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NO. 73

AUSTRIANS DRIVEN BACK ACROSS PIAVE

BATTLE RAGES ON 100 MILE ITALIAN LINE

Austrians in Great Offensive Accomplish Little at Inception of Drive—Cross Low Plain Three Places to Be Forged Back—Also Held in Mountain Regions—Vienna Claims Capture of 12,000 Prisoners—Italians Take 3000 in Counter Attacks.

WITH THE ITALIAN ARMY, June 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—Austrian troops which forced the Piave river, have been driven back. The fighting along the river is most intense.

VIENNA, June 17.—Via London.—The number of Italians and allied prisoners captured by the Austro-Hungarian forces in their new offensive on the northern Italy front have increased to 12,000, the Austro-Hungarian official statement issued today says.

The Austrians have captured Cape Sile, on the southern end of the Piave line and on the west side of the river and also have captured ground to the west of Sandona Di Piave, the statement adds.

By The Associated Press, June 17.—Although the situation along the great crescent shaped battle line of 100 miles in northern Italy remains somewhat obscure, it seems that the Austrians have accomplished little at the inception of their drive against the Italian and allied armies. From the lower Piave river and north along that stream encouraging reports tell of the enemy being checked and at some points being hurled back across the stream. From the Piave to the Brenta where the Teutons advanced thru mountain ravines in their attempts to break thru the allied lines the situation seems to be well in hand. French and British troops are helping the Italians.

Cross Piave Thrice

It now appears that the Austrians made three successful attempts to cross the Piave. One was south of Montello, where the battle line leaves the Piave river and mounts to the westward into the Alps. One was between Candela and Zenson loop, where the Austrians effected a crossing last November and held a bridgehead for some time. The other was at San Dona Di Piave, about 11 miles from the mouth of the river. At least some of these forces have been driven back across the river, while the others have not been able to develop any advantage from their early success.

Reports show that the tactics followed by the Austrians were similar to those which brought success to the Germans in the Somme and Aisne offensives. The enemy advanced under cover of a smoke barrage from bombs and smoke apparatus in comparatively small parties. These were directed against portions of the line believed to be lightly held. In France the Germans succeeded by this method in gaining the rear of portions of the line which had to be evacuated quickly by the allies. Along the Italian front, however, the foe was not able to penetrate far into the allied positions, and counter attacks soon drove him back to his lines.

Result in Balance

The result is yet in the balance. (Continued on Page Six.)

WOOD REASSIGNED TO CAMP FUNSTON

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Revocation of orders assigning Major General Leonard Wood to command the western department and reassignment of the general to Camp Funston, Kas., was announced today by the war department.

AUSTRIANS LOSE 5 TO 1 IN SMASH AGAINST ITALY

Scantiest Success Attended Attempt of Austrians to Carry Out Offensive On New German Model of Storm Troops—Battle Critical for Austria.

LONDON, June 17.—Austro-Hungarian pressure continues strong along the entire Italian front, says a semi-official dispatch from Rome. The enemy is concentrating his most powerful attacks astride the river Brenta and across the Piave.

A high British army officer, interviewed last night by Reuter's correspondent with the British army in Italy, expressed himself satisfied in every way with the result of the Austro-Hungarian attack against the British forces. He said:

"The enemy has practically lost five men to our one and we have captured four guns. Our airmen on the Piave smashed the seven bridges and fired 25,000 rounds at low altitudes."

All accounts agree that the scantiest success attended the attempt of the Austrians to carry out the offensive on the new German model of storm troops and infiltration.

Desperate Chance

London newspapers consider the offensive one of the most desperate chances yet taken by the enemy. Its failure, it is believed, will be fatal to Austria and a heavy blow to German prestige. Hence the battle is considered by political observers as being even more critical for Austria than for Italy as it is contended defeat will probably goad the various nationalities of the dual monarchy to desperation.

Stories continue to reach Holland from Austria, telling of the serious political crisis, owing to the refusal of the Polish party to support the government. They also mention rioting at many places in the dual monarchy as the result of an increase of anti-German feeling and the shortage of food.

YANKEES REPEL LOCAL ATTACKS

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Repulse of local enemy attacks in the Woeyre and in the Chateau Thierry region was reported today in General Pershing's communique for last night.

"Section A.—This morning in the Woeyre the enemy attempted a local attack against the left of our positions. During the attack there was brisk artillery firing. The assaulters not only failed to penetrate our lines, but were thrown back with severe losses, and left on our hands several prisoners, of whom one was an officer.

"In the region of Chateau Thierry two local attacks made by the enemy during the night on the line Boursches-Bois-De-Pellenn were easily broken up. Artillery on both sides continue very active in this region and in Picardy.

"Section B.—There is nothing to report in this section."

NUREMBERG STRIKES FOR BREAD AND VOTES

AMSTERDAM, June 17.—A political strike has been arranged for today at Nuremberg as a protest against the reduced bread rations and the postponement and hampering of Prussian suffrage reform, according to reports received here. The Berliner Tageblatt says that the social democratic party and the united trades union of Nuremberg have issued a warning against a strike.

