

Observer

A CAROLINA HOME NEWSPAPER, CONSTRUCTIVE, CLEAN, RELIABLE—"WHEN YOU SEE IT IN THE OBSERVER IT'S SO."

FOUNDED 1869

CHARLOTTE, N. C., SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 6, 1918.

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES TODAY

PRICE FIVE CENTS

GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND TURKEY JOIN IN PROPOSING AN ARMISTICE No Peace Talk Until Teutons Evacuate Conquered Territory---Wilson AMERICANS AND FRENCH CRUSHING IN HUNS' SOUTHERN WALL OF DEFENSE

SOUTHERN WALL OF THE GERMAN DEFENSES BEING CRUSHED IN BY AMERICAN AND FRENCH TROOPS

Dealing Heavy Blows From West of Rheims to the Meuse.

DOUAI AND OTHER TOWNS IN NORTH SET ON FIRE

Huns Evidently Preparing to Retreat to French Frontier.

GIVING GROUND EVERYWHERE

Americans Advancing Toward Sedan and Great Railroad Supporting Enemy Front.

By the Associated Press.

The American troops in the sector between Rheims and the Meuse are engaged in extremely heavy fighting. Joined up with Gouraud's army they are driving the Germans before them at a quickening pace. French troops are reported to have reached Bethenville, which is several miles beyond the former line.

American and French troops are crushing in the southern wall of the German defenses with heavy blows along the front from west of Rheims to the Meuse.

In the north, under the menace of the British pressure from the north to Douai and other towns and villages in that area evidently in preparation for a retirement to the French frontier. Heavy explosions also have been heard.

With the French covering the western outlet of the Grand-Pre gap through the Argonne forest, the Americans in an advance of three miles between the Meuse and the Aire are rapidly closing up the eastern entrance to the pass. General Pershing's men in smashing blows Saturday regained considerable advance all along the front and took additional villages and heights from the Germans. The enemy resistance was most stubborn on this front from the Germans are standing on the Kremling line, the last of their prepared defenses.

The Americans are advancing toward Sedan and the great communication line upon which German security in the present front depends. This important railway is only 18 miles from the American front.

On both sides of the Stuppe the Americans and French troops under General Gouraud rapidly are driving the Germans from the heights dominating the Champagne region east of Rheims. The Germans are retreating to the river Aisne, but the Americans already have reached that stream at St. Etienne. Northwest of Rheims the French have forced several crossings of the Aisne canal, endangering the German rear in Champagne. A German retreat, on a considerable front to a depth of at least five miles in Champagne is not unlikely as a result of the successes of Generals Gouraud and Berthelot.

From St. Quentin north to the Lys on the front before the important bases of Cambrai, Douai and Lille, the British are exerting strong pressure. The Germans are endeavoring to hold on to their positions until the work of devastation in their rear is completed. North of St. Quentin the British have driven further eastward the apex of the salient at Beaurivault and on Saturday captured 1,000 prisoners.

In Belgium the forces under King Albert maintain their pressure. Since September 23 the Belgian, French and British have advanced nine miles on a 25-mile front and have taken 10,500 prisoners and 350 guns.

GERMANS WITHDRAWING FROM THE HIGH GROUND

London, Oct. 5.—Field Marshal Haig reports some progress by the British troops around Montebassin and Beaurivault. In the St. Quentin sector, the Germans have been driven from the high ground between Le Catelet and Crevecoeur.

Operations of a minor character were continuing successfully by the British north of St. Quentin. Australian and English troops, accompanied by tanks made progress in the neighborhood of the villages of Montebassin and Beaurivault and on the spur northwest of the latter village. A number of prisoners have been taken as a result of our continued pressure.

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CLOCKS TO BE TURNED BACK AN HOUR OCT. 27

Washington, Oct. 5.—Railroad time pieces are to be turned back one hour at 2 a. m. Sunday, October 27, when the period of daylight saving ends, according to orders issued today by the railroad administration. After the change in time, regular trains must be held to conform to their regular schedules.

