

ARMISTICE TERMS PUT ALLIED FRONT BEYOND THE RHINE

Bridgeheads to Be Occupied and Strategic Positions Garrisoned

OUR PRISONERS TO RETURN

But Germans in Our Hands Are Not to Be Given Back at Same Time—to Last 36 Days

The complete official translated text of the armistice conditions to which the German plenipotentiaries set their signature is herewith reproduced:

Clauses Relating to Western Front

- I.—Cessation of operations by land and in air six hours after the signature of armistice.
- II.—Immediate evacuation of the invaded countries of Belgium, France, Alsace-Lorraine and Luxembourg, so ordered as to be completed within 14 days from signature of armistice. German troops which have not left the above-mentioned territories within the period fixed will become prisoners of war. Occupation by Allied and United States forces jointly will keep pace with evacuation in these areas.
- III.—Repatriation, beginning at once, to be completed within 14 days, of all inhabitants of the countries above-enumerated (including hostages and persons under trial or convicted).
- IV.—Surrender in good condition by the German armies of the following equipment:
 - 5,000 guns (2,500 heavy, 2,500 field).
 - 30,000 machine guns.
 - 3,000 minenwerfer.
 - 2,000 airplanes (fighters and bombers, first D 7's and night bombing machines).
- V.—Evacuation by the German armies of the countries on the left bank of the Rhine. These countries on the left bank of the Rhine shall be administered by the local authorities under control of the Allied and United States armies of occupation. The occupation of these territories will be carried out by the Allied and United States garrisons holding the principal crossings of the Rhine (Mayence, Coblenz, Cologne), together with bridgeheads at these points of a 30-kilometer radius on the right bank, and by garrisons similarly holding the strategic points of the regions.

A neutral zone shall be set up on the right bank of the Rhine between the river and a zone drawn ten kilometers distant, starting from the Dutch frontier.

In the case of inhabitants no person shall be prosecuted for having taken part in any military measures previous to the signing of the armistice.

No measure of a general or official character shall be taken which would have as a consequence the depreciation of industrial establishments or a reduction of their personnel. The evacuation by the enemy of the Rhineland shall be so ordered as to be completed within a further period of 16 days, in all 31 days after the signature of the armistice.

All movements of the evacuation and occupation will be regulated according to the Note (annex 1).

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- VI.—In all the territory evacuated by the enemy there shall be no evacuation of inhabitants, no damage or harm shall be done to the persons or property of the inhabitants. No destruction of any kind to be committed. Military establishments of all kinds shall be delivered intact as well as military stores of food, munitions and equipment not removed during the periods fixed for evacuation. Stores of food of all kinds for the civil population, cattle, etc., shall be left *in situ*. Industrial establishments shall not be impaired in any way and their personnel shall not be moved.
- VII.—Roads and means of communication of every kind, railroads, waterways, main roads, bridges, telegraphs and telephones shall be in no manner impaired. All civil and military personnel at present employed on them shall remain. Five thousand locomotives, 150,000 wagons and 5,000 motor-lorries, in good working order, with all necessary spare parts and fittings, shall be delivered to the Associated Powers within the period fixed for the evacuation of Belgium and Luxembourg. The railways of Alsace-Lorraine shall be handed over within the same period, together with all pre-war personnel and material. Further material necessary for the working of the railways in the country on the left bank of the Rhine shall be left *in situ*. All stores of coal and material for the upkeep of the permanent way, signals and repair shops shall be left *in situ*, and kept in an efficient state by Germany as far as the means of communication are concerned during the whole period of the armistice. All barges taken from the Allies shall be restored to them. The note appended as Annexure 2 regulates the detail of these measures.
- VIII.—The German command shall be responsible for revealing all mines or delay-action fuses disposed on territory evacuated by the German troops, and shall assist in their discovery and destruction. The German command shall also reveal all destructive measures that may have been taken (such as poisoning or pollution of springs, wells, etc.) under penalty of reprisals.
- IX.—The right of requisition shall be exercised by the Allied and United States armies in all the occupied territory, save for the settlement of accounts with authorized persons. The upkeep of troops of occupation in the Rhineland (excluding Alsace-Lorraine) shall be charged to the German Government.
- X.—The immediate repatriation, without reciprocity, according to detailed conditions which shall be fixed, of all Allied and United States prisoners of war; the Allied Powers and the United States of America shall be able to dispose of these prisoners as they wish. However, the return of German prisoners of war interned in Holland and Switzerland shall continue as heretofore. The return of German prisoners of war shall be settled at the peace preliminaries.
- XI.—Sick and wounded who cannot be removed from the evacuated territory will be cared for by German personnel who will be left on the spot with the medical material required.

Clauses Relating to Eastern Frontiers of Germany

- XII.—All German troops at present in any territory which before the war belonged to Russia, Rumania or Turkey shall withdraw within the frontiers of Germany as they existed on August 1, 1914, and all German troops at present in territories which before the war formed part of Russia must likewise return to within the frontiers of Germany as above defined as soon as the Allies shall think the moment suitable, having regard to the internal situation of these territories.
- XIII.—Evacuation by the German troops to begin at once, and all German instructors, prisoners and civilians as well as military agents now on the territory of Russia (as defined on August 1, 1914) to be recalled.
- XIV.—German troops to cease at once all requisitions and seizures and any other undertaking with a view to obtaining supplies intended for Germany in Rumania and Russia, as defined on August 1, 1914.
- XV.—Abandonment of the treaties of Bucharest and Brest Litovsk, and of the supplementary treaties.

