,000 GERMAN PRISONERS

Foch Is Bending Back German Line in One Great Converging Movement

HUNS FORCED TO FLEE

In Macedonia and Asiatic Turkey the Troops of Entente Still Have the Enemy on the Run—Americans Move Forward.

Berlin, Via London, Oct. 9.—Reporting the great battle in the Cambrai-St. Quentin, general headquarters today admit breaches in the German lines on both sides of the Roman towards Le Cateau and also a German withdrawal to Fresnoy-Le-Grand.

The German armies are in full flight before the British, American and French forces on the front between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

Out in the open east of what once was the old Hindenburg line cavalry is hustling the retreating foe in what virtually amounts to a rout. So fast is the retreat that columns of the allied troops in parade formation have passed through numerous villages, completely out of contact with the Germans.

23 Divisions Man Handled

More than 10,000 prisoners and between 100 and 200 guns were captured in Tuesday's fighting, and the continuation of the battle Wednesday resulted in further large captures.

In the fighting 23 German divisions—more than a quarter of a million men—have been severely man-handled.

The maximum depth of the advance is between eight and 10 miles. The Germans are declared to be fleeing to the east of La Cateau, one of the most important railroad centers in this region.

Behind them the Germans are leaving the country devastated, burning towns and villages as they flee.

Defense System Demolished

The formidable German defense system between Cambrai and St. Quentin has been utterly demolished and British, American and French troops are out in the open country eastward in pursuit of the retreating enemy.

Cambrai, the pivot point in the former line and over which there has been so much bitter fighting, is in British hands; numerous villages and hamlets to the south have been overrun by the allies and thousands of Germans have been made prisoner and hundreds of their guns captured.

The victory seemingly is a complete one, and with General Foch's strategy working smoothly in bending back the German line in one great converging movement, the Germans apparently are in a serious predicament. From the region northwest of Rheims to the Meuse river, north of Verdun the French and Americans are slowly but surely pushing the Germans backward toward the Belgian border.

Enemy on the Run

In Macedonia and Asiatic Turkey the troops of the entente still have the enemy on the run. Nowhere is the enemy able to do more than fight rearing battles, giving ground when the pressure becomes too strong.

After the avalanche of steel hurled against them on the Cambrai-St. Quentin sector the Germans could not live and were forced to flee eastward. Heavy casualties were inflicted on those of the enemy who had the temerity to endeavor to make a stand. On the other hand the casualties of the allies are declared to have been relatively small, those of the Americans being less than half of the number of prisoners taken by them.

Where the enemy purposed to make his next stand cannot be foretold, but probably an effort for a turnaround will be attempted along the Valenciennes-Sedan front. After this line the only known German defensive position east of the Rhine is the Meuse river. The Americans already are threatening to make this line untenable, having started an advance up the valley on the eastern side of the stream toward Sedan.

Out Deep Into German Lines

The maneuvers of the French north-west of Rheims are cutting more deeply into the German lines, despite the serious resistance that is being offered by the enemy to postpone the fall of the great St. Gobain massif and the

Troops of Haig and Pershing Carry Their Lines Eastward; Busigny Falls to Allies

LONDON, Oct. 9.—(6:30 p. m.)—The Standard says it learns that the Anglo-American advance between Cambrai and St. Quentin continues and that the big railroad town of Busigny, southwest of Le Cateau, has been taken.

WITH the Anglo-American Armies Near St. Quentin, Oct. 9.—(By Associated Press.)—The great battle between Cambrai and St. Quentin continues today with unceasing fury. Strong attacks were resumed at daylight this morning by the British and American armies. The troops of Field Marshal Haig and General Pershing are carrying their lines steadily to the eastward.

GERMAN MOVE IS DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE DISASTER

Allied Military Officials in Washington Would Not Be Surprised if Germany Promptly Accepted President Wilson's Conditions—Marshal Foch Could Dictate Terms of Withdrawal—German Defense System Breaking Under Strain.

Washington, Oct. 9.—Germany's plea for an armistice is founded, both American and allied military officials here believe, upon recognition in Berlin of the fact that the German army organization in France is slowly disintegrating under the terrific campaign of Marshal Foch.