PROBABLY ONLY ABOUT 50 DEAD

Perth Amboy Explosions Cause Loss of Fifteen Millions.

Danger of Greater Devastation by Blowing Up of Stores of "T. N. T." Believed Past.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Oct. 5.—Major General C. C. Williams, chief of ordnance of the United States army, arrived here tonight to conduct a rigid investigation into the explosions and fire which demolished the shell loading plant of T. A. Gillespie company at Morgan with the probable loss of fifty lives and injury to 150 more workmen.

Late tonight the flames which have been sweeping the buildings of the Gillespie plant appeared to be under control and there seems no danger they will reach the T. N. T. stores remaining untouched. There have been no serious explosions since early in the afternoon and no additional damage has been done since then. Army officers declare that the danger is virtually over and they hope tomorrow to begin a systematic search of the ruins for the bodies of victims.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Oct. 5.—Army officers investigating the explosions which wrecked the great shell loading plant of the T. A. Gillespie company at Morgan, estimated tonight that the dead would number not more than 50 and the injured 150. The property loss probably will approximate between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

Late today it was believed danger of greater devastation by the blowing up of stores of trinitrotoluol was virtually over. All that is left unexploded is buried in underground cisterns or is loaded on barges.

Army officers reported after a reconnaissance by airplanes that the location of the boats and storehouses is such that they believed there was slight probability it would be exploded either by fire or concussion.

With the passing of the menace of an explosion around the plant the problem of caring for the homeless became the most serious tonight.

South Amboy, a town of about 10,000 population, four miles north of Morgan was virtually wrecked by the series of blasts. Scarcely a building in it remains habitable.

The city and all the territory around Morgan was under military with the state guard in control under the personal direction of Governor Edge.

J. W. Faust, assistant director of civilian relief of the Red Cross, estimated that more than 7,000 persons had been made homeless by the fall of shells and the force of the explosions. He believed between 40,000 and 50,000 more had fled from their homes fearing disaster and would not return until all danger is over. They present almost as much of a problem as those who are actually homeless.

An airplane circled again and again around the big tract surrounded with barbed wire to aid the scores of armed guards in keeping out trespassers. It probably was the first time in this country that an airplane had been used for such a work of observation.

The aerial observation showed that five of 15 units of the plant had been destroyed by the flames which followed the first explosion but that the 200 plant guards who began fighting the fire with water pumped from Chesapeake creek after the water mains burst had the situation well in hand.

It indicated that unless there was a furious wind storm during the night the fire would not extend either to the barges with their dangerous loads or to the storehouse more than a mile away in another direction.

LENS DEVASTATED BEFORE EVACUATED

British Headquarters in France, Oct. 5.—(Havas)—British troops on entering Lens found that the coal mines in the city had been entirely destroyed. The church could scarcely be found amid the ruins. The cathedral, monuments and houses also were destroyed.

71,000 TURKS TAKEN PRISONER BY ALLENBY

London, Oct. 5.—Seventy-one thousand Turks have been taken prisoner by General Allenby's forces since the commencement of the British operations in Palestine and Syria, according to an official statement issued tonight by the war office. This is in addition to 8,000 prisoners claimed by the Arab army. Three hundred and fifty Turkish guns were taken.

NORTH CAROLINA GUARDSMEN MADE SPLENDID ATTACK

With New Yorkers and South Carolinians Break Line.

ARE GIVEN HIGH PRAISE

Priest Went "Over the Top" With Troops—Americans Always Died "Facing Foe."

BY JOSEPH W. GRIGG.

Special Cable Dispatch to The New York World and The Charlotte Observer.

On the British Front, Oct. 5.—It is possible now to get a closer conception of what a magnificent attack, under the most severe conditions, was made last Sunday on the Hindenburg line north of St. Quentin by New York state and North and South Carolina troops. I have seen a letter today from an Australian lieutenant colonel who fought beside these Americans, and his words convey to the full the need of praise shared by his Australian comrades.

"I am convinced that the officers and men of the New York state division have done all that is humanly possible for brave men to do," he wrote, "and their gallantry in this action must stand out through all time in American history."

