

Advertisements in this paper must be paid for in advance and will be discontinued if not renewed within 30 days.

BIG TERRITORY IS FREED FROM GERMAN GRASP

(By the Associated Press)

In the last week the allied troops in France and Belgium have freed 400 square miles of territory from the grasp of the enemy. Paris estimates that in the last four days the Germans have suffered total casualties of 50,000, including 15,000 prisoners.

In the continuation of their attack between the Piave and the Brenta, the Italians have captured more than 2000 prisoners in the last 24 hours, the Italian war office reports.

Germany's hard pressed soldiers are being given no rest as the British, French and American forces continue with success their drives on important sectors from north of Valenciennes to east of the Meuse. Meanwhile, the Italians are pushing ahead in the region of Monte Grappa.

On the northern end of the front in France the British maintain their progress in encircling Valenciennes. In the center the French have shaken seriously the German defenses along the Serre and eastward toward the Aisne at Chateau Porcien.

The American troops east and west of the Meuse not only hold their gains against strong enemy reactions, but have further strengthened their position north of Grand Pre.

South of Valenciennes, Field Marshal Haig is across the Valenciennes-Le Quesnoy railroad and the fall of Le Quesnoy, which is vital to the defense of Mons and the Maubeuge, would appear to be near. The fighting of this sector continues bitter with the British striving to outflank the Mormal forest. On the northwest of the forest the British have advanced somewhat and captured Englefontaine.

Along the northern edge of the Raimes forest, north of Valenciennes, the canalized portion of the Scheldt river. In this region they have captured the villages of Odomez and Maulde.

Between the Oise and the Aisne the French are making rapid strides toward the important points of Marie and Montcornet. Along the railway south west of Marie they have captured the village of Mootiers and maintained their pressure elsewhere along the Serre. Further east a big hole has been torn in the German defenses begun in 1917. Between Banogne and Herpy, the French have driven forward toward Montcornet a distance of about two miles on a front of between four and five miles. A continued advance here menaces the German hold on Rethel, to which the enemy has clung tenaciously, and tends to outflank the German line eastward along the Aisne to Vouziers.

The Germans continue to fight desperately to check the advance of the American troops along the vital front east and west of the Meuse. Their counter attacks at various points on both sides of the river have been repulsed but the enemy continues to bombard the American lines heavily. On the extreme western end the Americans have reinforced their hold on the hills in the southern portion of the Bourgogne wood, north of Grand Pre.

NO ARMISTICE UNTIL GERMANY REPLIES

London, Oct. 27.—Germany's answer to President Wilson's latest communication declares that Germany is now awaiting proposals for an armistice.

In is understood in authoritative quarters that the allied governments will not reveal their armistice terms until Germany has replied to President Wilson's past note.

Premier Lloyd George and Foreign Secretary Balfour, accompanied by naval and military officers, have gone to France.

GERMAN LINE IS STILL CRUMBLING

(By the Associated Press)

A crash has come in the personnel of the German high command, General Ludendorff, repudiated to be the brains of the German army—the man who promised the Germans he would crush Great Britain and France before the United States could get under way in a military sense—has resigned his position as first quartermaster general and Emperor William has accepted his resignation.

Simultaneously, while the German line continues to crumble under the allied attacks and the German border is slowly but gradually being approached by Germany's foes, comes a report that the reichstag by a large majority has passed a bill placing the military command under the control of the civil government.

On the western battle front the British, French and Americans have continued to make further slight gains against the Germans; in the Italian theater both the British and Italians have scored successes, while in Asiatic Turkey the British have captured Aleppo in Spria and are driving ahead on both banks of the Tigris in Mesopotamia, with Turks unable to check them. The fall of Aleppo and the continued advance up the Tigris, are moves of such strategic value that it is not unlikely Turkey opposition shortly will be entirely overcome both in the Holy Land and Mesopotamia.

The French armies fighting on the 40-mile front between the Oise and Aisne rivers are keeping up their offensive against the Germans and have made additional gains, taking several villages and compelling the enemy to fall back at various points.

In the region southwest of Valenciennes, around Le Quesnoy, the Germans have delivered violent counter-attacks against the British. Their efforts to throw back Field Marshal Haig's men from the position they hold were unsuccessful, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy by machine gun and rifle fire.

