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TERSE REJECTION OF PEACE FEELER

PRESIDENT WILSON MAKES SHORT WORK OF GERMAN TRICK PROPOSAL.

THE ONLY REPLY POSSIBLE

Emphasis of Answer is Doubled by Length of Time Consumed in Its Delivery.

Washington.—The United States, as was fully expected, has unconditionally rejected Germany's peace feeler. In doing so, the government has spoken for all the co-belligerents.

Almost immediately after receiving the Austrian government's note from the minister from Sweden, Mr. Ekengren, Secretary Lansing issued this formal statement:

"I am authorized by the President to state that the following will be the reply of this government to the Austro-Hungarian note proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents:

"The government of the United States feels that there is only one reply to this government to the Austro-Hungarian government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

Mr. Lansing's statement was given out within half an hour after he had received the Austrian proposal. It would have been forthcoming almost immediately upon the delivery of the Austrian note had it not been found necessary in order to avoid the possibility of grave error to make a careful comparison between the official text and that which was received in news dispatches last night from Amsterdam.

Thus, emphasis was added to the declaration, if any were needed, the quickness of the reply indicating the existence of no shadow of doubt in the mind of the administration as to what it should be. As soon as Mr. Lansing's reply can be put in form it will be handed to the Swedish minister for transmission to Austria.

STRENGTH OF ENEMY IS REDUCED FOUR DIVISIONS

American Headquarters in Lorraine.—It probably is not an underestimate to assume that the Americans, in obliterating the St. Mihiel salient, reduced the enemy's strength by the equivalent of four divisions. The victory of the Americans was due to German inferiority in numbers and a greater inferiority in morale.

The statement coming from the German high command that it is glad to be rid of the salient may be believed, but it may be doubted if the command also is glad to have lost 15,000 men, more than 100 guns, an innumerable quantity of machine guns, trench mortars, tons of ammunition and telegraph material, as well as railroad equipment, rolling stock, clothing and supplies.

FIRST CALL ON REGISTRANTS IS ANNOUNCED AS 181,838

Washington.—Draft calls announced by Provost Marshal General Crowder will send 181,838 men qualified for general military service to army camps before October 16. All states have quotas to fill. Of the total 142,000 will be white registrants who will enter between October 7 and 11.

The remainder will be negroes, who will move in two groups, 29,016 entering between September 25 and 27, and 10,752 on October 16. Men who registered last Thursday, it was said at the provost marshal general's office, but in most localities sufficient men remain in class one from the registrations on last June 5 and August 24 to meet the requirements.

North Carolina must furnish 1,374, South Carolina 793 and Virginia 1,348.

ANOTHER BLOW BY FOCH MOMENTARILY EXPECTED

Washington.—Another blow against the German lines is expected momentarily by military officials.

Several simultaneous attacks will be delivered. It is thought, with the Flanders front, the French operations about La Fere directed at Laon, and the new American front across the mouth of the old St. Mihiel salient as the logical positions from which Marshal Foch would strike.

LIEUT. COL. G. WOODWARD



Lieut. Col. G. Woodward has been appointed by Great Britain as special representative of the ministry of information in America.

THE CAPTURE OF ST. MIHIEL

ALONG FRONT ATTACK OF TWENTY AND DEPTH OF FIVE MILES HUNS ARE DRIVEN BACK.

Haig Penetrates Old Defense Line, Taking Important Positions and More Than 1,000 Prisoners.

The American first army under command of General Pershing is in action against the Germans on a 20-mile front on the famous St. Mihiel salient in Lorraine, which has stood a sharp wedge in the French line southeast of Verdun since the commencement of the war.

In the preliminary thrust ground was gained on both sides of the triangle and also at its apex at St. Mihiel, and at last accounts the Americans, with whom some French troops are brigaded were fast sweeping across the salient in an effort to close the mouth of the big pocket before the Germans can extricate themselves as a result of the suddenness of the blow and the element of surprise.

Although the advance of the Americans was swift and sure and gains in excess of four miles on the southern side of the battle area were made, the cavalry far outstripped the tanks and footmen and was last reported operating along the railroad near Vigneulles, almost in the center of the salient and some 10 miles northeast of St. Mihiel and also northwest of Pont-A-Mousson, through the forests and along the railway line running northward to Metz, the great German fortress, the southern outer fortifications of which are less than 10 miles.