Killed Facing the Foe. This officer made a personal reconnaissance of the battlefield east and northeast of Dunbar on the morning of September 29 and could see what heavy opposition had met the New Yorkers from innumerable machine gun nests, some of which entailed certain of these American units, and he saw the dead where they fell "all lying with their faces toward the front," obviously killed while advancing. Not in any case was a man moving backwards when killed.

Latest official reports show that only two districts, St. Louis and Boston, are maintaining the pace that must be set if the loan is to be subscribed. The Richmond district tonight reports \$40,532,100 or 14.4 per cent of its quota.

Tomorrow is Liberty Loan Sunday and at virtually every church services throughout the United States congregations will be urged to lay bonds as a duty toward civilization. In many communities where churches have been closed on account of Spanish influenza, outdoor meetings will be held.

Hellen Keller today telegraphed Secretary McAdoo from Hollywood, Cal., saying: "I would like to sell a million dollars worth of bonds from my world of darkness and silence. Will you buy just one bond through me?"

The secretary ordered one through Miss Keller.

JO-JO SAYS

Fair today and Monday.

Keep on with the shooting to help down the Teuton—Buy Liberty Bonds.

Every New Yorker is sounding the praises of Father Frank Kelley, of Albany, who went over the top three times in two days' fighting, and was with the New Yorkers continually during their fierce counter-attacks. Father Kelley's hair turned white during these two days. Particular credit is given by the bank and file to the sacrificing work of stretcher bearers of New York's electrical company of 20 professional emmentiers, who volunteered to do this dangerous work under heavy fire without pause, including Side Marlon, Sergeant Vance, and Russell Brown, James F. Allen, Stanley Hughes, Stanley Wood, Harry Grubb, Eddie Crawford and Jack Roach, former dancing partner of Elele Janle.

DESPERATELY ANXIOUS TO HALT BY DIPLOMACY ALLIES' STEADY MARCH

No Disposition in Washington to Believe That an Early End of the War is in Sight—Austrian Appeal for an Armistice Considered Logical Sequel to Wilson's Recent Summary Rejection of Austria's Peace Proposal—Teutons Must Surrender Land.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The statement was authorized officially late tonight that the American government had received no new peace proposal from Austria, and had no official information whatever concerning new developments reported to be impending in the Teutonic campaign for peace by negotiation.

Washington, Oct. 5.—An Austrian appeal for an armistice for discussion of peace on President Wilson's own terms is regarded here as the logical sequel of the President's recent summary rejection of the proposal that hostilities be suspended for secret and non-binding peace discussions.

What the American government's answer to such an appeal would be is indicated by the statement authorized when the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister complained that his acceptance of President Wilson's principles had not been noticed—that peace

could not be talked of upon any terms so long as Germany and Austria occupied a single foot of conquered territory.

No want more aggressive phases of the Teutonic effort for peace by negotiation before allied and American troops invade German soil evidently are about to be launched and the only question is the exact form they will take. Officials here will be surprised neither by the Austrian armistice plea, which the Berlin press dispatches through Paris tonight say is coming, nor by a similar move by Germany herself which the new chancellor, Prince Maximilian of Baden, is said to have proposed or to be about to propose in the reichstag.

There is no disposition to believe, however, that an early end of the war is in sight in spite of the fact that the Germans are known to be desperately anxious to halt by diplomacy the steady advance of their enemies toward the German border.

RESULTS TO DATE CAUSE CONCERN

Liberty Loan Campaign Falling Behind Schedule. Today is "Liberty Loan Sunday" and Congregations Are Urged to Subscribe.

Washington, Oct. 5.—Official reports of Liberty loan subscriptions gathered by banks up to the close of business last night and compiled today by the treasury showed a total of \$1,097,611,454.

While the actual sales through all the agencies probably is somewhat in excess of these figures, "the results obtained in the drive thus far are not highly encouraging. The campaign now has gone through seven working days and only twelve more working days remain. Approximately \$5,000,000,000 in subscriptions still must be raised if the total amount asked by Secretary McAdoo is obtained, the daily average which must be achieved between now and October 19 in order to put the loan over the top is about \$416,000,000."