The Americans have begun their second month of their operations in the region of Verdun by keeping up their attacks against the Germans from the Meuse to the wooded country, north of Grand Pre. Some further progress has been made notwithstanding continued opposition by German machine gunners from behind the natural fortifications which abound throughout this district. American airmen also are continuing their bombing operations behind the German lines, their latest effort in this respect having been made against the territory around Briquenay, north of Grand Pre, in which 140 airplanes took part, 60 of them being bombing machines.

Since the Americans began their operations northwest of Verdun more than 45 villages have been liberated, an advance to an average depth of 10 miles has been made and more than 20,000 Germans have been made prisoners.

Lieut. Donaldson Has Escaped From Germans

Greenville, S. C., Oct. 26.—Lieut John O. W. Donaldson, of the aviation section of the United States army, son of Brigadier General T. Q. Donaldson, who recently was forced to descend behind the German lines and was taken prisoner, has made his escape from a prison camp in Germany and is now safe in Holland, according to a cablegram received by relatives here today from the young officer. The message from Lieut. Donaldson advising of his escape was sent from The Hague, and also stated that he had received orders to join an American squadron in France. Brigadier General Donaldson, father of the aviator, was originally from this city.

GERMANY MAKES A REJOINDER TO WILSON'S NOTE

(By the Associated Press)

The German government has prepared a rejoinder to President Wilson's last note in which after again referring to the far-reaching changes which have been carried out and are being carried out in the German constitutional structure to which the military powers have been made subject, it declares that Germany is now awaiting the proposals for an armistice.

A London dispatch, however, in reporting the fact that Premier Lloyd George and Foreign Secretary Balfour had gone to France with the naval and military advisers, says it is understood authoritatively that the allied governments will not reveal their armistice terms until Germany has replied to President Wilson's last note, which it probably was expected would contain more than the mere fact that Germany was waiting for the terms of the armistice.

Far-Reaching Internal Reforms Instituted?

Amsterdam, Oct. 27.—In the course of a speech in the reichstag on Thursday, the German vice chancellor Frederick von Payer, said that the enemy's belief and the assertion that the German people were politically deprived of their rights and were so oppressed and dependent on small ruling circles that it constituted a constant danger for the peace of the entire world, had been the greatest hinderance to the attainment of peace. This hinderance, he declared, had to be removed, and the government had instituted far-reaching internal reforms, which were long overdue.

On the previous day the vice chancellor had said: "We need confidence, not merely at home; we need the confidence of foreign countries, even the confidence of our enemies. For we want peace and we need it. Our enemies distrust our sincere intention to conclude a peace of justice. They mistrust us mainly on the ground of many events in the past, concerning which we cannot take it amiss of them if they have certain doubts."

"We have therefore, no use for anyone in the government who still favors a peace of force more than a peace of justice. What we need in order to be able to exist is an unequivocal, honest and straightforward policy. That alone can promote our welfare in the future."

Austria-Hungary Asks Wilson to Begin Negotiations for an Armistice

Washington, Oct. 28.—While Germany's latest note to President Wilson was being delivered to the state department today through the Swiss legation, cable dispatches from Europe brought information that the Austro-Hungarian government had sent another communication to the President asking that immediate negotiations for peace and an armistice be entered into without awaiting the results of the exchanges with Germany.

The Vienna government asserted that it adhered to the same point of view expressed by the President in his last communication upon the rights of the Austro-Hungarian peoples, especially those of the Czechoslovaks and Jugo-Slavs, and requested that he begin overtures with the allied governments with a view to ending immediately hostilities on all Austro-Hungarian fronts.

The official text of the German note did not differ materially from the unofficial version as received by cable. No official comment was forthcoming, but it is known that no response will be made at present to the communication, which is believed to have been dispatched with the primary purpose of satisfying the German people that their government is not omitting any opportunity to forward the negotiations for an armistice and peace.

BELGIAN QUEEN VISITS BATTLEFIELD



Queen Elizabeth of Belgium recently accompanied King Albert to a battlefield where their troops had just defeated the Huns. The queen is shown shaking the hand of one of the men cited for distinguished service in the fight.

Concerning Allotments and Allowance

Dear Mr. Editor: Will you please publish the enclosed?

So many Wilkes families take your good paper and I want them to have the information given.

With best wishes etc., C. W. ROBINSON.

To the Relatives of Soldiers of Wilkes County:

If you do not hear from the Government in two months after the soldier enters service, you should write to the proper Department of Government and ask for your check. Giving the soldier's full name and Co., Reg., serial number, (if you have it), and camp where he first entered service; also give your own full name, address and your relationship to the enlisted man. If you do not hear from the Government in one month, write to me, as Chairman of Civilian Relief of the County, and I will investigate the matter for you.

