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REQUEST FOR ARMISTICE LEADING EVENT OF MOST IMPORTANT WEEK OF WAR SINCE BATTLE OF MARNE

Bulgaria's Action Admits Of Two Interpretations

Device To Gain Time or Desire To Desert The Ship

indications That Leaders Recognize That They Are Losing Side and Wish to Secure Best Terms They May—Allies Offer of Conference Without Armistice Would Prove Their Real Intentions—Official Announcements From Bulgaria—Turkey Also Preparing to Quit?

London, Sept. 28.—Bulgaria's request for an armistice to discuss peace appears to be the leading event of what seems to be the most important week of war since the battle of the Marne. There are two interpretations of Bulgaria's action. Which is the correct one remains to be seen.

The first is that the Bulgarian army, being defeated and scattered among the mountains, resorts to a familiar device to gain time in which to pull itself together. The other is that Bulgaria now sees that she is on a sinking ship and she wishes to make the best terms she may. There have been several indications that the latter theory comes close to the Bulgarian state of mind.

The Allies have made a reply which should enable them, if their proposal is accepted, to judge which of these is the real purpose of Bulgaria. A conference without an armistice will prove what the enemy really desires.

Signs are not wanting that Bulgaria and Turkey feel that they are in the same boat. When Talat Pasha, the Turkish grand vizier, visited Berlin recently, he gave an interview in which he said the war must end this winter, and that it had accomplished all that it could. German newspapers express indignation at this statement and disapproval of this utterance, which they plainly interpreted as meaning that so far as Turkey was concerned, the war would end in winter.

If Bulgaria throws up her hands she cuts the vital cord which connects Germany and Asia. She deals a death blow to Germany's Asiatic ambitions. If she is allowed to do this she will enable the Allied armies in Macedonia to advance to the western theatre of war. The defection of Bulgaria would make it possible for the great Allied army to turn against Turkey from its base at Salonika.

The Official Statement. Copenhagen, Sept. 28.—The leaders of the ministerial bloc of the Bulgarian parliament, according to a dispatch from Sofia, published the following official proposal for an armistice. "In accordance with orders of the leaders of the ministerial bloc of the government at five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon made an offer of an armistice to the adversary. The leaders of the bloc are in accord that the army and the people must maintain military and public discipline, which is so necessary for a happy issue in the terms which are decisive for the recently begun work of peace.

"Parliament has been summoned to meet on September 30." London, Sept. 28.—An official Bulgarian statement dated 24, announces that Bulgaria has initiated a proposition for obtaining an armistice and peace. The text of the official announcement reads: "In view of the conjuncture of circumstances which have recently arisen, and after the position had been jointly discussed with all competent authorities, the Bulgarian government, desiring to put an end to the bloodshed, authorized the commander-in-chief of the army to propose to the generalissimo of the armies of the Entente of Salonika a cessation of hostilities and the entering into of negotiations for obtaining an armistice and peace.

The members of the Bulgarian delegation left yesterday evening in order to get into touch with the plenipotentiaries of the Entente belligerents." This statement was transmitted through the German semi-official Wolff Bureau which added to the text the following note: "The report of the departure of the delegation is incorrect."

The Wolff Bureau note apparently was prior to the developments reported yesterday of the Bulgarian move, which showed that emissaries from the Bulgarian government had got into touch with the commander of the Entente armies in the Macedonian war theatre. Beware of the Bulgar. Paris, Sept. 28.—"Beware of the Bulgar," says Nikolai P. Pachtich, Serbian premier, and representative of that government at the inter-allied conference here. In a statement printed in the Petit Journal today, M. Pachtich says: "I firmly believe Bulgaria's action betrays a ruse or scheme. The Bulgarians want to gain time. Why this offer, when their armies are not definitely beaten and are still able to resist and their country hardly invaded? It is simple. They wish to bring up reinforcements and then get back to their defence lines."

May Be Sincere. Paris, Sept. 28.—Bulgaria's sincerity in making her proposal for an armistice is taken more or less for granted by most thoughtful writers, notwithstanding slight reservations made by some of them. They are one, however, in agreeing that Bulgaria, in a desperate plight, will have made peace or have peace thrust upon her. Caused Panic in Berlin. London, Sept. 28.—The publication in a semi-official newspaper of Bulgaria's armistice request was the cause of a greatest panic in the German capital, according to advices received at Lagen and forwarded by the Express on page 3, seventh column.

SERBIANS TAKE IMPORTANT BASE FROM BULGARS

Capture City and Fortress of Vales in Southern Serbia—Now Pushing Forward Towards Uskub—Enormous Number of Prisoners

London, Sept. 28.—The city and fortress of Vales, one of the important bases of the Bulgarian forces in southern Serbia, on the Vardar river, has been captured by Serbian troops, the Serbian war office announces in a statement dated Friday. The Serbian forces are pushing on from Vales toward Uskub. The troops defending Vales were taken prisoner.