ITALIANS MOST BOUYANT OVER FINE DEFENSE

Several Days Before Decision Reached—Battle Assumes Gigantic Proportions—Italians Express Confidence—Premier Orlando Says Enemy Is Being Strongly Held.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—An official dispatch from Rome dated 11:55 o'clock last night says the battle on the Italian front will assume gigantic proportions, the Austrians attempting to break down the Italian defense by a great pincer movement. It adds that the battle will last several days before a decision is reached.

Nowhere else along the front of attack has the struggle been so severe as on the Piave line.

One of the most brilliant of the Italian actions was the defense of the Monte Mesechin salient protecting the important Brenta position. Here the Austrians suffered heavy losses, many of their machine guns were captured.

Prisoners Discouraged

The prisoners are ragged and ill-fed. Many of them are underized youths. One of them remarked to the correspondent that he had no interest in the war.

The feeling of the Italians is buoyant. At Italian army headquarters satisfaction is felt over the situation on every part of the front.

The general commanding the artillery corps in the Monte Grappa region expressed this feeling to the correspondent.

"Now send us only four divisions of Americans," the general added, "We will first shake hands and then travel together into Austria."

The severity of the fighting on Monte Grappa may be understood from the fact that the Italian artillery fired 70,000 shells in 12 hours.

All Forces Possible

As the first phase of the battle unfolds, it is evident that Austria is engaging all the forces possible, although the exact number of the divisions in action is as yet unknown. Italy's soldiers are fighting on their own soil, aided by English and French troops. All are in the best spirits and making supreme sacrifices to prevent the enemy from obtaining the advantage which is supposed to belong to an army launching an offensive.

The uncertainty preceding the offensive was dissipated, followed by satisfaction over the Austrian action in Tonale district, which was intended to block any efforts of the Italians to threaten their rear and possibly cut the single railway line leading from Austria into the Italian Alps.

Situation Reassuring

ROME, June 16.—The situation on the Italian front in its entirety seems very reassuring, says a semi-official note issued tonight. It is added that the great battle which broke out Saturday has not begun. Although having a strength of 60 divisions the enemy attacking forces have not succeeded in passing the Italian advanced area at any point.

Austrian pressure continues very strong along the entire front. The enemy is concentrating most powerful and fierce attacks astride the Brenta and across the Piave and it is

(Continued on Page Six.)

BREAD SHORTAGE CAUSES HUN STRIKES

LONDON, June 17.—A movement is afoot in Germany for the organization of strikes on account of the decrease of the bread ration, says a dispatch to the Central News agency from Amsterdam. The situation, it is said, is so serious that the smallest trade unions are taking part in the movement.



GUNNERS WORKING UNDER GAS ATTACK

In the present attempts of the Huns to pierce the allied line with their powerful thrusts, the allied gunners have been playing a stellar role. The gas attacks are constantly being employed by the Germans, the gunners with the aid of their masks have stuck to their posts, working at times for four hours at a stretch under heavy gas bombardments, being relieved only when wounded and carried behind the lines. Note the camouflaged protection overhead to hide them from any aerial attacks.

FRENCH IMPROVE POSITION BETWEEN OISE AND AISNE

PARIS, June 17.—The French troops improved their positions north and northwest of Hautefraye, between the Oise and the Aisne, in a local operation early today. One hundred prisoners and some machine guns were captured, says the official statement issued today.

German attacks were repulsed in the Caveries wood and in the Vosges. The statement reads:

"Between the Oise and the Aisne the French succeeded in carrying out early today a local operation which resulted in improvement of the French positions north and northwest of Hautefraye. The French took 100 prisoners and captured several machine guns. In the Caveries wood and in the Vosges our troops repulsed enemy surprise attacks. There is nothing to report from the rest of the front."

LONDON, June 17.—A successful raid was carried out last night east of Arras by the British, who took a few prisoners, it is announced officially.

LONDON, June 17.—A German airplane crossed the Kent coast of England soon after noon today. It was chased back to sea by the British anti-aircraft guns.

PROHIBITION MEANS RUIN IN CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Representative John Kuhn of California told the senate agriculture committee today that enactment of the prohibition legislation at this time would be bankruptcy to the California wine growers and result in loss totalling millions of dollars.

Anticipation of reaffirmation of the federal constitutional amendment, Mr. Kuhn said many now are liquidating their property.

He said they believed they should be given two or three years' additional time.

BRITISH INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES ON AUSTRIAN FORCES

LONDON, June 17.—Austrian troops which had as their objective on the British front the range of hills including Cima Di Fonte, Pau and Caveletto, telegrapher Reuter's correspondent at Italian headquarters were much discomfited on reaching the British wire entanglements. In front of the Cesena positions the Austrians suffered heavily from the machine gun fire and they were also caught by their own artillery which fired short.