Those who are entitled to allotment and allowance will write to "The Bureau of War Risk Insurance, Washington, D. C."

Those who only get an allotment will write to "The Quartermaster General Deposits and Allotment Branch, Washington, D. C."

If the allotment is from a seaman write to "Navy Allotment Officer, Navy Department, Washington, D. C."

If from a marine write to "Paymaster U. S. Marine Corp Headquarters, Washington, D. C." If a coast guard write to "Capt. Commandant U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C."

You need not employ a lawyer to do this for you unless he will do it without pay, any friend will gladly do it for you. The Government wants the soldiers family to have every cent of this money, and any one who would charge a soldier's family for this is no patriot—no friend of the soldier who is making the great sacrifice for his country.

A soldier must make an allotment of \$15.00 to wife and children add to this allowance. He may make an allotment to a dependent father, mother, sister or brother. In doing this he should remember the Government's warning—Hand book of Information, Sec. 11, par. 79, 80 and 81:

"Each enlisted man is required to file a statement as to those dependent upon him, and it is upon this information that the family allowance and allotment will be calculated."

"Any one knowingly making a false statement of a material fact in connection with claims under this Act is guilty of perjury and will be punished by a fine up to \$5,000 or by imprisonment up to two years or both."

Germany's Answer to Wilson's Latest Note

Copenhagen, Oct. 27. (By the Associated Press.)—Germany's answer to President Wilson's latest communication follows:

"The German government has taken cognizance of the answer of the President of the United States. The President is aware of the far-reaching changes which have been carried out and are being carried out in the German constitutional structure, and that peace negotiations are being conducted by a people's government, in whose hands rests, both actually and constitutionally, the power to make the deciding conclusions."

"The military powers are also subject to it. The German government now awaits proposals for an armistice, which shall be the first step toward a just peace, as the President has described it in his proclamation. (Signed) "SOLE."

German Concentrations Bombed by Americans

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 27. (4 p. m. By the Associated Press.)—German troops concentrations in the region of Briquenay, north of Grand Pre, were bombed this afternoon by about 60 all-American bombing airplanes with about 80 pursuit planes protecting. Formations of from 15 to 20 German machines attempted to drive off the Americans and several aerial combats resulted.

Lieut. Edward Rickenbacher was among the pursuit planes accompanying the bombing squadron. He engaged in two aerial combats and brought down a German machine within the American lines near Exermont. Rickenbacher followed the enemy machine close to the ground until he saw the enemy aviator land and fall into the hands of American infantrymen. Returning to his airdrome, Rickenbacher heard the news of his promotion to a captaincy.

The weather was fairly clear when word came that German troops were arriving at Briquenay by trains and that they were marching and being transported toward the Bourgogne wood. An expedition was quickly organized and was soon on the wing.

In addition to bombing Briquenay and the railroad, the bombers dropped a few bombs in woods nearby and the pursuit planes attacked enemy troops with small bombs and machine guns. The bombers report excellent results, direct hits being obtained upon railroad sheds.

sooner it is corrected the better. I would urge all to write cheerful letters to the soldiers, and be patient in case of delay of mail.

Let us show as much courage, patriotism and zeal in winning the war as our noble soldier boys and all will be well. Very sincerely, C. W. ROBINSON, Chairman Civilian Relief, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

343 PERISH WHEN STEAMER SINKS

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 26.—The 268 passengers and crew of 75 men were lost when the steamship Princess Sophia foundered last night, the Canadian Pacific railway announced today. Not a soul survived, according to a Juneau wireless message which said the ship apparently was picked up by the gale, hurled across Vanderbilt reef and sent to the bottom in the deep waters on the other side.

Nearly All Believed to Have Been Alaskans

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 26.—Nearly all those aboard the Princess Sophia, it is believed here, were Alaskans who boarded the steamer at Skagway.

The Princess Sophia struck early Thursday morning. Captain Locke, master of the steamer, yesterday notified the Canadian Pacific's Vancouver office that the wind made it impossible to transfer anyone from the stranded ship to the boats standing by. He expressed no fear for their safety, however.

Thursday afternoon a northerly fresh breeze sprang up, causing the ship to pound badly, making it almost impossible to launch the lifeboats or transfer the passengers to the several steamers which had hurried to the scene in answer to the Princess Sophia's "S-O-S" call.

Shipping men said tonight the loss of the Princess Sophia with all aboard was the worst marine disaster in the history of the Pacific coast.