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XVI.—The Allies to have free access to the territories evacuated by the Germans on their eastern frontier, either through Danzig or by the Vistula, in order to convey supplies to the populations of these territories or for the purpose of maintaining order.

Clause Relating to East Africa

XVII.—Unconditional evacuation of all the German forces operating in East Africa within one month.

General Clauses

XVIII.—Repatriation without reciprocity within a maximum period of one month, in accordance with the detailed conditions, hereafter to be fixed, of all civilians interned or deported who may be citizens of other Allied or Associated States than those mentioned in Clause III.

XIX.—With the reservation that any future claims and demands of the Allies and the United States of America remain unaffected, the following financial conditions are required:

Reparation for Damage Done

While the armistice lasts, no public securities shall be removed by the enemy which can serve as a pledge to the Allies for the recovery of or reparation for war losses. Immediate restitution of the cash deposit in the National Bank of Belgium, and in general immediate return of all documents, specie, stocks, shares and paper money, together with plant for the issue thereof, touching public or private interests in the invaded countries. Restitution of the Russian and Rumanian gold yielded to Germany or taken by that Power. This gold to be delivered in trust to the Allies until the signature of peace.

Naval Conditions

XX.—Immediate cessation of all hostilities at sea, and definite information to be given as to the location and movements of all German ships. Notification to be given to neutrals that freedom of navigation in all territorial waters is given to the naval and mercantile marines of Allied and Associated Powers, all questions of neutrality being waived.

XXI.—All Naval and Mercantile Marine prisoners of war of the Allied and Associated Powers in German hands to be returned without reciprocity.

XXII.—Handing over to the Allies and United States of all submarines (including all submarine cruisers and mine-layers) which are present at the moment with full complement in the ports specified by the Allies and the United States. Those that cannot put to sea to be deprived of crews and supplies and shall remain under the supervision of the Allies and the United States. Submarines ready to put to sea shall be prepared to leave German ports immediately on receipt of a wireless order to sail to the port of surrender, the remainder to follow as early as possible. The conditions of this article shall be carried out within 14 days after the signing of the armistice.

XXIII.—The following German surface warships, which shall be designated by the Allies and the United States of America, shall forthwith be disarmed and thereafter interned in neutral ports or, failing them, Allied ports to be designated by the Allies and the United States of America and be placed under the surveillance of the Allies and the United States of America only caretakers being left on board, namely:

6 battle cruisers.

10 battleships.

8 light cruisers, including two mine-layers.

50 destroyers of the most modern type.

All other surface warships (including river craft) are to be concentrated in German naval bases to be designated by the Allies and the United States of America, and are to be paid off and completely disarmed and placed under the supervision of the Allies and the United States of America.

All vessels of the auxiliary fleet (trawlers, motor vessels, etc.) are to be disarmed.

All vessels specified for internment shall be ready to leave German ports seven days after the signing of the armistice. Direc-

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after the signing of the armistice. Directions of the voyage will be given by wireless.

XXIV.—The Allies and the United States of America to have the right, in waters outside German territorial waters, to clear all minefields and destroy all obstacles placed by the Germans, of which the situation must be indicated.

XXV.—Warships and merchant vessels of the Allied and Associated Powers to be free to enter and leave the Baltic. All the German forts, batteries and defenses of any kind in all the passes between the Cattegat and the Baltic to be occupied; all mines and obstruction in and outside the German territorial waters to be swept and destroyed, Germany to furnish complete and accurate plans of such mines or obstructions.

XXVI.—The blockade by the Allied and Associated Powers to be continued as at present, German merchant vessels found at sea being still liable to capture. The Allies and the United States to consider the provisioning of Germany during the armistice to such an extent as may be recognized as necessary.

XXVII.—All naval aircraft are to be concentrated and immobilized in German bases to be specified by the Allies and the United States of America.

XXVIII.—In evacuating the Belgian coasts and ports Germany shall abandon all merchant ships, tugs, lighters, cranes and all other harbor materials; all materials for inland navigation; all aircraft and air materials and stores; all arms and armaments, and all stores and apparatus of all kinds.

XXIX.—All Black Sea ports are to be evacuated by Germany; all Russian warships of all descriptions seized by Germany in the Black Sea are to be handed over to the Allies and the United States of America; all neutral merchant ships seized are to be released; all warlike and other materials of all kinds seized in those ports are to be returned, and German materials, as specified in Clause xxxviii, are to be abandoned.

XXX.—All merchant ships in German hands belonging to the Allied and Associated Powers are to be restored in ports to be specified by the Allies and the United States of America without reciprocity.

XXXI.—No destruction of ships or of materials to be permitted before evacuation, surrender or restoration.

XXXII.—The German Government shall formally notify the neutral Governments of the world, and particularly the Governments of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Holland, that all restrictions placed on the trading of their vessels with Allied and Associated countries, whether by the German Government or by private German interests, and whether in return for specific concessions such as the export of shipbuilding material or not, are immediately to be cancelled.

XXXIII.—No transfers of German merchant shipping of any description to any neutral flag are to take place after the signature of the armistice.

Duration of Armistice

XXXIV.—The duration of the armistice is to be 36 days, with the option to extend. During this period, on the failure of the execution of any of the above clauses, the armistice may be denounced by one of the contracting parties on 48 hours' previous notice.

HE FILLED THE BILL

Captain: Well, runner, how's your memory today?

Runner: It's wonderful, sir; I can remember the last time I was paid.

THERE FOR EMERGENCIES

Officer (inspecting billets): You have a bath, of course?

Sergeant: Oh, yes, sir; but thank goodness we've never had to use it yet.