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THURSDAY MORNING OCTOBER 24 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,861 TWO CENTS

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SENATE P O OTTAWA

MOST VITAL POINT OF GERMAN LINE IS SMASHED THRU BY THE BRITISH

STRONG DEFENSE POSITIONS AT VALENCIENNES SMASHED

British Armies Break Thru on Extended Front, Capturing Many Important Villages and Several Thousand Prisoners ---Further Retreats Are Expected.

Field Marshal Haig's communication on Wednesday's fighting follows:

"The attack this morning was delivered by Anglo-Scottish troops of the third and fourth armies between the Sambre Canal and the River Scheldt, south of Valenciennes.

"An advance was made over country that was difficult—over many streams and thru villages and woods which were defended with much resolution.

"In the period of assembly and the early stages of the battle the hostile artillery displayed great activity with high explosive and gas shells.

"We have fought our way forward in spite of obstinate resistance, especially by the enemy's artillery and machine guns.

"Advancing with great steadiness, some hours before dawn our infantry penetrated the enemy's defence along the whole front, and at an early hour had captured the important Village of Pommereuil Forest and Romeries. On the extreme right there was a strong resistance at the fortified farm of Gimbremont and the railway nearby, but at both places the enemy's defence was quickly overcome.

"Left of the centre the Village of Beaurain, which was held by the enemy with great tenacity, was stormed by the English with the assistance of tanks.

"On the left other English troops crossed the Harpines River at an early stage of the advance and captured Vertain.

"During the morning we pressed on over the whole of the front, carrying the enemy's positions to a depth of over three miles, driving him from many strongly-defended villages, farms, woods and other localities organized for resistance.

"The English 25th division had hard fighting in the Bois Leveque, but progressed thru the wood. East county troops, advancing to a depth of three and a half miles, captured Bousies.

"The Anglo-Scottish troops secured crossings of the Harpines at the Vendfgies Wood and captured Vendigies Village. English and New Zealanders operating on their left reached the outskirts of Neuville and established themselves on the high ground northwest of the village.

"Farther north the Village of Escarmain was captured.

"In these highly successful operations, several thousand prisoners and many guns were captured by our troops, whose advance is continuing on the whole front."

With the British Army in France and Belgium, Oct. 23.—The British third and fourth armies today smashed thru strong German defensive positions south of Valenciennes. They gained ground to a depth of more than five thousand yards on an extended front capturing many important villages and several thousand prisoners, together with numerous guns, and driving a wedge into the enemy positions at what probably is the most vital point of the lines the Germans are holding.

The fighting was of a desperate nature, the German machine gunners holding out to the last. Large numbers of the enemy were killed.

The advance continues and the menace to the Germans to the north and south of the front attacked is hourly growing. Further retreats are expected.

Squeezing Out Valenciennes.

North of the Third and Fourth armies the British First army continued its attacks, and reached positions well to the northeast of Valenciennes, which is gradually being squeezed out. It is probable that the Germans have already evacuated that town.

The British are approaching Le Quesnoy, and were only about three miles from the gates of that place according to latest reports, and were still advancing.

The heaviest fighting seems to have been in L'Eveque wood, which is still being cleared up, altho the British have passed completely around it, and are before the great Mormal forest. On the edge of this the Germans were reported to be concentrating at Preux.

Catillon was taken early in the fighting by assault. Ors is in British hands. The Germans before retreating blew up all the bridges over the canal between Catillon and Ors.

One corps holding the centre of the Fourth army front opposite Le Cateau, alone had taken 500 prisoners early in the day.

We are steadily linking up bridgeheads and footholds established along the west bank of the Scheldt, says Reuter's correspondent. This morning's fighting considerably extended our front on this waterway, which is mainly interesting because it had been suggested as a possible line of a German railway.

Difficult to Follow.

Today's battle was difficult to follow, for, beginning along a connected front, it disintegrated into a series of local struggles. Much of the ground is intersected by a perfect network of little waterways, rendering it marshy and difficult for the troops to advance against a deliberate defence; while between Le Cateau and Solesmes we are approaching a thick forest. Obviously, under such conditions, news from the 30-mile front must be scrappy and disconnected.