To the south everywhere the Americans penetrated into the heights of the Meuse and the French fought their way into the outskirts of St. Mihiel. Unofficial reports are to the effect that the town has been recaptured by the French.

The strategy of Marshal Foch in the present maneuver cannot be foreseen, except that it has as the first objective the leveling of the St. Mihiel sector and the straightening of the allied line from the region of Verdun eastward. The obliteration of the salient would be necessary before a direct thrust toward German territory from this region would be possible.

INSTANT DEATH FATE OF ALL TRAITORS, SPIES OR COWARDS

With the American Army in France—American troops of all units have been instructed to kill on the spot anyone who in time of battle urges surrender or attempts to persuade them that further resistance is useless.

These instructions, which originated with a certain division and have now been universally adopted because they proved so popular, were made necessary because someone in American uniform during a German attack on Elsmette, on August 27, ran among the troops calling upon them to cease resistance and declaring that the officers advised surrender.

SUCCESS MEETING EFFORTS OF GENERAL PERSHING'S ARMY

Repts show that success is meeting the American commander's efforts to fling the enemy out of this sharp salient thrust in behind the fortress of Verdun. But of even greater significance to government officials was the fact that the all-American attack meant that the months of ceaseless toll and effort have now brought forth a third great organized army, which has taken its place beside the French and British armies.

STEADY ADVANCE OF PERSHING'S FORCES

ENEMY'S WITHDRAWAL MAY BE TO PROTECT HIS RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

AMERICAN PATROLS ADVANCING

Two New Divisions Broken Up by British—German Strength is Greatly Reduced.

London.—General Pershing's Army is making fine progress. It has advanced from two to three miles on a 20-mile front and the horizon guns of Metz have come into action against it.

The enemy appears to be withdrawing to some further line which will protect the railway communications in the vicinity of Metz, which at present are under the long range fire of the Americans.

American patrols are advancing at various points a couple of miles beyond the general advances.

The American line, at noon ran through Norroy, on the Meuse, Hautmont, Bencourt and to Abbeccourt on the old line.

The advance by the French seems to have been in the nature of several local pushes and not a big general forward move. The situation is much the same as it was. The enemy has been retreating very violently on the French front. He made several counterattacks, although he has not recovered any of his lost ground, he is holding up the French somewhat.

The British are reported to have captured the village of Meissey, northwest of St. Quantin. It has been discovered that there were six German divisions operating in the St. Mihiel salient. That would give a total strength of 60,000 men or a rifle strength of 36,000. The Germans had broken up for them, two more divisions in this action, thus reducing their strength in the west to 191 divisions, plus four Austrian divisions and some dismounted cavalry.

PEACE DISCUSSION TO BE NO INTERRUPTION OF WAR

Amsterdam.—In extending an invitation to all the belligerent governments some neutral meeting place, the Austro-Hungarian government states that the object of the conference would be to secure an exchange of views which would show whether these prerequisites exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising.

The Austrian proposal, which is announced in an official communication telegraphed here from Vienna suggests that there be no interruption of the war, and that the "discussions" would go only so far as considered by the participants to offer prospects of success.

The proposal calls for all the belligerents to send delegates for a confidential and unbinding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, in a place in a neutral country and at a near date that would yet have to be agreed upon.

LIVES OF LITTLE CHILDREN SNUFFED OUT BY SUBMARINE

London.—The British steamer Galway Castle of 7,388 tons gross was torpedoed and sunk. She had 960 persons on board, of whom more than 850 were reported saved.

The missing from the Galway Castle numbers 189. They include 120 passengers, 36 naval and military officers and men, and 33 of the crew.

Ninety third-class passengers lost were without exception women and children.

The liner floated for two days in charge of the captain and volunteers.

The passenger list included 300 women and children. The bodies of three of the children who had died were brought ashore. The captain and several of the officers are reported to have been still on board the ship when she was last seen and sinking.

That was the President's answer then, and it was reiterated today; it is his answer now.

MAJ. GEN. L. W. T. WALLER



Brig. Gen. Littleton W. T. Waller has been promoted to the rank of major general in the United States Marine corps for gallant duty in Haiti and in France.