These officials regard the move of the German chancellor as a desperate seventh-hour attempt to escape serious military disaster and they would not be surprised if President Wilson's condition that there can be no talk of an armistice except when coupled with an agreement to withdraw immediately from all invaded territory were promptly accepted.

The answer to such a move, it was suggested today, would be to leave to Marshal Foch the dictation of the terms of the armistice should the situation ever reach that stage, as the supreme commander can be trusted to see that no military advantage to the enemy resulted. In the meantime Marshal Foch hour by hour is surrounding the German forces with new perils as his strategic conceptions are developed.

Evidence of the waning resistance power of the German forces in France was plainly seen by observers here in the sweep forward of the Anglo-American forces north of St. Quentin. Apparently there has been no material lowering of the fighting quality of the enemy soldiers, but there is every evidence that the complex military organization upon which defense of the long battle front depends is breaking under the strain. Signs of confusion have been noted repeatedly. Worn out divisions have been called upon to check the assault of fresh allied troops and have been cut to pieces.

These are signs only, for the enemy front still offers a grim obstacle to the advancing armies and the battle is growing daily in fury instead of lessening. But the signs are there. They mean a vital weakness at the heart of the great machine, the absolute lack of the men and war equipment to meet the combined assault definitely.

Two Salients Developing

In the line between Verdun and the sea, two salients are developing. The first has its apex along the Aisne front, where the enemy still clings to St. Gobain forest and part of the Chemin des Dames ridge. The second has its greatest depth before Lens. Between these two pockets, the Anglo-American drive, supplemented by the French advance east of St. Quentin, has thrust a blunt wedge which not only has engulfed Cambrai, but has torn its way through the whole Hindenburg defense zone into open country beyond. It can strike either north or south at need, or squeeze the pocket on either side, or can be carried ahead to smash through vital communication lines.

On the north, the British force pressing in on Lille from the west and north forms a northern jaw of a possible pincer movement against the whole Douai salient. The Germans began a retirement on the Lens-Argenteuil front some time ago, which they have checked, fearing probably the envelopment of their Douai front unless that also could be relieved simultaneously. The capture of Cambrai now threatens this front from the south as well and it is believed here that the enemy must move immediately out of the whole Lille-Douai region.

Critical on Laon Front

The situation looks to be even more critical on the Laon front. From the north, the British break-through almost certainly will give the allies command of the Oise valley in a matter of hours with open ground before them in a movement southward on Laon itself. To the southeast, the French troops under General Gouraud already are across the Aisne and are

EXPECT EARLY REPLY FROM MAXIMILIAN TO THE NOTE OF INQUIRY

A BLOW AT THE MORALE OF MILITARY MACHINE IS NOTE OF PRESIDENT

Military Situation Will Force His Hope Is Free Government Chancellor to Answer May Arise in Germany

EMBARRASSING FOR HIM GERMAN PEOPLE SHOWN Whatever His Answer Either Socialists or Militarists Will Be Resentful

MAY SEEK MIDDLE COURSE FORCE OF AN ULTIMATUM

There Are Signs of Disappointment From Those Who Cannot or Will Not Understand or Know Conditions in Germany.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Oct. 9.—An early response to Wilson's note of inquiry to the German chancellor is expected by American officials. While realizing that an answer to the three pertinent questions put to the Prince of Baden will be very difficult if the original proposal of the German government was not sincere, officials are confident that internal conditions in Germany and the tremendous exigencies of the military situation will force speedy action by the chancellor if he hopes to prolong the existence of his cabinet beyond a few days.

So far as the hold of the government upon the people is concerned, conditions in Austria are even far worse than those in Germany. This fact is calculated to strongly affect the German government which is understood to entertain grave doubts of the strength of purpose of the dual monarchy and to fear that Austria, or perhaps Hungary, acting independently, will follow Bulgaria in seeking an unconditional peace. This would leave Germany to wage the war alone, for it is a foregone conclusion that Turkey would follow the central alliance, indeed.

The pointed inquiry directed to Prince Maximilian as to whether he is speaking merely for the constituted authorities of the empire who have so far conducted the war with it is believed, is very embarrassing. If the response is in the affirmative, Germany's proposal will be rejected as the state department to fully support the entente allies and America to war aims, and to lower the morale of the armies opposed to the central powers.

