

# U. S. PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

## Asks for a More Explicit Statement From Germany.

### Withdrawal From Occupied Territory by Teutons Before Discussion Can Take Place---Surrender of 65,000 Bulgarians---Allies Smash Through Late Defence of Hindenburg Line Inflicting Severe Punishment on Huns.

#### GERMANY MUST WITHDRAW FROM INVADIED TERRITORY.

WASHINGTON, October 8.

President Wilson to-day informed the German Government that before the United States can discuss an armistice, German troops must withdraw from all invaded territory. He asked Chancellor Maximilian whether he represented the German people or the authorities of the Empire who are conducting the war. The President's message was not a reply but in the form of an inquiry. The Imperial German Government is asked whether it accepts the terms laid down by the President in his address to Congress on January 8th and subsequent addresses. In announcing this action, Secretary Lansing issued the following:—From the Secretary of State to the Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland, Dept. of State, Oct. 8, 1918. The text of the communication handed to the Charge of Switzerland here follows: "Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge, on behalf of the President, your note of October 6th, enclosing the communication from the German Government to the President, and I am instructed by the President to request you to make the following communication to the Imperial German Chancellor: Before making reply to the request of the Imperial German Gov't, and in order that the reply shall be as candid and straightforward as the momentous interests involved require, the President of the United States deems it necessary to assure himself of the exact meaning of the note of the Imperial Chancellor. Does the Imperial Chancellor mean that the Imperial German Government accepts the terms laid down by the President in his address to the Congress of the United States on the 8th of January last, and in subsequent addresses, and that its object in entering into discussion would be only to agree upon the practical details of their application? The President feels bound to say with regard to the suggestion of an armistice, that he would not feel at liberty to propose a cessation of arms to the Governments with which the Government of the United States is associated against the Central Powers so long as the armies of these Powers are upon their soil. The good faith of any discussion would manifestly depend upon the consent of the Central Powers immediately to withdraw their forces everywhere from invaded territory. The President also feels that he is justified in asking whether the Imperial Chancellor is speaking merely for the constituted authority of the Empires who have so far conducted the war. He deems the answer to these questions vital from every point of view. Accept, Sir, the renewed assurance of my high consideration. Signed, Robert Lansing. To Mr. Grederick Oederlin, Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland, ad interim in charge of German interests in the United States."

#### WAR REVIEW.

The complete withdrawal of the troops of the Teutonic Allies from occupied territory is essential to the commencement of any peace discussions with Germany. This fact has been made known to Germany and Austria-Hungary by President Wilson in answer to the recent appeal of the German Imperial Chancellor for an armistice on land and sea and in the air, and the discussion of possible means of ending the war. In addition President Wilson is desirous of knowing, and has directly asked the question who the Imperial Chancellor is speaking for when he addresses his proposal, if it was for the constituted authority of the Empire who have been conducting the war. The President also desires to know if Germany in seeking peace accepts the terms already laid down by the President as the basis for the ending of hostilities. Meanwhile, the Entente Allied forces everywhere are defeating the armies of the Teutonic Allies. In France they are fast carrying forward manoeuvres which are resulting in the enemy's line giving way from

the region of Cambrai to Verdun. Likewise in Macedonia and Turkey theatres the cleaning process continues unabated. Over a front of twenty miles, between Cambrai and St. Quentin, the British and American and French troops have started a mighty drive, which, in its initial stage, has thrown the enemy back from highly prized tactical positions to a depth of from two to five miles. Numerous towns have been captured, and seemingly all the great defensive positions of the enemy in this region have been obliterated. Large numbers of prisoners have been added to the already great throng captured since the Allied offensive began. In addition, terrible casualties were inflicted on the enemy by the heavy artillery which began early Thursday morning, and the machine gun and rifle fire of the attacking force against the enemy, who resisted stubbornly at various points. The American troops fighting alongside the British always were in the van, and when night fell their positions were where the points of penetration of the German line

were greatest. At last accounts hard fighting was still in progress, with the enemy steadily giving ground. On the southern part of the battlefield from the Rheims sector to the Meuse River, the French and Americans are carrying out successfully their converging movement northward and on all sectors have gained additional ground. Northeast of Berry-au-Bac the French have driven their line to the junction of the Aisne and Sappe Rivers, placing the German front around Leon and eastward in greater jeopardy. In Champagne, General Gouraud's forces have increased their gains all the way eastward to the region of the Argonne forest, while on the eastern side of the forest the Americans have improved their battlefield along the Aire valley. In Macedonia the Italians and Serbs are still forcing the enemy troops to retire, also in Albania and in Serbia, while in Palestine the British have driven the Turks more than thirty miles north of Damascus. Reports are to the effect that the Turkish cabinet has resigned and that the Turks have sent delegates to Greece to talk peace.

