

FRENCH WIN BIG VICTORY ON THE OISE

Gen. Debeney's Troops Reach Guise and Force Great German Retreat.

PUSH FOE TO OPEN GROUND

Yankees Sweep Huns Out of Belleu Wood After Several Days' Desperate Fighting—Also Shell Longuoyon With Big Guns.

London, Oct. 29.—The Germans are reported falling back to the high ground covering Hirson, following a French advance of five miles on a front of 16 miles between the Oise and the Serre. The enemy has been losing heavily in this area.

The German official statement says the German lines between the Oise and the Serre have been withdrawn to a line west of Guise and east of Cerey.

"It is impossible as yet to measure the German retreat before the armies of Generals Debeney, Mangin and Guillaumat between the Oise and the Aisne," says a Paris dispatch.

Disorder in Retreat. "Already the retreat is taking on a character of disorder, despite the engagement of fresh German divisions at the critical points."

The Guise-Marne railroad has been cut by French cavalry and the fall of Guise is assured.

The French continued their advance between the Oise and the Aisne, especially on the left flank. The war office reported the capture of Hill 123, north of Cerey, on the Serre.

The British launched a new attack south of Valenciennes. Overcoming stiff opposition, they improved their positions and drew closer to the town, which is infested with enemy machine guns.

Yanks Take Belleu Wood.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 29.—Belleu wood, east of the Meuse, is finally and completely in American hands, after strenuous fighting for several days.

American long-range guns began firing on Longuoyon. The town of Longuoyon is 23 miles northeast of Verdun. The American long-range fire also is being directed against the vital Vole de Rocade on the railway line paralleling the front. The Germans are depending on this road to shift their troops and supplies from one point to another.

French Drive Back Foe.

Paris, Oct. 28.—By a sudden and powerful smash, the French army under General Mangin has overnight almost obliterated the apex of the German salient between the Oise and the Serre rivers.

The Germans are retreating at top speed along the 20-mile front from north of Guise to the Mortiers region. The French are maintaining intense pressure against the entire 40-mile front from the Oise to the Aisne and the German pocket north and east of Laon has caved in under this impact.

Americans Push on.

With the American First Army, Oct. 28.—Our patrols now control the southern third of the Burgundy woods. They are now pushing northward of Funay. In a successful local operation northward of Grand Pre American troops speedily encircled a number of Germans in the southern part of the woods, who surrendered.

This success enables the Americans to reoccupy the Bois des Loges, from which they were driven by the German flanking fire from the east.

German troop concentrations in the region of Briqueny, north of Grand Pre, were bombed by about sixty all-American bombing airplanes with about eighty pursuit planes protecting them.

Huns Evacuate Ghent.

London, Oct. 28.—The latest news from the Belgian front confirms the reports the Germans are evacuating Ghent.

Between October 1 and 25, inclusive, the British Fourth army took 17,731 prisoners. Of these 397 were officers and 17,331 other ranks.

Ninety-one officers and 2,628 other ranks passed through the British casualty clearing station as prisoners, making a grand total of 20,448.

British troops occupied Avelghem (eight miles southwest of Audenarde), in the Courtrai-Tournai sector, the enemy having evacuated the place early Friday.

British patrols later pushed eastward without encountering opposition, indicating an enemy withdrawal in this section, the extent of which is not yet apparent.

The British also established posts

ward and northward through Palestine and Syria. Aleppo is 185 miles north of Damascus and 70 miles east of the Mediterranean.

The Turks at the beginning of last week were defending Aleppo with 12,000 men, but these retired to the north.

Lloyd George Goes to France.

London, Oct. 29.—The official press bureau announced that Premier Lloyd George and Foreign Minister Balfour have proceeded to France.

LUKE, U. S. ACE, IS MISSING

Daring American Aviator Has Not Reported Since October 20—Was "Hunting" Balloons.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 29.—Lieut. Frank Luke of Phoenix, Ariz., one of the most daring of the American aviators, has been missing since the night of October 20, when he started out on a bombing expedition.

He dropped a note to an American

at Lochs, northeast of Espieres, and constructed a bridge across the Yank Jackies Shell Foe.

With the American Army in France, Oct. 28.—American 16-inch guns manned by American bluejackets cooperating with the French began firing upon German railroad centers back of the Serre-Oise front. The Americans directed their shells against railroad supply stations and junctions in the region of Verwin and also in the vicinity of Rozoy.