We are drawing into long range artillery reach of both Mons and Maubeuge, vital points of the German communications, and it seems not unduly optimistic to predict that the British troops will soon be beyond any line of French soil they have yet trodden during the present war.

At present the action is almost wholly confined to a struggle of the infantry against machine gun resistance. The nature of the country is unfavorable to the employment of tanks, and even the bringing up of guns often entails considerable difficulty. Moreover, the tendency is to keep the British columns as mobile as practicable.

The sappers and engineers are doing great work, but it is the infantry that is carrying out the victory.

The Americans are rapidly adding war wisdom to indomitable gallantry, and are contributing laurels to the history of the fourth army.

The artillerymen, airmen, and in a limited measure the cavalry, are doing their part nobly, but primarily these are infantry battles, and what Napoleon said of marching men remains true in open warfare today.

By midday we had penetrated to a depth of nearly three miles on a front of about 17 miles, and had advanced to the east of Raismes Forest.

EVACUATION OF GHENT IS NOW IN FULL SWING

Amsterdam, Oct. 23. — The evacuation of Ghent, Belgium, is in full swing, according to a despatch to The Telegraaf from Sasvan Gent. The last boats in Ghent are being hastily towed toward Selzaete, near the Dutch frontier, south of Sasvan Gent, the despatch adds.

FRENCH GAIN GROUND BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

Lines Are Carried as Far as the Outskirts of Chevresis-lez-Dames.

Paris, Oct. 23.—The war office statement of the operations on the western front today reads:

"There was great artillery activity on the Oise front. Between the Oise and the Serre we gained ground north of Catillon du Temple, and carried our lines as far as the outskirts of Chevresis-lez-Dames.

"Further east we captured a wood, which was energetically defended, to the north of Mesbrecourt-Richecourt. One hundred and fifty prisoners remained in our hands.

"There was stubborn fighting during the day on the Serre-Souche front. Our units succeeded in debouching between Froidmont-Cohartille and Pierrepont and in maintaining themselves on the east bank opposite Brazicourt, despite strong German counter-attacks.

"Southeast of the Aisne lively fighting was carried on in the region of Vouziers. The Germans attacked the Village of Terron and our positions east of Vandy, but were repulsed with serious losses. Between Olizy and Grand Pre we captured the Moulin Beaurepaire, taking prisoners.

"Belgian communication: There is nothing to report regarding the army group in Flanders, except progress by the French army on the right bank of the Lys, in the course of which Waereghem was occupied and 200 prisoners taken."

ALL PORTS CLOSED.

Rumanian Government Shuts Up Black Sea and Danube Harbors.

London, Oct. 23. — The British admiralty reports that German wireless despatches picked up at Moscow are to the effect that the Rumanian Government has declared all Rumanian ports on the Black Sea and on the Danube closed.

WILL NOT RETURN ENEMY'S COLONIES

Balfour Says It is Essential That Empire's Communications Remain Safe.

NOT SELFISH VIEW

Interests of the World as Much Concerned as Those of Britain.

London, Oct. 23.—In no circumstances was it consistent with the safety, security and unity of the empire that her colonies should be returned to Germany, stated Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, British foreign secretary, in the course of a speech he delivered at a luncheon of the Australian and New Zealand Club today.

Mr. Balfour said it was absolutely essential that the British empire's communications should remain safe, and if the German colonies were returned, what security was there that their original possessors would not use them as bases for piratical warfare.

The doctrine that the colonies should be returned, Mr. Balfour claimed, was not selfish and imperialistic. It was one wherein the interests of the world were almost as much concerned as the interests of the empire itself. If the empire was to remain united it was absolutely necessary that the ways whereby the component parts could communicate with each other should never again be at the mercy of an unscrupulous power.

FRENCH AVIATION REPORT.

Three Enemy Machines Brought Down and Stations Bombed.

Paris, Oct. 23.—The official report dealing with aerial operations says:

"On Oct. 22 aerial observation was carried out by our pursuit machines behind the enemy front. In the course of these observations three machines were brought down and two captive balloons were burned.

"At night, notwithstanding the fog, our bombing machines dropped more than seven tons of projectiles on the railway stations at Liart, Hirson, Provisy and Le Chesne. Our bombs caused a fire in the station at Liart."