#### BULGARIANS SURRENDERING.

SALONIKI, Oct. 8. In addition to the thousands of Bulgarians made prisoners during the Allied advance in Serbia and Bulgaria 65,000 more have surrendered in accordance with the clause of the armistice convention under which all Bulgarian troops west of Uskub were to surrender as prisoners.

#### REPLY TO BE FOR ALL BELLIGERENTS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8. President Wilson's reply to Germany's latest peace proposals was being formulated by him to-day in accordance with views expressed by the President of the Allied nations. Dispatch of the reply which it is believed will speak for all the nations opposed to the Central Powers may be expected within forty-eight hours, it is indicated. The President it was believed to-day has preceded the actual sending of the reply by asking Premiers Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando to advise him of their answers or by submitting to the Premiers a draft of his reply for approval. At any rate it was assumed the American reply will have the approval of Great Britain, France and Italy and all of the other co-belligerents. The form of the reply of course has not been revealed in any particular. The President is known to be giving unlimited care to the framing of the document, denying himself his daily recreation and studying the questions involved. Colonel E. M. House, the confidential adviser of the President, spent last night at the White House. The feeling that coincident with or closely following the despatch of the reply President Wilson will address Congress persisted to-day, although with absolutely no official confirmation.

#### HAS DONE WHAT IS NECESSARY.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 8. Commenting upon the address by Prince Maximilian, the new German Imperial Chancellor, the Tagblatt of Berlin says: All Germany, or at any rate that great honest and good Germany which is imperishable, feels that Prince Maximilian, in accordance with his duty and as a servant of his people, has done what is necessary.

ple, has done what is right and necessary. Why haven't we learned earlier to know ourselves. A sample of pan-Germanic comment may be found in the editorial printed on Sunday by the local Anzeiger. Definitely announcing that the German people will to the last drop of blood fight those whose aim is to dictate a humiliating peace, the newspaper somewhat peremptorily admonishes President Wilson to realize the "superhuman responsibility placed upon his shoulders" and in magisterial tones hopes, "He will prove himself worthy of this responsible hour."

#### SOME DIVISIONS WIPED OUT.

WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES. Oct. (By J. F. B. Livesey, Canadian Press Correspondent)—Troops from the Maritime provinces, Quebec and four western provinces as well as former Canadian Mounted Rifles are holding our line north of Cambrai with men of the Imperial troops on our left. This line is in parts improvised and men are objects of much harassing enemy fire. Looking down on Cambrai from St. Oile free can be seen burning, but there is nothing to indicate that a system of attempts has been made by the enemy to destroy the city. It is much more likely that he is burning his dumps and heavy plant he cannot move out preparatory to his evacuation of the city. Prisoners captured confirm the impression that the enemy lost tremendously in the terrible struggle of last week when his massed infantry formations seeking to push against us along the ravines, were exposed to the point blank fire of our artillery and riflemen. So severe was his punishment that they state that some of his divisions are wiped out, and in no condition to push on another assault for the possession of the high ground and Bourlon Wood. The logic of the situation is that unless he can do this Cambrai becomes increasingly difficult for him to hold. If lost he would still have Lille, Valenciennes and the Hirson line, which are possibly his last lines of defence on this front.

#### ENGLISH AND AMERICANS ATTACK.

LONDON, Oct. 8. Successful local operations were carried out yesterday in the neighbourhood of Mont Brehain and north of Beaurvoir in which English and American troops captured over 230 prisoners. Shortly before dawn this morning British and American troops attacked between St. Quentin and Cambrai, in spite of a heavy rain which commenced last night and is still continuing. The first reports indicate that satisfactory progress is being made.

#### LAST LINES OF DEFENSE SMASHED.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Oct. 8.—The battle begun at dawn to-day has resulted in a serious defeat for the enemy. The British, Americans and French have advanced everywhere smashing through the last lines of the Hindenburg system and driving the disorganized Germans before them. In some places, and especially at Premont which appears to have fallen to the Americans the fighting allied troops have penetrated the German lines and are still advancing. Premont which is reported to have

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been captured by the Americans is more than four miles northeast of Beurevoir and only three miles from Bohain.

#### ANOTHER OFFER OF PEACE.

ATHENS, Monday, Oct. 7. Delegates from the government at Smyrna, Turkey, are expected to reach Athens to-night with an offer of peace to the Entente powers.

