

RUSSIANS OCCUPY CAPITAL OUTSKIRTS

Fall of Czernowitz, Cut Off From North, Momentarily Expected.

LEOPOLD'S ARMY IN PERIL

Austrians Said to Be Evacuating Lemberg—Czar's Men Start Advance by Ruse Which Is Effective and Sudden.

PETROGRAD, via London, June 14.—

Russia's most successful operation of the war is being pressed vigorously along the whole front in Volhynia and in Bukovina. Having cut the railway communications of Czernowitz from the north, the Russians have carried the fighting for possession of that city into its very outskirts. Its fall is momentarily expected.

At the same time the extreme right flank of General Brusiloff's forces is winging out toward Kovel, another important railway junction controlling communication to Lemberg from the north. The Russians, approaching Kovel from the southwest along the Kovel-Kovno railway, have reached the Stokhod River, 20 miles from Kovel. Southward of Kovel they have pushed a wedge westward to Torchin, in the direction of Vladimir-Volynsk.

This piercing of the Austrian line places the right flank of Prince Leopold's army in a precarious situation. A particularly stubborn defense is being made by the enemy in the Kovel district advanced position.

Austrians in Flight.

At many intermediate points between the northern and southern points of contact the Austrians are reported to be retreating so hastily that they are out of touch with the Russians. It is rumored that the Austrians are evacuating Lemberg, which they prepared to meet, advancing machine guns and bomb-throwers, bringing up troops and even preparing cavalry for a charge. These preparations were watched by Russian observers.

Artillery Ruse Succeeds.

When the stage was properly set, instead of the expected advance, the Russians let loose another shower of shells much more violent than any of the previous ones, causing terrific slaughter and demoralization in the opposing ranks on which they began a forward movement.

The small number of commanding officers captured in proportion to the number of soldiers is attributed by military experts to the confusion existing in the Austrian armies due to the suddenness and energy of the Russian drive. It shows, it is argued, that the officers lost control of the men and abandoned them to their fate at critical moments.

Russians Hold Dniester.

A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from Petrograd, dealing with the Russian advance in East Galicia, says: "The Russians hold the Dniester between the frontier and considerably westward of the confluence of the Strpa and the Dniester. After the capture of Zalesovsk and Horodenka, their next objective is Kolomena, three marches distant. Unless there is some unlikely change in the strategic position only a prompt retreat will save the cutting off of the Austrian right wing."

Official War Reports

French.

PARIS, June 14.—The text of today's official report is: "Between the River Oise and the River Aisne a strong patrol of the enemy has been driven back with infantry fire at a point southeast of Moulin-sous-Touvent. Unless there we have occupied a small German post near Venizele."

There has been intermittent artillery fighting in the sectors on the left bank of the Meuse. On the right bank the enemy last night bombarded violently our positions. There were no works, in the woods of Vaux and Chapite and the south of Fort Vaux. There have been no infantry attacks here.

In the Vosges a surprise attack by French troops on the Skis upon a German detachment to the south of

Songern (north of Thann) resulted in our bringing back some prisoners."

German.

BERLIN, via London, June 14.—The official report issued by army headquarters: "Western front—On the heights southeast of Zillebecke a portion of our new position was lost during yesterday's fighting."

"On the right bank of the Meuse positions of the enemy west and south of Thiaumont farm were captured during the battles of June 13 and 14. During these operations we captured 222 Frenchmen, including 27 officers and 15 machine guns."

Russian.

PETROGRAD, June 14.—The text of today's official report by the War Office is: "Western front—Along the whole front from the southward of Polesia to the Roumanian frontier, our troops continue to drive back the enemy. During yesterday 26 officers and about 6000 men were taken prisoner. We have taken six cannon, 10 machine guns and many artillery and ammunition wagons. The total of prisoners and trophies captured during the operations amount to 120,000 men, 1789 officers, 130 cannon and 260 machine guns."

"Reports which have been received since yesterday's statement by the Italian War Office is: "On the line of the Posina the enemy, after a violent artillery bombardment, made an attack on the night of June 13 toward Forn, Alta, Campaglia, Monte Giove and Monte Brazone, but was repulsed everywhere."