WILSON DOESN'T TRUST GERMANS SENDS PEACE NOTES TO ALLIES

TEXT OF WILSON'S REPLY

From the secretary of state to the charge d'affaires, ad interim, in charge of German interests in the United States:

Department of state, Oct. 23, 1918.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 22nd, transmitting a communication under date of the 20th from the German Government, and to advise you that the president has instructed me to reply thereto as follows:

Having received the solemn and explicit assurance of the German Government that it unreservedly accepts the terms of peace laid down in his address to the congress of the United States on the eighth of January, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses, particularly the address of the 27th of September, and that it desires to discuss the details of their application and that this wish and purpose emanated, not from those who have hitherto dictated German policy and conducted the present war on Germany's behalf, but from ministers who speak for the majority of the reichstag and for an overwhelming majority of the German people; and having received also the explicit promise of the present German Government that the humane rules of civilized warfare will be observed both on land and sea by the German armed forces, the president of the United States feels that he cannot decline to take up with the governments with which the government of the United States is associated, the question of an armistice.

He deems it his duty to say again, however, that the only armistice he would feel justified in submitting for consideration would be one which should leave the United States and the powers associated with her in a position to enforce any arrangements that may be entered into and to make a renewal of hostilities on the part of Germany impossible.

The president has, therefore, transmitted his correspondence with the present German authorities to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated as a belligerent, with the suggestion that, if those governments are disposed to effect peace upon the terms and principles indicated, their military advisers, and the military advisers of the United States, be asked to submit to the governments associated against Germany the necessary terms of such an armistice as will fully protect the interests of the peoples involved and ensure to the associated governments the unrestricted power to safeguard and enforce the details of the peace to which the German Government has agreed, provided they deem such an armistice possible from the military point of view. Should such terms of armistice be suggested, their acceptance by Germany will afford the best concrete evidence of her unequivocal acceptance of the terms and principles of peace from which the whole action proceeds.

The president would deem himself lacking in candour did he not point out in the frankest possible terms the reason why extraordinary safeguards must be demanded. Significant and important as the constitutional changes seem to be which are spoken of by the German foreign secretary in his note of the 20th of October, it does not appear that the principle of a government responsible to the German people has yet been fully worked out, or that any guarantees either exist or are in contemplation that the alterations of principle and of practice, now partially agreed upon, will be permanent. Moreover, it does not appear that the heart of the present difficulty has been reached. It may be that future wars have been brought under the control of the German people, but the present war has not been; and it is with the present war that we are dealing. It is evident that the German people have no means of commanding the acquiescence of the military authorities in the popular will; that the power of the king of Prussia to control the policy of the empire is unimpaired; that the determining initiative still remains with those who have hitherto been the masters of Germany. Feeling that the whole peace of the world depends now on plain speaking and straightforward action, the president deems it his duty to say, without any attempt to soften what may seem harsh words, that the nations of the world do not, and cannot, trust the word of those who have hitherto been the masters of German policy, and to point out once more that in concluding peace and attempting to undo the infinite injuries and injustices of this war, the government of the United States cannot deal with any but veritable representatives of the German people who have been assured of a genuine constitutional standing as the real rulers of Germany. If it must deal with the military masters and the monarchical autocrats of Germany now, or if it is likely to have to deal with them later in regard to the international obligations of the German Empire, it must demand, not peace negotiations, but surrender. Nothing can be gained by leaving this essential thing unsaid.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

(Signed): ROBERT LANSING.

Mr. Frederick Oederlin,

Charge d'affaires of Switzerland, ad interim, in charge of German interests in the United States.

GERMANS DREAD WINTER AND ALLIED AIR RAIDS

London, Oct. 24. — A despatch to The Daily Mail from The Hague says: From all information available here, in Germany there is a widespread dread of winter and of daily and nightly air raids from German airdromes in Belgium which are now in the hands of the allies. It is indicated that such raids would produce internal results in Germany quite different from the present symptoms of unrest.

MIGNAULT APPOINTED TO SUPREME BENCH

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—P. G. Mignault, K.C., of Montreal, has been appointed to the bench of the supreme court of Canada, in succession to Sir Louis Davies. Mr. Mignault, in consequence, has resigned as a member of the International Waterways Commission.