Use Most Powerful Guns of War. Washington, Oct. 28.—Announcement from France that American sixteen-inch naval guns, manned by naval gun crews, have come into action with the American army at the front, disclosed that through efforts of the ordnance officials of the navy, General Pershing's forces are now equipped with the most powerful and hardest-hitting weapons yet used in the present war, ashore or afloat, as far as is known.

The sixteen-inch rifles are similar to those designed for use aboard the newest American dreadnaughts. They are fifty caliber, more than sixty-six feet in length and weigh approximately 100 tons without their carriages.

Without question they are the longest-range guns in use except the German superguns, which are regarded merely as a mechanical freak.

The projectile weighs close to a ton and its bursting charge of the most powerful explosive known is measured in hundreds of pounds against the few pounds in the German supergun shell.

The destructive effect is enormous. Plans for using big rifles for the army are understood to have been worked out entirely by naval officers.

The theory that their weight would not permit their use except in fixed concrete and steel emplacements furnished the chief obstacle to be overcome.

These are not the only great naval guns employed by the American navy. Military experts say that the manner in which these great engines of war have spread death and destruction among the retreating enemy ever since September 16 proved a dominating factor in bringing to the German general staff the realization that no modern defensive system, either in Belgium or on the Rhine, could withstand the new weapons which American ingenuity had devised, forged and placed in action on the western front.

Up to this time all particulars of the new mobile naval guns for land use have been jealously guarded by the navy department. That the navy had devised a weapon rivaling the German guns which shelled Paris was hinted at last April, when Samuel M. Vanclain, general manager of the Baldwin Locomotive works, announced that the first of America's greatest "siege guns had left the Baldwin shops for proving tests."

For the present the navy department refuses to permit publication of the exact caliber and power of the new guns.

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In addition to the reply of the president, there was made public by Joseph P. Tumulty, the president's secretary, a letter from the president to Secretary of War Baker, congratulating both the war and navy departments on the successful transportation of more than 2,000,000 soldiers overseas.

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"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 8th 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,

"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."

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"COFFIN GHOULS" ARRESTED. U. S. Officers Charge Undertakers With Attempting to Defraud the Government.

New York, Oct. 24.—In an investigation here of the activities of alleged "coffin ghouls" the federal authorities have caused the arrest of two undertakers on charges of attempting to defraud the government. The undertakers, it is alleged, by representing to relatives of dead soldiers that the gov-

ernment coffins in which the bodies were shipped home were "cheap pine boxes," got orders for expensive caskets and then appropriated the government coffins, in some cases reselling them to the government. The pine boxes cost the government \$36 each.

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RECORD FOR FOREIGN TRADE. For the nine months ending September, 1918, imports were \$2,322,000,000, an increase of \$400,000,000, while exports for the nine months, valued at \$4,561,000,000, represented a slight decrease. Imports of gold were \$2,800,000 during September and \$58,500,000 for the nine months. Exports of gold were \$2,290,000 for September and \$34,200,000 for the nine months. Imports of silver were \$1,710,000 for September and nearly \$55,000,000 for the nine months. Silver exports amounted to \$10,900,000 for September.

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"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.

Must Protect Allies. "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 these 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 insure 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 candor 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.

SURRENDER! IS WILSON'S REPLY TO THE KAISER

Yield! Is the Edict of the President of the United States.

WON'T DEAL WITH AUTOCRATS

Declares Nothing Can Be Gained by Leaving This Essential Thing Unsaid—Allied Army Chiefs Must Dictate Terms of Any Armistice.

Washington, Oct. 24.—"The nations of the world do not and cannot trust the word of those who have hitherto been the masters of German policy."

This is the answer of the president of the United States to Germany's latest bid for peace, while notifying her that on her acceptance of his terms, the question of an armistice, which Germany seeks, is to be presented to the governments of the nations associated with the United States.

The president goes on to say with-out equivocation "that if it (the United States) 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 no peace negotiations but surrender."

The president says that nothing can be gained by leaving this essential thing unsaid.

Huns Must Disarm. The president's reply, which was made public at nine o'clock Wednesday night, serves notice on Germany that on her solemn assurance of acceptance of the terms laid down by him in his recent addresses, he cannot decline to take up with the governments associated with the United States in the war the question of an armistice.

However, he forcefully serves notice on Germany that only an armistice which will amount to the practical disarming of her forces in the field will be considered at all.

