

GERMANY PROFFESSES TO ACCEPT ALL WILSON'S CONDITIONS FOR ARMISTICE AND EVENTUAL PEACE

Washington, Oct. 21. — Germany has replied to President Wilson with a note which, though no one is prepared to say it will lead the President even to continue exchanges on the subject of an armistice and peace, at least has served almost to bring conviction here that the people of Germany actually are taking the reins of government and sincerely desire peace on any terms the United States and the allies are willing to give.

There was no intimation tonight of the attitude of the President, and probably there will be none until the official text of the new German communication has been received. The President was in conference all evening with Secretary Lansing, discussing the note as received by wireless late in the day. Like the reply to the President's inquiries a week ago, this note was sent out from the German wireless station and picked up in the allied countries many hours before the official text could move by cable. The official version probably will come tomorrow through the Swiss legation here.

London, Oct. 21.—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 the evacuation and of the conditions of an armistice should be left to the judgment of 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 inhumane actions made against the German land and sea forces and thereby against the German people. For the covering of a retreat destruction will always be necessary and they are carried out in so far 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."

"The German government further denies that the German navy in sinking ships has ever purposely destroyed lifeboats 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 in the German empire has not been endowed with an influence on the formation of the government."

"The constitution did not provide for a concurrence of representation of the people in decisions of peace and war. These conditions have just now undergone a fundamental change. A

new government has been formed in complete accordance with the wishes (principle?) of the representation of the people, based on equal, universal, secret, direct franchise.

"The leaders of the great parties of the reichstag are members of this government. In the future no government can take or continue in office without possessing the confidence of a majority of the reichstag."

"The responsibility of the chancellor of the empire to the representation of the people is being legally developed and safeguarded. The first act of the new government has been to lay before the reichstag a bill to alter the constitution of the empire so that the consent of the representation of the people is required for decisions on war and peace."

"The permanence of the new system is, however, guaranteed not only by constitutional safeguards, but also by the unshakable determination of the German people whose vast majority stands behind these reforms and demands their energetic continuation."

"The question of the President—with whom he and the governments associated against Germany are dealing—is therefore answered in a clear, unequivocal manner by the statement that the offer of peace and an armistice has come from a government which is free from any arbitrary and irresponsible influence, is supported by the approval of an overwhelming majority of the German people."

(Signed) "SOLF."

N. C. GOES OVOR TOP

Raleigh, Oct. 19.—North Carolina has oversubscribed her allotment to the fourth liberty loan. Unofficial totals up to 11 o'clock show in excess of \$41,000,000 and from many sections of the state reports indicate that official advices will add to the above total greatly. By this wonderful response to our government's appeal, North Carolina has joined President Wilson in his effective answer to Germany's Peace propaganda. I wish to thank the earnest men and women all over North Carolina who have made this splendid result possible by their patriotic and zealous labors in the face of obstacles which seemed in the beginning unsurmountable. North Carolina, however, has never failed to respond to the country's call.

JOS. G. BROWN, Chairman.

INFLUENZA

(By The Associated Press) Washington, Oct. 19.—Spanish influenza as an epidemic is subsiding rapidly in the military camps of the country, but among the civilian population generally the peak had not yet been reached.

Conditions in eastern states where the disease first appeared, showed improvement today; but reports from the south, the middle west and Pacific coast were not optimistic.

New cases of influenza in army camps are reported to the office of the surgeon general of the army today showed a decrease of 1,403. Pneumonia cases decreased 298, from yesterday and the number of deaths was 185 less than yesterday, numbering 472.

Since the beginning of the epidemic, cases reported from camps total 283,331, with 14,153 deaths. Camp McClellan, Alabama, with 344 cases led in the number of new cases today.

The epidemic was reflected in the weekly army health report issued today, showing that during the week ending October 11, the death rate among troops in this country was 206.4 a thousand, an increase of 150 per thousand over the preceding week. Of the 6,266 deaths reported during the week, practically all resulted from pneumonia and influenza.

OPINION OF GERMAN MANS DISCLOSED

With the British Army in France, Oct. 20. (By the Associated Press)—Just what the Germans think of American soldiers with a few side remarks regarding the St. Mihiel operations is disclosed in a confidential document signed by the chief intelligence officer of the 19th German army which has been captured by Americans fighting on the British front.

The document prefaces a discussion of the St. Mihiel attack by admitting that the number of Americans in reserve on that occasion was unknown. It then takes up the divisions which carried out the assault.

The document discusses the details of the operations, admitting that when the Americans reached Thiaucourt the entire St. Mihiel salient was rendered untenable and therefore its evacuation was ordered and the retreat carried out according to plan.

A little further on the order has this to say about the American soldier:

"He obviously is very much afraid of being taken prisoner. He defends himself violently to the last against this danger and does not surrender. This seems to be the result of propaganda picturing cruel treatment if he falls into German hands."