The vacancy on the waterways commission will probably not be filled for a few days, appointments to the commission being subject to the approval of the Imperial Government, altho recommendations of the Dominion Government are accepted as a matter of course.

BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS BACK IN BELGIUM

Administrative Departments Will Be Established in Bruges, Now That Germans Are Driven Out.

Havre, Oct. 23. — The whole of the province of western Flanders and part of eastern Flanders and Hainaut having been recovered from the Germans, the Belgian Government has decided to establish its administrative departments in Bruges.

WOMEN ALLOWED TO SIT IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

London, Oct. 23.—The house of commons, by a majority of 249, adopted a resolution today in favor of women sitting in parliament.

UKRAINIAN MINISTRY RESIGNS.

London, Oct. 23.—The British wireless press says the entire Ukrainian ministry has resigned.

ALL BELGIANS PARDONED BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Amsterdam, Oct. 23.—Baron von Falkenhausen, the governor-general of Belgium, according to an official telegram from Brussels, has pardoned all Belgians and neutral residents condemned by military tribunals or military commanders under his jurisdiction, except those convicted of common crime. The governor-general also has ordered the release of all Belgians and neutral citizens interned in Belgium or Germany. A limited number of persons whose freedom would be undesirable while fighting continues will be released after the evacuation of Belgium.

King and Quen of Belgium Visit Bruges by Airplane

Dunkirk, Oct. 23. — King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, visited Bruges by airplane Tuesday. They left Dunkirk at 8.45 o'clock in the morning and landed at Bruges a half hour later. They visited the chief streets of the city and were given a joyful welcome by the populace. On their return they left Bruges at 11 o'clock.

If Governments Are Disposed to Accept Peace on Terms and Principles Indicated, Military Advisers Will Submit Terms to Germans for an Armistice

Washington, Oct. 23.—President Wilson has informed the German Government that he has transmitted its correspondence to him seeking an armistice and peace to the allies, with the suggestion that if these governments are disposed to effect peace upon the terms and the principles indicated, their military advisers and the military advisers of the United States be asked to submit the necessary terms of such an armistice as will fully protect the interests of the peoples involved.

He says that should such terms of armistice be suggested, acceptance by Germany will afford the best concrete evidence of her unequivocal acceptance of the terms and principles of peace.

The president's reply to the last German note was made public tonight, and will be transmitted to Berlin thru the Swiss legation immediately.

It says that having received the solemn and explicit assurance of the German Government that it unreservly accepts the terms of peace and principles enunciated by him, and that the desire to discuss the details of the application emanated not from those who hitherto dictated the German policy, but from ministers who speak for the overwhelming majority of the German people, and having received explicit promise that the humane rules of civilized warfare will be observed by the German armed forces, the president feels he cannot decline to take up the question of an armistice with the allies.

At the same time that the president's reply to Germany was made public, the white house gave out correspondence between Secretary Baker and President Wilson, showing that more than two million American soldiers have embarked to participate in the war overseas.

PERFECTLY ACQUAINTED AND AGREED ON TERMS

Allies Agreed as to Conditions Under Which an Armistice Would Be Possible.

London, Oct. 23.—Reuter's learns that the allied governments, as a result of continual communications, are perfectly acquainted with and agreed upon the terms under which it will be possible to enter into negotiations for an armistice. It should be observed that naval questions have never been dealt with in any negotiations between the United States and Germany, and they are of first importance from the allies' viewpoint. The idea of the freedom of the seas, as viewed by Germany, is not a matter that any allied government can accept at all. It would appear that the conditions precedent to an armistice must include the question of sea power as well as of land power, but hitherto Germany has always limited her remarks to land power.

America, Great Britain, France and Italy owe so much to sea power in carrying on the war and in national development that they cannot omit consideration of sea power from the discussions concerning the armistice.

The president never assumed that his conditions would be limited to the evacuation of occupied territories, as the Germans always argued. He put a number of questions to Germany after receiving the first note, as a preliminary to placing the matter before the allies.

U-BOAT IS SUNK.

Italian Naval Aviators Bombed it From Low Altitude.

Rome, Oct. 23. — Italian naval aviators have bombarded an enemy submarine from a low altitude and believe that the U-boat was sunk, says an official statement issued today.

It is Your Duty to Get Behind the Victory Loan Drive