

Military Equipment Is Delivered to the Allies by the Germans under the Terms of the Armistice (1918-1919)

Abstract

A U.S. army signal corps cameraman captured this footage of the locomotives, airplanes, trucks, and artillery that the German military had handed over to Allied forces, in keeping with the provisions of the Armistice Agreement that both sides signed on November 11, 1918. The footage shows Allied military personnel inspecting and cataloging the surrendered equipment in the towns of Koblenz, Remagen, Montaubaur, and the Fortress Ehrenbreitstein, all located on or near the Rhine River, which divided the occupied part of Germany from the unoccupied part. Despite their brevity, these scenes convey the sheer abundance of weaponry and materiel that the Germans had manufactured and deployed over the course of the most destructive war the world had yet seen. The Armistice that ended the fighting between Germany and the Allied powers on the Western Front stipulated that Germany give up most of its equipment, in order to ensure that the ceasefire lasted and the Allies maintained their overwhelming military advantage. Additional terms in the Armistice Agreement specified the withdrawal of German troops from all foreign territory, the Allied occupation of the Rhineland, and the release of Allied prisoners of war and interned civilians. It also insisted that Germany preserve its internal infrastructure, particularly in the Rhineland, so that Allied occupation forces could freely use the region's bridges, roads, and railways. Britain's devastating naval blockade of German ports, meanwhile, continued until the conclusion and ratification of the final peace treaty—the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919—as further leverage for maintaining German compliance. The Allied forces had earlier concluded separate armistice agreements with Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria that contained similar terms.

Source

Source: Military Equipment Delivered to Allies by Germans under Terms of Armistice [1918-1919], Reel 2 of 3, Historical Film no. 1441, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, 1936. National Archives and Records Administration ID: 24943, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/24943?objectPage=12>

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