PEACE PROPOSALS A SNARE

GERMAN MILITARY VICTORY IS RENDERED IMPOSSIBLE BY FAILURE OF CAMPAIGN.

Pending Military Decision All Diplomatic Proposals Are the Sheerest Nonsense.

New York.—The words of Buzin and the rumors of cabinet changes in Berlin are not to be read without careful relation to the military situation. Unlike the allies, the Germans make no distinction between diplomatic and military weapons in the pursuit of victory—absolute or relative.

This campaign has failed. No absolute military victory is now or hereafter possible for the German. But a relative, an approximate, victory may yet be had if the situation on the western battle front can be stabilized for a time and during this time the diplomatic attack upon the allies, exactly analogous to the submarine campaign of 1917, can be pressed.

German strategy is patent enough. It is now the mission of the army to check or delay allied advance for eight weeks at the outside. At the end of this time German diplomacy—using the formula of Kuehlmann, now repeated by Buzin and by every German commentator that no military decision is possible—will point to still unbroken German lines and demand a conference—a negotiation or discussion around the table. Now, all this must be clearly foreseen and guarded against. The German peace offensive, like all previous German maneuvers, is a war offensive. The German has merely begun to change the method by which he will continue to seek a victory in this way—a profit from the contest, which will leave him in a stronger position than he occupied when the war began and from which he can later resume the war when he has again completed his preparations.

We are, then, approaching a far graver crisis than that which existed before the second battle of the Marne. Then, Foch was in reserve, ready. We have no Foch to direct the diplomatic defense.

Pending a military decision, all negotiation is nonsense, means nothing now less than to decide how great a victory we shall allow the German while the armies in France are unbroken. German success in the east will insure eventual German gains from the struggle. While the German armies are unbroken, all German proposals are merely an extension of the front—military maneuvers—as frankly as was the Hindenburg retreat of 1917.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS HAVE ARRIVED AT ARCHANGEL

Washington.—American troops have landed at Archangel to assist the other allied forces there in their campaign for the re-establishment of order in northern Russia. This announcement was authorized by Gen. March, chief of staff.

For military reasons, the number of soldiers landing was not revealed. It was assumed that the soldiers had been sent from English camps, where Americans are training.

ST. MIHIEL IS TAKEN BY AMERICAN ARMY

MORE THAN 13,000 PRISONERS COUNTED AND LARGE STORES OF ARMS AND MUNITIONS.

MOUTH OF SACK IS CLOSED

Allied Airmen Already Bombing the Moselle Region and Metz Outlying Fortifications.

The American first army has cut off the salient back of Metz by the St. Mihiel salient in Lorraine.

In a little more than 24 hours, not only had the salient been captured but General Pershing's men had all the important towns, villages and strategic positions in the sector with in their hands and were standing on the banks of the Moselle river at Pagny looking across the stream into German territory. And the southern outer fortifications of Metz, the great German stronghold in Lorraine, were only four miles distant.

Large numbers of Germans had been counted and others were still on their way back to the prison cages, and many guns and machine guns and great quantities of ammunition and other war stores were in American hands.

From Hattenville to the north, across the salient eastward to Pagny, the Americans have closed the mouth of the big sack which extended southward to St. Mihiel, trapping within it by their fast advance all the enemy forces who failed to take refuge in time when the great bombardment of Thursday morning heralded the approach of the offensive.

In addition, along the eastern side of the heights north of Hattenville the Americans have debouched from the hill region and are striding the railroad running from Commercy to Verdun. Likewise the Thiaucourt Metz and Nancy-Metz railroads are in American hands.

Beginning in the northwest and crossing the salient eastward, Fresnes, Les Eparges, Hattenville, Pagny and Pagny and all the ground lying between them are in American hands. The towns of Vigneulles, Thiaucourt, Pont-A-Mousson and St. Mihiel are far in the rear of the present line. Montsec, the dominating height in the center of the salient and from which much trouble had been expected, fell without fighting.

Already allied airmen are heavily bombing the Moselle region around Metz and its outlying fortifications, having dropped many tons of bombs on the strategic railways leading from the great fortress and it seemingly is not without reason to expect that with apparent supremacy in the air, Metz and the surrounding country henceforth is to be sadly harassed by the allied flying squadrons.