The text of the statement follows: "Our advance continued Thursday with excellent results. Our troops reached Rakovitsa and have gone considerably beyond Kochana. "On the same day about noon our troops entered Vales, and captured the troops defending the garrison. They immediately continued their advance towards Uskub.

"An enormous number of prisoners, mostly Germans, a huge quantity of war material, including several machine guns and three transport trucks, and other supplies have fallen into our hands."

WOUNDED NEW BRUNSWICKER BRINGS IN FIRST

Limps Back to Lines in Cambrai Drive With Prisoner—Had Five But Germans Killed Four

With the Canadian Forces, Sept. 27.—(By J. P. B. Livesey, Correspondent of the Canadian Press)—In their drive for Cambrai today the Canadians took many hundreds of prisoners. The first was brought in at 6 o'clock by a wounded New Brunswicker, who started out with five but lost four of his prisoners by enemy shell fire.

MUST CHAIN FOREVER THE FURIES OF WAR

Asquith Warns Against Wasting the Unexpended Sacrifices We Have Made

Manchester, Eng., Sept. 28.—(Reuter's)—Speaking at a conference of the National Liberal Federation yesterday, former Premier Asquith said the development of the situation during the last two months had been highly favorable to the Allied cause.

Mr. Asquith declared he never had doubted the continued pressure of the Allied forces, naval, military and economic would prove in the long run irresistible. "But the more confident we are in our faith in ultimate victory," he continued, "the more we should be on guard that our unexpended sacrifices are not wasted, frittered away, without securing a clean peace and setting up a new international policy which will chain up forever the furies of war."

MUST WORK IN THE SHIPYARDS OR TAKE PLACE IN THE RANKS

London, Sept. 28.—A government announcement of yesterday says that workers in the Clyde shipyards who remain on strike after Oct. 1 will forfeit their protection certificates and be drafted to the colors. The men, according to the government, after agreeing to submit their claims to arbitration, broke their pledge to remain at work, in defiance of instructions received from their accredited leaders.

Creaser's Call to Farmers. Ottawa, Sept. 28.—Hon. T. A. Creaser, minister of agriculture, yesterday urged upon the farmers of the dominion the desirability of placing finished carcasses of beef and pork on the market.



BELGIANS ADVANCE ON LARGER PART OF FRONT

Attack From North of Ypres to the North Sea With Gains, at Some Points, of More Than Two and a Half Miles; Fighting is Severe; One Thousand Prisoners Already

Paris, Sept. 28.—Allied troops began an attack on the front north of Ypres today and the advance at some points has been more than two and one-half miles. The attack is being made by the Belgian army and is on the larger part of their front south from the North Sea. One thousand prisoners already have been counted. Heavy fighting is taking place between Dixmude and Ypres, and the battle is severe in the Houtholst Forest, north of Ypres.

ORGANIZER OF N. W. MOUNTED POLICE DEAD

Ottawa, Sept. 28.—Lieut.-Col. Fred White, commissioner of the northwest territories and former comptroller of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, which he organized, died here last night in his seventy-second year.

ROMANIAN SOLDIERS READY TO ENTER FIGHT ON WESTERN FRONT

Washington, Sept. 28.—The first unit of the Romanian foreign legion has completed preparations to take its position on the front in France, despatches received today through official sources, said. The strength of the unit was not disclosed, but it is known to be composed of a considerable number of trained soldiers who fled from Rumania when the Central Powers forced their government to sign a peace treaty.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, director of meteorological service. Upper St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valley, Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Strong southwest winds, showery; Sunday, fair with much the same temperature.

Mostly Fair and Warm. Maritime—Strong southwest and west winds, a few scattered showers but mostly fair and moderately warm today and on Sunday. New England—Fair tonight and Sunday; fresh west winds.

STEADY PROGRESS BY BRITISH AND FRENCH ON WESTERN FRONT

Canadians Have Reached The Douai-Cambrai Road

Ten Thousand Prisoners Taken by British in The Area—Two Towns Captured—French in Possession of Somme-Py, Important Railway Point—Marks Completion of First Phase of Attack—Battle Continues Favorably to the Allies

London, Sept. 28.—Prisoners to the number of 10,000 have been captured by British in their offensive in the Cambrai area, Field Marshal Haig announced today. Two thousand guns were taken by the British forces.

The British have captured the towns of Ephy and Oisy-La-Verge. The British pressed their attack yesterday without a moment's let up until a late hour, and the evening accentuated notably their progress in the northern portion of the battlefield.

CANADIANS PUSH FORWARD. London, Sept. 28.—Canadian troops pushed their way through Haynecourt and have reached the Douai-Cambrai road, the official statement says. Paris, Sept. 28.—In the successful continuation of the offensive west of the Argonne the French have captured the village of Somme-Py, an advance of about four miles, says the war office statement today.