"The American is expert in handling machine guns, is firm on the defensive and develops a strong power of resistance from his very numerous machine guns. The bearing of the infantry indicates slight military training. The artillery was at its best as long as it remained at its original positions during preparation for attack. The methods of fire were good. It was very quick in getting on opportune targets, this apparently being due to the lavish employment of technical devices. Within a minimum period the Americans were able to furnish a well directed fire."

"Liaison between the infantry and artillery was perfect. When infantry ran into machine gun nests it immediately fell back and a new artillery preparation from accompanying batteries followed very promptly."

A sentence in the document says: "In general it should be noted the American is quite honorable—he does not fire on stretcher bearers."

With the Allied Armies in France and Belgium, Oct. 19.—(5 p. m.)—(By Associated Press.)—The bewildered and shattered German hordes all day long have continued to give ground under the sustained pressure by the British, French, Belgian and American troops.

Indications received at headquarters are to the effect that the German army believes it is being withdrawn entirely from Belgium.

In the center of the front today the Germans were retreating so fast that contact, if secured at all, was only between advanced patrols and small groups of the enemy. On the flanks, however, there has been hard fighting.

In Belgium the allies have been engaged in severe encounters. Nevertheless, they have gained additional miles of ground.

In the area north and south of Le Cateau furious fighting is reported, and the Americans have again distinguished themselves. By dark last night they had penetrated a depth of two miles; today they made further progress against strong opposition. The Germans here had orders to hold the line at all costs and the "Americans and British had literally to hack their way through."

The enemy divisions have been well whipped and from prisoners it is learned that no reserves are back of them because retirement in this section of the line is expected to take place as soon as the other divisions to the north get far enough back.

YANKEES VISITING IN BATH, ENGLAND



Whenever American troops set foot on English soil today nothing but kind words and all the comforts of home greet them. Patriotic-minded English men and women arrange excursions and celebrations for them; in fact, everything possible is done to make them feel as if they were back home. This picture shows some Yankees inspecting the old Roman baths at Bath, England, near which city they are stationed.

SUBJECT PEOPLES BE INDEPENDENT

Washington, Oct. 19.—On the eve apparently, of the coming of another peace note from Germany, President Wilson has rejected the plea of Austria-Hungary for an armistice and peace negotiations, and in doing so has made clearer the conditions which the Central powers must meet to end the war.

In the note written yesterday and made public soon after it was well on the way to Vienna today, the President in effect says there can be no talk of peace with the Austro-Hungarian government except on a basis of complete liberty of Czechs, Slovaks and other subject nationalities as free members of the family of nations. He refuses to entertain the Austro-Hungarian suggestion for this reason, without discussing the military questions dealt with in the reply to Germany.

The Vienna government asked for negotiations on the basis of the President's announced program of peace, mentioning the speech of January 8th, last, in which the President said the peoples of Austro-Hungary should be accorded the freest opportunity for autonomous development. The reply says this is impossible; that the Czechoslovak national council has been recognized as a de facto belligerent government, the justice of the nationalistic aspirations of the Jugo-Slavs has been recognized, and mere autonomy no longer can be accepted.

This declaration, which may be far reaching in its effect upon Austria-Hungary where long enslaved peoples apparently are nearly ready to sweep away the hated dual monarchy and the Hapsburg dynasty, clears up what some critics of the President's policy have pointed to as a source of endless controversy in his program of peace. It comes one day after the proclamation of Emperor Charles federalizing the Austrian states in a desperate effort to save his government at home and at the same time prepare the way for peace.

Though not mentioned by name, the Poles, Rumanians and members of other district races held under Austrian domination, come under the protection of the principle of self-determination to which America and the Allies are committed. The Austrian Poles want to join an independent Poland, the Austrian Rumanians long for reunion with Rumania and there is no doubt here that their hopes will be fulfilled when the peace conference is held.

Beyond press dispatches from Switzerland, saying the new German note would be dispatched tonight the State Department had no intimation whatever of the time or the nature of the German response to the President.

Officials heard without com-

15,000 HUNS CUT OFF FROM RETREAT

London, Oct. 20.—Fifteen thousand retreating German soldiers have been interned in Holland after being cut off by Belgian troops moving northward from Eecloo, according to reports from the frontier reaching Amsterdam and transmitted by the Exchange Telegraph company. Belgian soldiers took charge of the Dutch-Belgian border last night and were received enthusiastically by the populace.

By the Associated Press Victory crowns the allied arms on every battle front. Northern Belgium is being rapidly cleared of the enemy by British and Belgian forces. Belgians have occupied Zeebrugge and Heys; and have crossed the Ghent-Bruges canal and on their left have reached the Dutch frontier, where 15,000 Germans cut off from their retreat by the advance northward from Eecloo, are reported to have withdrawn into Holland, where they were interned.

Ghent, it is predicted from British headquarters, will fall at an early date and the French by a swift stroke along an extended line have put their forces within two miles of Tournai. Thiel is in the hands of the French, despite stubborn enemy resistance, as well as the high ground round about.