Italian.

ROME, via London, June 14.—The text of today's statement by the Italian War Office is: "On the line of the Posina the enemy, after a violent artillery bombardment, made an attack on the night of June 13 toward Forn, Alta, Campaglia, Monte Giove and Monte Brazone, but was repulsed everywhere."

Wednesday's War Moves

AN advance of about 20 miles by the Russians, who have Czernowitz as their objective, is chronicled in the latest Russian official communication. Having previously crossed the Dniester River and taken Horodenka and Zale Szczyk, the Russians have now driven their men to the left bank of the River Pruth and captured the town of Sniatyn, which lies only 20 miles north of the Bukovina capital, Kowlina."

"On the lower end of the German line in Russia, to the north of Baranovichi, the Russians evidently have anticipated the attack of the Germans and have taken the initiative into their own hands. Here, after violent artillery preparation, they seven times assailed the German line. Berlin says, however, that all their efforts failed and they were repulsed with heavy losses."

The fighting around Verdun has dwindled to intermittent bombardments, there having been no infantry attack anywhere since the front since Tuesday when French positions were captured by the Germans and 723 Frenchmen made prisoners. The Canadians around Zillebecke, in Belgium, are holding to the 1600 yards of ground recaptured from the Germans Tuesday, although the Germans are shelling them heavily. No infantry attacks have been carried out by the Teutons."

The latest advices from Austro-Italian war theater credit the Italians with repulsing violent Austrian attacks on the Posina front, northwest of Schio. On the other sectors of the line the Austrians are bombarding the Italian positions.

The German auxiliary cruiser Herzman has been attacked and sunk in the Baltic, southeast of Stockholm, by four Russian torpedo-boat destroyers according to Berlin. Reports from Sweden and Denmark concerning the fight say that it was between Russian torpedo craft and a German auxiliary cruiser, some torpedo-boats and armed trawlers which were conveying German merchantmen. The German auxiliary cruiser and a German destroyer, 12 of the merchantmen are reported to have been sunk."

It is believed in London that David Lloyd George will take the place of the late Earl Kitchener as British Secretary for War in case Mr. Lloyd George accepts the portfolio it is believed he will not give up entirely his present duties as Minister of Munitions.



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BRITISH ARTILLERY AIDS Fighting Around Ypres Takes Decided Turn in Favor of Allies, Who in Short Engagement Win Important High Positions.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, via London, June 14.—The operations in the vicinity of Ypres have passed into a new and for the British most satisfactory stage. The Canadians yesterday took the greater part of the ground lost on June 3, including the Armagh Wood and Observatory Ridge and the British front line has returned to its original position. The German losses were large and the latest reports show about 150 prisoners, including four officers, in British hands.

The attack began at 2 A. M. The ground was quickly gained, and by noon the situation was comparatively quiet. The Germans apparently did not counter attack, and abundant evidence was found of the destructive effects of the British artillery fire, which had completely silenced them. The purpose of this movement is not clear, but it is believed that the British are consolidating the position during their occupation of the disputed ground.

It was after two weeks of the most unseasonable cold, rainy weather known to the oldest inhabitants of this region, making the low ground around the Ypres salient a morass, that the Canadians charged in the midst of a downpour at 1:30 o'clock in the morning and recovered Observatory Ridge and Mount Sorrel, important high ground, which was still held by the Germans after the first stage of the third battle of Ypres on June 2-3. So heavy and continuous had been the British artillery fire on the Germans, vainly trying to fortify Mount Sorrel during their 10 days' occupation, that they had been unable to remove the munitions and food stores left there.

"We were delighted with the way the guns supported us," said the Canadians. "They gave the Germans a taste of their own Verdun tactics. We are getting Lloyd George's munitions now all right."

A German officer, who was taken prisoner, paid tribute to the increased power of the British artillery.



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NEW YORK, June 14.—A continuation of the conference between representatives of 350,000 railroad workers and their employers, called to avert a possible general strike involving all the roads in the United States, tonight hinged upon the decision of the railroad managers as to whether they would offer a specific compromise to the demands of their employes.

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