

Wireless Press, number 58 giving news of the armistice

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WIRELESS PRESS.

BRITISH OFFICIAL (November 12th, 1918).—"Shortly before dawn this morning Canadian troops of the First Army—General Horne—captured Mons."

Hostilities were suspended at 11 a.m. this morning. At that hour our troops had reached the following general line:—Franco-Belgian frontier, east of AVESNES-JEUMONT-GIVRY, four miles east of MONS-CHIEVRES-LESSINES-GRAMMONT.

AIR REPORT.—On November 10th our squadrons continued their work in fine weather, actively co-operating in the general advance and vigorously bombing the enemy's troops and transports. Over 2,000 photographs were taken and a great deal of valuable information was brought in by our reconnaissance machines. More than 19 tons of bombs were dropped during the day. The enemy did not show great activity in the air. In air fighting 16 hostile machines were shot down and one was driven down out of control. In addition two German machines standing on an aerodrome were destroyed by bombs dropped from a low altitude. Nine of our machines are missing. At night our bombing operations were continued. Louvain, Namur, Charleroi and many other important railway centres were attacked with excellent results. In one case an ammunition train was blown up and fires and explosions were caused on the sidings in which it was standing. In all, over 20 tons of bombs were dropped. All our machines have returned.

The news of the signing of the Armistice was made known to the general public in London at 11 o'clock by the firing of the maroons which were formerly used as air raid warnings. People broke into cheers and the streets were immediately filled by crowds of soldiers, sailors and civilians. Their Majesties the King and Queen, accompanied by Princess Mary and Duke of Connaught, appeared on the balcony at Buckingham Palace and were most enthusiastically cheered by huge crowds, who sang the National Anthem and "Rule Britannia."

Immense crowds proceeded to the Prime Minister's residence in Downing Street cheering and waving flags. At 11 o'clock, while the maroons were going off, the Prime Minister made his appearance at the entrance and was loudly cheered. He made a brief statement announcing that the Armistice had been signed, and cheers were renewed. By the time he withdrew, Downing Street and its approaches were densely crowded.

At the Law Courts the announcement of the signing of the Armistice was read by the Judges and enthusiastically applauded. In the City there were great rejoicings on all hands. Big crowds gathered in Trafalgar Square and sang patriotic songs. Most of the buildings were beflagged, and small flags were sold in thousands. All the roofs were crowded with people, and at all great centres, such as Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square, Royal Exchange, Mansion House, and especially along the Mall, great crowds assembled. Military bands paraded the streets and some time after the maroons had been fired buglers went round and sounded the "All Clear" as at the time of air raids.

Church bells were set ringing and work at all places of business was suspended.

At the Mansion House the crowd called for the Lord Mayor, who in response came to the front of the Mansion House and said:—"Citizens of London—Let us congratulate ourselves on the great news that over four years of strenuous work has now come to an end and that we see before us the result of the strenuous labour of Great Britain and her Allies. Let us not forget that there is still work for every loyal and patriotic citizen in reconstruction and many other problems which must arise. I will only say now, let us give three cheers for His Majesty." To this there was a great response.

The Prime Minister, in the House of Commons, read the terms of the Armistice. The terms include the immediate evacuation of Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine and Luxembourg. Evacuation by the enemy in the Rhineland to be completed within 30 days. Railways in Alsace-Lorraine to be handed over. All German troops in Russia, Rumania and elsewhere to be withdrawn. Immediate repatriation of Allied and United States prisoners without repatriation of Germans. Complete abandonment of the treaties of Bucharest and Brest Litovsk. Immediate cessation of all hostilities at sea. Handing over to the Allies and United States of all submarines. Duration of the Armistice to be 36 days. Five thousand guns (2,500 heavy, 2,500 field guns), 30,000 machine guns, to be handed over. Germans to retire beyond the Rhine. Rhine strategical bridges to be occupied, as well as German territory west of the Rhine. Five thousand locomotives and 50,000 wagons in good working order shall be delivered to the Associated Powers. Repatriation without reciprocity within one month of all civilians interned. Freedom of, and access to, the Baltic. Allies and United States to be empowered to occupy all German ports and defence works in the entrance to the Cattegat and to sweep up mines. All Black Sea ports to be evacuated by the Germans. All Russian warships seized by Germany in the Black Sea to be handed over and all neutral ships seized by Germany to be released. All materials seized by Germany are to be abandoned, and all Allied ships seized by Germany are to be returned.