British troops have crossed the Selle river, have reconquered Solesmes and have had hard fighting not only in the section around that town but at St. Python to the east. Here the British have captured more than 2,000 prisoners.

Since the beginning of the operations in Flanders the allies have made an advance of more than 30 miles over a 50-mile front, clearing all of western Flanders, as well as the coast of the enemy.

Fighting desperately to hold their position to the north and south of LeCateau the Germans on a front of 40 miles have massed nearly half a million men. Their line is vital to the Germans, is just as vital to the success of the allied armies, which are steadily pushing the enemy back and breaking through at strategical points.

Nurse wanted.

8. Population 500, cases 100, pneumonia seven, deaths two, one doctor, no nurse, nurse wanted for organizing hospital.

9. Population 2,200, cases 1,000, pneumonia prevalent, 10 deaths, two doctors, one sick, wants doctor and nurse.

10. Population 1,200, cases 100, pneumonia five, deaths five, one aged doctor sick, nearest doctor 10 miles, doctor wanted.

11. Population 800, cases 209, only doctor serving in an emergency elsewhere, wants doctor.

12. Population 1,800, cases in town and immediate vicinity 1,200, about 80 pneumonia, 20 deaths, need another doctor and nurse.

13. County reports 2,011 cases to date, 79 pneumonia, 20 deaths, and is not asking for help yet.

14. Population 5,000, cases 250, two doctors, both well, asks for nurse.

15. Population 2,500, cases 250, pneumonia 25, deaths 12, epidemic increasing, one of three doctors sick, wants doctor and nurse.

16. Population 1,200, cases 600, pneumonia 20, only doctor just recovering from influenza, want doctor and nurse.

17. In county 2,100 new cases deaths last 24 hours nine, 12 doctors in county, but need nurses.

18. Population 800, cases 250, deaths five, no nurse and doctor sick, wants doctor and nurse.

19. Population 800, cases 150, pneumonia 12, deaths eight, need nurse.

20. Population 300, cases 100 pneumonia seven, deaths two, nearest doctor eight miles, no nurse, doctor badly needed.

ALLIES PURSUING RETIRING HUNS

By the Associated Press Paris, Oct. 19.—(8 p. m.)—The Allied armies have reached the Dutch frontier.

Allied troops on a front of more than 120 miles from the North Sea to the Oise river are pressing closely after the retreating Germans. The enemy is being given no rest and may have difficulty in holding his supposedly prepared lines when they are reached.

On the North the British, French and Belgians are approaching Ghent, in the center the British are marching on Tournai while the British, French and Americans north of the Oise are threatening the important railway lines south of Valenciennes. In the Argonne west of the Meuse the Americans have improved their positions in the neighborhood of Bantheville.

Unofficial reports are that the Belgian coast has been cleared completely of enemy forces and that 6,000 German troops have been caught between the advancing Allies and the Dutch border and the North Sea. This force apparently was unable to make good its escape southeastward in the direction of Antwerp owing to the rapidity of the Allied advance from Bruges. Allied troops are reported near Eecloo 15 miles east of Bruges, and the same distance northwest of Ghent, and also are approaching the Dutch frontier near Sluis. The Allied troops in Flanders have regained 800 square miles of territory in the past four days.

Between Bruges and Courtrai the German resistance is somewhat stiffer than further north, but south of Courtrai the British are advancing rapidly from the Douai-Lille line. The Marge river has been crossed east of Lille and the town of Chereng, 8 miles east of the important junction of Tournai, taken. From Chereng southward to the east of Douai the British have pressed forward nearly eight miles on a thirty-mile front in three days.

South of Valenciennes the British, American and French forces are widening the wedge driven into the German defenses and have forced the enemy behind the Sambre canal on a wide front east of the important railway center of Guise.

The Selle has been crossed in force southeast of Cambrai and the British are approaching the formidable natural obstacle of the forest of Vormal guarding the Valenciennes-Avesnes railroad, the main German supply line in this region.

The French maintain strongly their pressure between the Oise and the Serre and eastward along the Aisne.

There are some indications that the Germans are preparing for a retirement from their positions in front of the Americans northwest of Verdun between the Muse and the Boul forest. The American advance threatens the security of the Kriemhilde positions on the left center of the sector. A further advance in the Bantheville region would further increase the menace to the German lines. East of the Meuse the enemy Saturday attacked the American position in the Bois de La Grande Montagne, but was repulsed.

President Wilson has rejected the request of the Austro-Hungarian government for an armistice.

Austria was informed that conditions have altered since January 8, when the President enunciated his fourteen points and that any change in the Austro-Hungarian empire must be made in accordance with the desires of the Czechoslovak and Jugo-Slav nationalities.

Germany, it was reported from Geneva, would despatch Saturday night its reply to President Wilson's note. The reply it was reported, would accept all the terms with the exception of that concerning submarines.