The Austro-Hungarian casualties, the correspondent says, are being reckoned in thousands while those of the British are light. The number of prisoners taken by the British has been increased to 400.

PRISONER TURNS CAPTOR OF HUN

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sunday, June 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Germans captured an American soldier in their attack on Nivray today, but he did not remain a prisoner long.

At the edge of the village three Germans came upon a wounded American. He was placed under guard of a German private and started for the enemy lines. Reaching a point near the enemy wire entanglements the American suddenly drew a revolver and forced his surprised captives to march back across No Man's land into the American lines. After turning his prisoner over to fellow soldiers the wounded man fell unconscious from loss of blood.

CANTON, O.—Eugene V. Debs, addressing socialists here said the allies' war aims were the same as those of the central powers, plunder.

WASHINGTON.—The war industries board announced restrictions for footwear and clothing for next spring wear.

ATLANTA, Ga.—Three soldiers were killed and 17 injured when an army truck fell through a bridge into Elway river.

OREGON RAILROADS TOLD TO CONNECT WITH COMPETITORS

PORTLAND, June 17.—An order from the federal railroad administration received by the public service commission today orders the Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric railroads to establish physical connections at Portland, and requires the establishment of several other connections between competing lines in this state.

The Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric roads are ordered to establish connections at Albany and Eugene and the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation company and the Northern Pacific company are ordered to form connections at Pendleton. The question of junction between the Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric at Salem will be decided later.

The order which will be far reaching in its effect, it is said, will enable shippers located on either of the roads to extend their markets to any point reached by the other road, effecting savings in drayage and labor. Shippers have been asking such connections for years.

\$690,000 HIGHWAY BONDS APPROVED

SALEM, June 17.—Official notice has been received that the capital issues committee has passed favorably on its sale of \$690,000 of Oregon state highway bonds. It came in a letter from the committee to the state highway department.

The state highway commission had asked for approval from the \$6,000,000 road bond issue, but the capital issues committee refused to approve the full amount.

However, \$690,000 will enable the highway department to complete all contracts now under way as part of the \$6,000,000 road program. When completed these contracts will show an expenditure of approximately \$2,500,000. All of them will be completed this summer. They are located in Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Jackson, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill counties.

BAKER APPROVES PRISON TERMS FOR OBJECTORS

Dozen Conscientious Slackers Given From 18 Months to 20 Years for Refusing to Wear Uniforms and Perform Duties of Citizenship—Baker Favors Deportation.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Sentences ranging from 18 months to 20 years' imprisonment imposed by courts martial upon so-called conscientious objectors who refused military service at Camp Upton, N. Y., and Camp Garden, Ga., were approved today by Secretary Baker.

Most of the men objected to fighting against Germany or Austria because they have relatives there. In approving the findings of the courts, the first of the kind to reach the department, Mr. Baker went on record as favoring the return of the men "to the countries of their preference" after the war.

The 12 objectors were sentenced as follows:

Hyman Polkes, William J. Seider, Joseph White, Anton Zoldak, Julius Levintal, Louis Silverman, Meyer Saffkind, Louis H. Blumenthal, Samuel Spire, Paul Baker, William Charles Shaw and Michael Ciupa.

"In my judgment," said Secretary Baker's approval, "the sentences should be executed and, if after this war is over some process can be devised by which the entirely undesirable citizens can be returned to the countries of their preference, it would be highly desirable from the point of view of the United States.

Propriety of Procedure

"I have not the least doubt as to the propriety of the procedure in these cases, nor am I uncertain as to the correctness of the results reached.

"The defendants in all these cases were either naturalized citizens of the United States or native citizens of the United States, born of parents of countries with which the United States is now at war. They were properly members of the army of the United States pursuant to the selective draft law. They were summoned before proper officers of the army and asked whether they would in fact fulfill their military obligations by fighting against Germany and Austria in Europe. They all answered that they would not. There was the same sufficing on the part of the men as to what they meant by answers, and long winded defenses undertaken to the effect that some of them were willing to fight Germans and Austrians generally but would not fight their own relatives, although they offered no explanation of the process by which they were going to discover whether particular Germans and Austrians whom they were required to shoot at from long range happened to be related to them.

Censure for Objectors

"In one of the records the soldier claims to have an uncle, evidently too old to be in the military service of Austria, whom he once saw, and he had heard of 10 or 12 other relatives in Austria, of some of whom he had seen photographs which must have been of a very persuasive character since they arouse in him emotions of blood kinship strong enough to overcome the obligations of his own allegiance as an American citizen.

"These men were full citizens of the United States, most of them by the voluntary act of naturalization. (Continued on Page Six.)

BUSCH MILLIONS SEIZED BY UNCLE SAM

WASHINGTON, June 17.—All the property in this county of Mrs. Adolphus Busch of St. Louis, valued at millions of dollars, was ordered seized today by Alien Property Custodian Palmer. Mrs. Busch has recently been in Germany and is now in Cuba en route to the United States.