#### STILL ADVANCING IN SYRIA.

LONDON, Oct. 8. General Allenby's cavalry on Sunday occupied the towns of Zeahah and Rayak, respectively, 33 and 30 miles north west of the Syrian capital of Damascus, according to an official statement issued to-day by the British War Office.

#### GERMAN ADMISSION.

BERLIN, Oct. 8. American forces in the Argonne region yesterday renewed their attacks on both sides of the river Aire after the strongest artillery preparation. British troops on the front north of the Scarpe river advancing to the east of Oppy have gained a footing in the town of Neuvilleul says the official statement issued to-day by the German War Office.

#### DOESN'T LOOK LIKE PEACE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8. Huge increases in the artillery programme have been decided on by the ordnance department which to-day asked the house appropriations committee to add \$1,100,000.

#### SLEMP IN SHIPPING STOCKS.

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 7. Bulgaria's withdrawal from the war and subsequent peace developments have played havoc with Scandinavian shipping stocks. Norwegians estimated that one hundred war millionaires have been wiped out by the break in Norwegian shipping receipts alone. In a single day it is estimated that the value was \$33,000,000. These losses were chiefly on securities of small companies operating one or two ships whose stock has been selling as high as 400 because of stiff freight rates.

#### ADVANCED FOUR OR FIVE MILES.

LONDON, Oct. 8. The Anglo-American offensive on the St. Quentin sector has resulted in an advance at some places of four or five miles, according to the Standard's correspondent. Many villages and prisoners have been captured.

#### SUCCESSFUL ATTACK.

LONDON, Oct. 8. The third and fourth armistice attacks on a front of about twenty miles this morning between St. Quentin and Cambrai and have advanced along the whole of the front to an average depth of about three miles. The night had stormy making the assembly of troops difficult. The assault was launched in a downpour of rain. As the attack progressed the weather cleared favoring the development of the operations which from the first were completely successful. On the extreme right of the British attack English divisions have driven the enemy from the ridge of high ground southeast and east of Mont Brehain

and have captured the hamlet of Beaurgard. In the right center the 39th American division comprising troops from North and South Carolina and Tennessee, under command of General Lewis, captured Brancourt after heavy fighting. Further to the northeast they took Fremont, completing a successful advance of over three miles in the course of which they cleared the enemy from a number of farms and woods. On their left English, Scottish and Irish battalions captured the village of Serain early in the day. In the center English and Welsh battalions broke through the German defence system, known as the Beaurvoir Masnières line and captured Malincourt. Obdurate resistance was met from strong bodies of the enemy with machine guns at Villers Outreaux. After hard fighting the Welsh gained possession of the village. In the left center the New Zealanders broke through the Beaurvoir-Masnières line and made deep progress to the east of it. The New Zealand troops stormed Lesdun early in the morning and pressed on carried Ennes. On the left of the attack we had hard fighting about Serain Villers and along the line of the Ennes Cambrai road. In this sector the enemy counter attacked strongly, using tanks to support his infantry. After pressing us back a short distance the counter attack was stopped, the enemy tanks being put out of action. We regained possession of Serain Villers and Niernigias and resumed our advance. North of the Scarpe we have captured a German trench system known as the Fresnes

Rourvoy line from the Scarpe beyond Oppy, and have taken Fresnes-les-Montauban and Neuvilleul. A thousand prisoners and many guns have been captured in these successful operations. Progress continues to be made along the whole front.

#### WEEK'S CASUALTIES.

LONDON, Oct. 8. British casualties reported in the week ending to-day listed the names of 37,946 officers and men divided as follows: Officers killed or died of wounds 365, officers wounded or missing 1,235, total 1,600; men killed or died of wounds 6,150, men wounded or missing 30,196, total 36,346.

#### NUMEROUS PRISONERS TAKEN.

LONDON, Oct. 8. At four o'clock this afternoon the positions between Cambrai and St. Quentin was that the French starting from Rourvoy had captured the hills to the eastward and the villages of Essigny and Fontaine. The Anglo-American line was Beaurgard-Dancourt, through Premont, Serain and Malincourt and west of Hallincourt, up by Essens and La Targetel and Niernigias to the old line south of Cambrai. The attack, roughly speaking, was on a front of sixty-one miles and advance was to an average depth of two miles and a maximum depth of three miles. Weaker resistance than usual was met at the centre, but the enemy south of Cambrai brought up two fresh divisions and counter attacked heavily. These attacks were repulsed and all lost ground was regained. The prisoners taken were numerous.

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