The vessel, 2,300 tons gross, had been plying in Pacific waters since 1912.

The passenger list and details of the wreck were not available tonight.

Brakeman Runs Amuck at Spencer and Shoots Several Railroad Men

Spencer, Oct. 27.—Apparently finding the quietude of the Sabbath day monotonous, E. D. Whitmire, a brakeman on the Southern, loaded up his shotgun shortly before daylight this morning, and ran amuck, shooting several employes of the Southern yards here before he was taken into custody. Whitmire is said to have been drinking.

Whitmire's first victim was H. W. Klutz, 48 years of age, who is clerk in the yard office. Mr. Klutz was shot as he was attempting to escape through a door in the office.

Whitmire then took a shot at Joe Traxler, an engineer, wounding him in the foot as the engineer mounted to his cab.

His third victim was Car Inspector Dan Shepard, who caught part of a load of shot in the face as he stepped around a car.

Whitmire then went on a veritable rampage, attempting to shoot Engineer Gattis Blalock, John Bernhardt, a negro soldier, and others near the depot. He is also reported to have chased Yard Master F. C. Dickerson from the yards, the latter being unarmed.

Operator Lee and Operator Fester, holding down the wires at the yard office and Spencer depot, respectively, were next induced to vacate their posts by the threatening shotgun and Ed Lanning, H. W. Grubb and two colored firemen were next attacked. Whitmire wounded one of the negroes in the back and the other in the hands.

He threatened R. V. Allen and J. S. Brown, whom he found in the car inspector's office, but finally decided not to shoot them and then amused himself by chasing Bob Waller around the depot until both were tired. Sheriff Krider finally arrived and took Whitmire, who is only about 21 years of age, into custody.

MORE THAN 33 DIVISIONS USED ON 20-MILE FRONT

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 27. (By the Associated Press.)—In its first major operation against the Germans, considering the clearing out of the St. Mihiel salient as a local affair, the American army in a few days less than a month, has liberated more than 45 villages and advanced to an average depth of 10 miles, freeing 165 miles of territory. In the offensive the Americans have captured more than 20,000 prisoners.

The Americans attacked on a front of 20 miles from the Arbonne to the Meuse and the advance has been made in the face of almost insurmountable difficulty, due particularly to the nature of the ground, which is covered with hills, deep ravines and woods. In addition the Americans had fronting them 4 organized systems of trenches—the Hindenburg line, the Hagen position, the Volker position and the Kriemhilde position. They have forced their way through all these lines. Ahead of them lies the Freya position, which has been reached at one point in the region of the Bantheville wood.

The advance has been particularly difficult because the Germans have stubbornly resisted every foot of the way and have used more than 33 divisions on the 20-mile front. The enemy continues to make a formidable effort to hold this front in order to protect his great lateral line of communication running through Hirson, Mezieres, Sedan, Montmedy and Longuyon. This line is already threatened and should the Germans lose it, they will lose their main line of communication from Germany into occupied France.

In addition to the prisoners, General Pershing's men have taken more than 137 guns, of large caliber, numerous machine guns and anti-tank guns, a great store of ammunition and much war material, including locomotives and railway cars.

Since September 26, the Americans have fired more than 2,500,000 shells, the number at times reaching as high as 150,000 daily. The guns used included a great number of heavy ones, and also some captured from the enemy.

American aviators and anti-aircraft guns in the period since September 27 have brought down 230 enemy machines and 23 enemy balloons, despite adverse flying conditions and bad weather at times. Bombing airplanes dropped more than 40,000 kilograms of explosives on railroad centers, troop concentration and other points behind the enemy lines.

From the view of the engineer, the most difficult task faced has been the repairing of roads and the movement of supplies, men, ammunition and food to the front. More than 45,000 engineer troops are employed day and night in rebuilding shell-shattered roads, using where possible, crushed rock from villages destroyed by the German shells.

In the Argonne, hundreds of yards of German barbed wire entanglements fastened from tree to tree at various heights, had to be bridged as it was impossible to cut them. In addition, many roads in the Argonne were of black loam which became a morass in rainy weather. The engineers were compelled to virtually build bridges over many miles of these roads.

The crossing of Forges brook was accomplished in the first day of the advance under a heavy fire. The brook runs through marshy lands and in order to bridge it the engineers had to lay bundles of faggots on both sides of the stream. The crossing was made in record time and then began the battle of the Argonne which lasted for more than two weeks.