Washington.—First returns to Provost Marshal General Crowder from the second great mobilization of the nation's manpower for the war on Germany indicated that at least 14,000,000 men had been added to the army reservoir. The estimated number of men between 18 and 21 and 22 and 45 years was 13,900,000.

Ten states, widely scattered, and the District of Columbia gave substantial totals by telegraph during the day and on these figures General Crowder announced that these states were exceeding their estimated registration by 8.5 per cent. The returns will not be made public until they have been checked for possible errors. The states reporting were Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Complete returns from the registration of August 24, when youths who had reached their twenty-first year between that date and June 5, 1918, also were made public. They showed that 157,968 men had gone into the draft reserves against an estimate of 155,941.

GERMANS VIRTUALLY ON WOTAN-HINDENBURG LINE

With the American Army in Lorraine.—The St. Mihiel salient has been wiped out and the enemy forces are now virtually with their backs on the famous Wotan-Hindenburg line with the Americans and French paralleling them closely from Verdun to the Moselle.

The line now extends past Norroy, Jaulny, Xammons, St. Benoit, Hattenville, Hannonville and Herbeville.

OVER THE LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS

Charlotte.—Col. L. W. V. Kennon, commanding officer of Camp Greene, died suddenly at the Cumberland hotel, New York city.

Wadesboro.—A committee appointed by the farmers to investigate the new cotton ginning rate of 4.75 per bale decided that the rates were not excessive under present conditions, high cost of labor, fuel and other commodities.

Charlotte.—Public opinion has been appraised by the governor, as one of the means of military training periods throughout the country. A committee of 150,000 men will be organized by the governor. A similar army training camp will be organized by the governor and will include the participation of a regular army officer.

Salisbury.—Capt. C. E. Foxworth and Mrs. C. E. Heims went to Raleigh chaperoning children of their who are to be given Pasteur treatment for dog bite at the Raleigh institute. A little dog of Mr. and Mrs. Heims acted queer during the past week and bit a number of dogs and several children.

Raleigh.—For the first time in the history of the Raleigh high school German will not be taught this year. The outlawing of the Teuton tongue was done by action of the school board and follows the trail of other schools and colleges in the country which will have nothing German taught in the institution.

Greensboro.—Rev. J. Murphy Williams, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at the Covenant, was granted leave of absence from his church for a period of six months to do work among the soldiers in one of the camps, and his salary will be continued while he is thus engaged.

Washington Special.—The nomination of Josephus Daniels, Jr., son of the secretary of the navy, to be a first lieutenant in the marine corps was confirmed by the senate. Lieutenant Daniels entered the marine corps as a private soon after the war began.

Southern Pines.—The Carthage tobacco market opened with a whirl, about 50,000 pounds of tobacco selling at an average of 35 cents. The floor was full of people, who were satisfied with the sale.

Raleigh.—The Mebane Milling Company of Mebane, files with the secretary of state an amendment to its charter that increases the authorized capital to \$50,000. W. S. Dixon is the president of the corporation.

Winston-Salem.—Gates is the sixteenth county in the state to have secured its full quota of war savings pledges. It reports every township's quota in sight, with one township having doubled its quota.

Raleigh.—The Associated Charities of this city is not going to let winter find the organization without plenty of wool for the poor of Raleigh. Superintendent Stephenson now is storing several carloads of wool on a lot at the intersection of Hazlett and Person streets. So far, about cords of wool are ready for distribution when they are needed.

Charlotte.—Advices from state laboratories at Raleigh said the pup which bit Mrs. Archie Wilson and her son, Robert Wilson, of Seversville, was mad. The madstone was applied and they were given other treatment. Two little Gardner children, whose home also is in Seversville, were bitten by the same dog. They are taking the Pasteur treatment at Raleigh.

Elkin.—Miss Boyd Hanes, a former student of the Elkin graded school, has enlisted as a yeomaness in the navy and passed a successful examination at Raleigh. She will be stationed at Norfolk, Va.

Raleigh.—Selectop of a site at Raleigh for a new tank training camp was announced by the war department. Details as to the size of the camp, or the nature of buildings to be constructed will not be made public for the present.

Winston-Salem.—"The response to the request that 'Joy riding' be suspended Sunday was most gratifying, but there were a few who did not comply and therefore did not perform their full patriotic duty," said Paul Administrator Bahnsen.