The powerful socialist elements in the Reichstag also are counted upon to resist any such statement by the chancellor as directly in conflict with the Reichstag resolution of July, 1917, and with the very recent pledges to make the emperor a personal liability body, under which the Reichstag is entitled to take part in the government. On the other hand, if Maximilian attempts to repudiate the military forces, he will be regarded as a traitor and his resignation will be demanded.

The general belief here is that the chancellor will confine himself to a middle course and confine himself in his reply to half way admissions, hoping to begin a long diplomatic discussion with the state department to fully support the entente allies and America to war aims, and to lower the morale of the armies opposed to the central powers.

Any such move is certain of failure and in the meantime, the German armies in the west are being subjected to increasingly hard blows from Marshal Foch's forces, which are adding to the difficulties of the German high command in extricating their forces from an already serious situation.

The fact that American Ambassador Sharp is making a personal investigation of the havoc wrought by the Germans in their forced retirement from French and Belgian territory, has led to the belief that it is the purpose of the state department to fully support the enormous claims for damages which Germany must meet as a condition of peace. So far the American government has indicated a disposition to join with the entente allies in making a threat to destroy a German city or town in retaliation for every such community destroyed by the Germans in France and Belgium.

Mr. Sharp's investigation is being regarded as also indicating a purpose to join in such representations, which facts sustain the press reports of the extent of the German atrocities.

USE LIQUOR TO CHECK SPREAD OF INFLUENZA

Authority Given Collectors To Release Seized Liquor for Medicinal Uses

COL. S. A. JONES IS ILL

Washington, Oct. 9.—The influenza epidemic in North Carolina today caused permission for the liberation for medicinal purposes of seized liquors held by Collectors Bailey and Watts in the Tar Heel state. Liquor which is tax paid and is now in the custody of internal revenue agents as seized goods may be supplied to duly constituted health authorities upon application for medicinal purposes.

The internal revenue department is also understood to have taken similar action in Virginia, another "dry" state, where there is an insufficient supply of whiskey for medicinal uses. Reports in Washington today were that nearly all army camps are ordered to issue the necessary instructions for the turning over to hospital, physicians and health officers of seized liquor in North Carolina. The whiskey so transferred, however, is to be used only for medicinal purposes.

Col. S. A. Jones, of Waynesville, who is known throughout North Carolina, is ill at the Metropolitan hotel in this city. He is a sufferer from influenza, but his condition today was not serious.

The North Carolinians today received appointments as special agents of the census bureau, which is headed by Sam L. Rogers, of the Tar Heel state. Senator Simmons' office was advised today that Commissioner Roper had issued the necessary instructions for the turning over to hospital, physicians and health officers of seized liquor in North Carolina. The whiskey so transferred, however, is to be used only for medicinal purposes.

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France Honors Two Balkan Commanders



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FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN LAGGING AND EFFORTS SHOULD BE REDOUBLED

Influenza and Peace Talk the Prime Causes

PEACE MEETINGS IN WEST

Liberty Loan Drives Turned In to Celebrating Peace To Hurt of Bond Issue

THEY ARE OUT OF PLACE

This is no time to be celebrating a peace that is not it is a time to rally to the Liberty Loan and other war business.

Washington, Oct. 9.—Because of a combination of circumstances the fourth liberty loan is lagging. The treasury department virtually admitted this in a statement tonight and asked liberty loan speakers and the country's newspapers to impress lenders and readers with the fact that the basis for subscriptions to this loan is double that of the third liberty loan.

The epidemic of Spanish influenza, a misconception of Germany's peace offensive and the habit of thousands of Americans to procrastinate are regarded as contributing factors to the present unsatisfactory status of the fourth liberty loan campaign.

Between the lines the resume of the treasury department today is a pessimistic document. Encouraging reports are recorded here and there, including one from a war exhibit train touring North Carolina, but the statement in the main is not one of optimism. The American people are to be awakened to the necessity of a more generous and prompt response, and turned aside from the fallacious theory that peace is near.

Step to Celebrate Peace

The treasury department refers to the epidemic of influenza and its attendant influence, but directs attention to Vermont, which state, despite a severe epidemic, has practically subscribed its quota. The official statement says nothing about the effect of German peace propaganda, but it will hardly be denied in official circles that a misunderstanding about peace prospects has had a disturbing effect.