Points Way to Peace. The president's message clearly points the way for Germany to obtain peace and at the same time it strips the German note of every vestige of hypocrisy that camouflaged it. The president reiterates that there can be no peace with autocracy save the peace that comes on the heels of unconditional surrender. That point is made perfectly plain.

Furthermore, the president does, as he said he would, refer the question of an armistice to the military advisers of those governments associated with the United States in the war. Their word will be final on that subject, and his very words strengthen the word they will give if the question goes that far.

The distrust that every one felt at the German note is expressed openly by the president, so openly, in fact, that there can no longer be any question in the minds of the American people as to how the president looks upon the peace reforms which the German government so glibly said it had accomplished.

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HUNS BEG TERMS AS THE PEOPLE TAKE COMMAND

German Kaiser Is Shorn of Army Rule by the Reichstag.

DEMAND THAT EMPEROR QUIT

Ludendorff Resigns and Hindenburg's Resignation Is Expected Momentarily—Solf Tells Wilson Great Changes Have Taken Place.

Copenhagen, Oct. 28.—Germany's answer to President Wilson's latest communication says:

"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.

People in Control. London, Oct. 28.—The German reichstag by a great majority has adopted a bill placing the military command under control of the civil government, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

This action followed fast upon the announcement in Berlin that Gen. Erich Ludendorff, first quartermaster general and called "the brains" of the German army, had resigned.

The kaiser accepted his resignation and placed him in the unattached list.

May Accept Allies' Terms. The resignation of General Ludendorff is popularly interpreted here as heralding Germany's acceptance of the allies' armistice terms. Whether this interpretation is correct, the resignation of the first quartermaster general cannot fail to seriously affect the morale of the German army.

The Socialist Vorwaerts of Berlin prints the proposed text of the reform bill, which includes the following provisions:

"First—War can only be declared with the sanction of the reichstag and the bundesrat.

"Second—The chancellor can only remain in power while he possesses the confidence of the reichstag.

Third—The chancellor will be responsible for the political actions of the kaiser and the chancellor and ministry will be responsible for their tenure of office to the reichstag and bundesrat.

"Fourth—The appointment, promotion and dismissal of officers of the army and navy can only be effective by the signature of the chancellor. The ministers of war will be held responsible for the same by the reichstag."

Saxon Ministry Quits. A dispatch from Berlin says the reichstag on Friday passed in all its stages the bill amending the law relating to the government of Alsace-Lorraine.

According to a Dresden telegram, the Saxon State Gazette announces that in view of the reorganization of the Saxon government the king has accepted the resignation of the Saxon ministry.

Other developments tending to confirm the belief in the approaching surrender of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey are contained in dispatches.

PENN MADE S. A. T. C. CENTER. Direction of Training for 50,000 Students Will Be From Quaker School.

Philadelphia, Oct. 28.—Direction of the military and educational training in 55 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, comprising upward of 50,000 members of the student army training corps, has been centered at the University of Pennsylvania by order of the war department. Headquarters were opened with a large staff of college professors and army officers in charge of the different departments.

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AUSTRIA ASKS TRUCE AT ONCE ON ALL FRONTS

's Ready "Without Waiting Other Negotiations" to Arrange Peace.

ACCEPTS ALL WILSON'S VIEWS

Austria Hands Over Entire Control of "Food Supply and Distribution to the Czech Authorities"—French Press Comment.

London, Oct. 29.—The allies will make a separate peace with Austria upon these conditions:

1. The allied armies now advancing on the Danube must be given the right to use the Austrian railway, thus opening the door to Germany.

2. The Austrian armies released from the front must not be used against the revolting peoples of the dual monarchy.

Berne, via Paris, Oct. 29.—Austria-Hungary, in a note answering President Wilson's last message to her, accepts all of his conditions for an armistice and peace.

The text of the note as received here, omits for the first time in the dual monarchy's history the words "imperial and royal" as a prefix to "government." It speaks throughout of "the Austro-Hungarian government." The text follows:

Basel, Oct. 29.—The text of the Austrian reply to President Wilson reads: "Austro-Hungary, accepting all the conditions the president has laid down for the entry into negotiations for an armistice and peace, no obstacle exists, according to our judgment of the Austro-Hungarian government to the beginning of these negotiations.

"The Austro-Hungarian government declares itself ready, in consequence without awaiting the result of other negotiations, to enter into negotiations upon peace between Austro-Hungary and the states in the opposing group and for an immediate armistice upon all Austro-Hungarian fronts.

"It asks President Wilson to be so kind as