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STRONG MOVEMENT APPARENTLY IS UNDER WAY IN GERMAN EMPIRE FOR GENERAL ARMISTICE AND PEACE

New German Chancellor Reported to Have Proposed Or to Be on the Eve of Proposing a General Suspension of Hostilities, Appointment of Plenipotentiaries to Meet at a Neutral Place for Discussion of League for Arbitration and Disarmament.

WOULD REQUEST ENTENTE ALLIES TO STATE TERMS

Prince Maximilian Said to Have Expressed Willingness to Accept President Wilson's Fourteen Peace Conditions—Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey Intend Simultaneously to Approach American President for General Armistice and Negotiations Looking to Peace—Austro-Hungarian Minister Ready to Conclude General Armistice Negotiations.

A powerful movement is apparently under way in Germany for a general armistice and peace. The new German chancellor, Prince Maximilian of Baden, is reported to have proposed or to be on the eve of proposing a general suspension of hostilities, the appointment of plenipotentiaries to meet at a neutral place for the discussion of a league for arbitration and disarmament and the forwarding of a request to the entente allies for their terms. It is further reported that the German chancellor has expressed his willingness to accept President Wilson's fourteen peace conditions.

And finally from Bern comes the announcement that Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey intend simultaneously to approach President Wilson with the object of having him make representations to the other entente allies for a general armistice and negotiations looking to peace.

Austria-Hungary, through its minister at Stockholm, is requesting the Swedish government, according to advices from Bern, to transmit to President Wilson a proposal for a general armistice with the entente allies on land and sea and in the air and start without delay negotiations for peace. These negotiations are to be based on the terms set forth by President Wilson.

A new peace note to be issued by Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, it is announced, will declare that all of President Wilson's terms have been accepted by the dual monarchy.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY PROPOSES A GENERAL ARMISTICE

Paris, Oct. 5.—The Austro-Hungarian minister at Stockholm has been charged to request the Swedish government to transmit to President Wilson a proposal to conclude immediately with him and his allies a general armistice and to start without delay negotiation for peace.

This announcement is made in a Bern dispatch to the Havas Agency. "The Austro-Hungarian monarchy, which has made only defense warfare and has borne witness several times to its desire to put an end to the bloodshed and conclude an honorable peace, proposed by presentation to President Wilson to conclude immediately with him and his allies a general armistice on land, on sea and in the air and start without delay negotiations for peace.

"These negotiations will be based on the fourteen points in President Wilson's message of January 8 and the four points of his speech of February 12 (February 11) 1918 and those equally of September 27, 1918."

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF FIGHTING PROPOSED

Amsterdam, Oct. 5.—(By the Associated Press)—The immediate suspension of hostilities has been proposed by the imperial German chancellor, Prince Maximilian, in the reichstag, according to the Berlin correspondent of The T. J. The entente allies are to be asked to state their terms.

The chancellor's proposal embraces the dispatch of plenipotentiaries to a neutral place to discuss the question of a league for national arbitration and disarmament.

The plenipotentiaries are further to be empowered to discuss the creation of a federal Austria, the right of self-determination for Russian frontier states, the restoration and indemnification of Belgium, autonomy for Alsace-Lorraine and the return of the German colonies.

The terms of the entente allies will be asked at the same time with the object of forming a basis for the consideration of these important questions.

Other advices say that the chancellor has not yet made the statements credited to him regarding the suspension of hostilities, the appointment of plenipotentiaries and the request for the allies' terms, but that it was understood he would make such proposals.

IS WILLING TO ACCEPT WILSON'S 14 CONDITIONS

Stockholm, Oct. 5. (By the Associated Press)—Prince Maximilian of Baden, the new imperial German chancellor, is willing to accept President Wilson's fourteen peace conditions, according to reports received from Berlin by circles closely connected with the foreign office here, even though this for many reasons may not be thoroughly demonstrated in his statements before the reichstag.



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