The heights north of Fontaine-en-Dornoise also have been taken. The French have taken additional prisoners. The fighting continues. Pressing on between the Ailette and the Aisne last night the French penetrated the ravine between Jouy and Aisy and captured two villages.

Further north the French gained ground northeast of Sancy and captured 150 prisoners. A German counter-attack north of Allizant was repulsed.

Official Statement. "The statement reads:—'At five-thirty o'clock this morning French troops continued the attack and took possession of the village of Somme-Py. Important Railway Point. Paris, Sept. 28.—(Havas Agency)—French troops have entered Somme-Py, an important railway point on the Cambrai front north of Soudin, it is announced here. Reports from the battlefield indicate that the battle continues favorably for the Allies. Completes First Phase.

With the French Army in France, Sept. 28.—The Associated Press—Arrival of the French infantry on the banks of the Py river marks the successful termination of the first phase of the attack which is being pressed with unremitting vigor in spite of strengthening enemy resistance. The line now runs almost directly west to east from south of the Somme-Py to south of the Cernay Woods. We hold the town of Cernay.

The line thus indicated marks an advance of from five to six miles over extraordinarily difficult ground covered with trenches and deep barbed wire barriers. Early in the attack few prisoners were taken, but the loss of the line of Bulles cost the Germans very heavily in killed and prisoners.

Where Canadians Crossed. London, Sept. 28.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's Limited)—The Havas correspondent at the British front, describing the passage of the Canal Du Nord, says that it is a formidable obstacle one hundred and twenty-one feet wide, forty-five deep and only crossable at three points. The Canadians secured a second bridgehead at Havrincourt, on the outer edge of the Breuille line in the direction of Moeuvres, where there was no bridgehead. When the artillery by dawn destroyed the masonry banks of the canal several superannuated tanks, on the top of which was the necessary gear for the construction of bridges, were launched into the chasm. The fighting tanks crossed their backs. At Marquion and Havrincourt the canal was crossed in the most gallant manner as the bridgeheads were under fire. The whole operation rendered necessary days of preliminary work in order to make it a success. Picked men entrusted with the delicate and dangerous task included Canadians, a naval brigade, the Scots and Guards. Enemy forces confronting them consisted of nine divisions, two defending Havrincourt, consisting of chosen troops.

More Villages Captured. Paris, Sept. 28, 11.05 a. m.—British forces resumed the battle before Cambrai at daybreak today, according to news received here. They are reported to have captured the villages of Fontaine-Notre Dame, Cantaign, Noyelles and Selly.

Trying to Hold Them. With the American Army northwest of Verdun, Sept. 28—3 a. m.—(By the Associated Press)—With their backs to the outer edge of the Breuille line the Germans today were fighting desperately in an endeavor to bring the American advance to a definite halt. The Germans were increasing the volume of their fire and indicating anew their determination to resist to the utmost.

The line fought for runs through the northern Argonne Woods and eastward along a line paralleling the Eperonville-Montfaucon road to a point near Ivroy, and thence northeasterly. The Germans are massed in the Cerges Woods, and in the Emont Woods. The Americans are using their artillery freely to break up the enemy dispositions. The Germans are depending upon machine gun fire at every advanced point in their effort to check the Americans.

BRITISH CASUALTIES FOR WEEK. London, Sept. 28.—British army casualties for the week ending today are announced by the war office follow: Officers: Killed or died of wounds, 422; men, 3,386. Officers: Wounded or missing, 804; men, 19,157.

FRENCH AIRMEN DROP BOMBS BACK OF GERMAN LINES

Tons of Explosives Dropped on Bivouacs and Cantonments—Forty-Two Enemy Airplanes Brought Down or Disabled

Paris, Sept. 28.—The following communication dealing with French aviation operations on Sept. 27, was issued today: "Good weather conditions permitted our aviators to actively co-operate in the battle and many exploration trips were made over and beyond the German lines.

"Our aviators dropped twenty-four tons of projectiles during the day and twenty-three and a half tons during the night on bivouacs and cantonments in the rear of the enemy's front lines. Forty-two enemy airplanes were brought down or disabled and seven captive balloons were set on fire during the day."

The Belgian communication for Sept. 27 says: "The usual artillery action on the Belgian front continues. South of the Yser our patrols operating east of Merclen brought back several prisoners. Two balloons have been brought down in flames."

FORD NOT TO BE BOUND BY SHACKLES OF PARTY

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 28.—Making his first purely political utterance since becoming a candidate for the United States senate, Henry Ford criticized the proceedings of the Democratic state convention here with a letter in which he informed the party leaders that, although nominally their candidate, he did not intend to be bound by any party considerations, Democratic or Republican. "I hold myself to support such measures, whatever their origin, as commend themselves to my judgment for the best interests of all the people," Mr. Ford wrote. He added that he had not spent a dollar to win the nomination at the August primaries and did not intend to spend a cent to win the election. Mr. Ford did not attend the convention.

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