Reports have reached Washington that in various sections of the country, particularly in the mid-western states, peace celebrations took the place of liberty loan celebrations Saturday night and Sunday. These were brought about by early bulletins regarding Germany's peace offer. In some sections there is an unconditional surrender as by his knees pleading for peace and agreeing to the American terms.

The unkindling placed too much credence in these initial reports. The war is not over. The German Kaiser is not on his knees and official Washington knows there can be no peace until the terms are met. The Kaiser's peace offer is a desperate attempt to escape the fate of the Teutonic forces of evil.

Peace Move Interferes

Nevertheless it is true that the German peace move has temporarily interfered with full and free subscriptions to the fourth liberty loan. Many a prospective investor subconsciously figures that the war is nearing its end and that the money will not be needed. The fact is the \$6,000,000,000 represented by the present loan campaign is being spent. The loan is necessary were the war to end next month, and there is no intention that the war will end in the month or at any time before Germany's capitulation is complete.

Peace celebrations even by a peace-loving nation, such as America, are a much out of place today as in times of a Prussianism. The war must go on and while the President has left open the door for another communication from Prince Maximilian, there is little expectation of a reply that will meet allied demands.

The President's note is admittedly worded. It does not fully reject a peace discussion, thus alienating the peace-desiring populace of Germany, but in common parlance it passes the buck to the German proponents of a cessation of hostilities and demands acceptance in unqualified form of the so-called peace terms.

No Time to Slow Down

Liberty Loan subscribers should not take it for granted that Germany is yet willing to surrender conditionally. Until the allies, and among the latter, Americans should rally to the liberty loan and all that support in the war implies.

There is no use in denying or attempting to camouflage the fact that the Liberty Loan campaign throughout the country are confronted with a serious situation. If the loan is to be subscribed in a steady average of \$45,000,000 must be raised between now and October 15. The total amount of subscriptions to date is equal only approximately to the New York district quota.

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PEACE POLICY OF THE ENEMY IS STILL PART OF THEIR WAR POLICY

Want Armistice To Shorten Lines of Defense

TO RETREAT IF POSSIBLE

The Allies Can Impose Their Will on Central Powers in Future

HARD FIGHTING NOT OVER

While Situation is Favorable for Allies, Germans Will Prove as Dangerous as Ever Advancing.

(Special Cable from the London Times to The Greensboro News.)

(By HERBERT SIDDIQIHAM.) London, Oct. 9.—A few words may be added to what has been said in the previous column, which has outlined the situation and the Berlin peace offer. The favorable reading of the situation taken of late must not be taken to mean that the war is over. On the contrary, there never has been harder fighting on the western front in the last few days. This hard fighting will continue, however, we do know it, and an article of faith rather than of knowledge before August—is that we can impose our will on the Germans. What more, though, than this is a matter of inference, and not of knowledge.

There is reason to think that of the two evils, an extensive retreat or a complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, the first one commands itself to German headquarters. They want a retreat if they can get it. The leading facts of the military situation, then, are these: The German army, which has inflicted the Ludendorff policy in the western offensive, finally, a breakthrough, leaving the only alternative that has been suggested, namely, of defense in the west and compensation in the east. A constructive policy was needed to build on the ruins of the plans for victory, and the new character of the peace offer is a structure built out of materials from the ruins of former plans. It is disguised in the phrasing of peace, but it is still a peace offer.

Take the most favorable construction that could be placed on the chancellor's offer, viz. that he is prepared to withdraw from the occupied territories of France and Belgium, which would be giving immunity to towns of Belgium and France now in his occupation. He would be getting immunity for his own army from the dangers that now beset it in other words, even when trying to extricate his army from France and drive it to a position of extreme danger he still is attempting to extend a species of ultimatum.

Let me say, however, that I will not exaggerate in my retreat the chances of which I was guilty in my advance. In other words, whether taking peace or making war, the Prussian government is a guilty government. It is guilty of exactly the same crime against international society when it inaugurates peace with arms.

On our side what are the leading facts? The British army in France, the Arab-Belgian army in Palestine, the Canadian army in the west, the American army in the east, the French army in the center, the French in Champagne and the Americans in the Argonne threaten to divide the German army in two, and to drive the main German force into a bottleneck at Liege, thus forcing their original crime of invading down the throat of which the German general staff in the east Bulgaria has left her ally Turkey is defended rather than ally.

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