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MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1918

NO. 81

ITALIAN DRIVE YIELDS 18,000 PRISONERS

AUSTRIANS LOSE KEY POSITIONS MONTE GRAPPA

Plave Line Reoccupied and Capo Sile Bridgehead Extended by Italians, Who, Smashing On Mountain Front, Capture 18,000 Prisoners and Strategic Points From Enemy.

ROME, June 26.—Italian troops on the southern part of the Plave front have not only completely reoccupied the Capo Sile bridgehead, but have extended it and held the gain against Austrian counter-attacks. The extension was effected yesterday. During the fighting nearly 400 prisoners were taken. The war office made this announcement today.

18,000 Prisoners Taken
ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Tuesday evening, June 25.—(By the Associated Press.) With the capture yesterday of between 2500 and 3000 prisoners, the total captures by the Italian forces during their counter-offensive are brought up to the neighborhood of 18,000 men.

The Italians during their advance over the shell swept battleground frequently came upon their own men who had been taken prisoner and abandoned by the Austrians in their retreat. Many of these were wounded, but virtually all were stripped of their shoes and all their clothing.

It is estimated the Austrian losses total more than 200,000. It was a terrible sight as the maddened Austrians fled under the deluge of Italian bullets and shells. They leaped into the river and grabbed pieces of wood or anything else that would aid them.

On the Montello the slaughter was terrific.

Important Gains Made
By the Associated Press, June 26.—Now that the Plave line is again intact, the Italians have begun operations on the mountain front looking to the further improvement of the positions there. On the northwestern slopes of Monte Grappa, between the Brenta and the Plave the Italians have gained considerable ground and taken more prisoners.

The Italian gain on Monte Grappa is most important as the mountain is the key position to the terrain between the Brenta and the Plave and dominates the hills southward to the Venetian plain. It was on this height that the Austrians met with failure in their attempts ten days ago to reach the plain from the north.

German soldiers on the French front are reported as being depressed over the Austrian defeat and it is held in some allied quarters that Germany may make a strong effort almost immediately so as to keep up the German and Austrian morale.

The official view in Washington is that Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann's speech was a peace move and that Germany now invites proposals from the entente.

MRS. STORY INDICTED FOR GRAND LARCENY

NEW YORK, June 26.—Following an investigation of the financial affairs of the National Emergency Relief society, Mrs. William Cumming Story, former director general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was indicted here today on a charge of grand larceny, petit larceny and conspiracy.

RENAME PARIS AVENUE AFTER PRESIDENT WILSON

PARIS, June 26.—(Havas Agency.)—The municipal council of Paris today decided to change the name of the Avenue Trocadero to that of "Avenue President Wilson." Street signs bearing the new name will be placed in position on the Fourth of July.

AMERICANS IN WINNING DRIVE EXTEND LINES

Belleau Wood Cleared of Germans and Lines Advanced Beyond—Over 200 Prisoners Taken—Crack German Regiment Unable to Check Yankee Steam Roller.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, June 26.—(By the Associated Press.) In an attack upon the German lines on the Marne front last night the American troops extended their line northwest of Belleau wood. Up to 10 o'clock this morning 216 prisoners had been counted, together with a number of machine guns and other booty. Additional prisoners are coming in.

The Americans now are in possession of virtually all the valuable tactical positions in the Belleau wood sector. Most of the prisoners taken belong to the 347th German division.

Like Steam Roller
On Sunday the Germans placed the crack 201st division opposite a portion of the American line. Despite this the Americans went thru in steam roller fashion.

The Germans also had attempted on Saturday to fill the wood with gas, but the determination and heroism of the Americans could not be checked by this circumstance.

The American artillery again brilliantly carried out its part in throwing the entire German line into confusion. Prisoners said that the position from which they had been taken was like an inferno under the American fire. They were happy to get out alive.

Clear Up Belleau Wood
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, June 26.—(By the Associated Press.) American troops on the Marne front again attacked the Germans last night in the Belleau wood sector. The Americans made an irresistible rush for the complete clearing of the wood in which it was discovered yesterday the Germans were still occupying a small strip of the underbrush.

The attack was preceded by a thirteen hour bombardment from the American artillery.

German prisoners taken pay tribute to the brilliant dash of the Americans, declaring the men in the assaulting party fought like demons.

The Germans were virtually cleared out of Belleau wood several days ago, but the discovery was made yesterday that under cover of darkness they had planted machine guns behind huge boulders, in sunken roadways, in shell holes and in trees in a narrow area on the edge of the wood. It was most difficult to get at them in these positions, and some fierce hand to hand fighting occurred during the night while the clearing process was being carried out.

The war department announced on June 18 that the Thirty-Second division, National Guard, was fighting in Alsace on German territory. This division is composed of Michigan and Wisconsin troops.

Raid by Enemy
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Tuesday, June 26.—(By the Associated Press.) The raid Monday morning in which two companies of French and American troops near Badonviller lost prisoners was made by an entire battalion of

(Continued on Page Six.)

GEORGIA RATIFIES DRY AMENDMENT

ATLANTA, Ga., June 26.—The Georgia legislature today ratified the federal prohibition constitutional amendment shortly after the annual session began. Georgia is the twelfth state to ratify the amendment.

FOOD CRISIS IN RUSSIA ACUTE AS IN AUSTRIA

Stockholm Reports Situation Bad In Russia—Still Extremely Grave In Austria—Seydler Refuses to Form Cabinet—Emperor Charles Appeals to Kaiser to Send Food to Vienna.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—The food situation in Petrograd is described as extremely critical in a report reaching the state department today from Stockholm.

Information from Vienna describes the situation there as still extremely grave.

LONDON, June 26.—Baron Von Seydler, the Austrian premier, announced on Monday that he had declined the invitation of Emperor Charles to constitute a new cabinet, according to a Zurich dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company.

The premier's decision was announced at a meeting of the crown council in Vienna, at which the food situation which was unanimously recognized as critical, was discussed. Emperor Charles announced that he was personally addressing Emperor William in connection with that situation.

It is reported that Baron Bankhaus, minister of railways in the Von Seydler cabinet, will receive the appointment as premier. The Austrian parliament, which was dissolved when the economic situation became critical in that country, may be convoked, it is believed, with a restricted program for its proceedings.

KUEHLMANN FILLS REICHSTAG WITH GOBS OF GLOOM

PARIS, June 26.—(Gravas Agency). Acknowledgement by Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann that Germany cannot be certain of winning the war by force of arms caused an indescribable sensation in the reichstag, says a Zurich dispatch to the Petit Journal. His prediction that the war might last thru a fifth winter was received in silence and there was much consternation among the members of the right. The debate which followed the foreign secretary's speech was very stormy, pan-Germanist speeches being interrupted by the left.

A dispatch from Geneva says that exchange on Berlin and Vienna weakened on the receipt of the secretary's speech. The mark fell 2.60 and the crown 1.95. Allied exchange continued firm.

ALLIES RAIDS YIELD HUNS AS PRISONERS

LONDON, June 26.—German prisoners and machine guns were taken by the British last night on the Picardy and Flanders battlefields, says the official statement from Field Marshal Haig today. On these two fronts the enemy artillery fire was active.

PARIS, June 26.—American troops carried out a brilliant attack near Belleau wood last night, capturing 150 prisoners, one of whom was a captain, according to a statement issued by the war office today.

The French carried out a number of raids during the night, the statement adds, in the regions of Mally-Raineval (in the Somme sector), Melicocq (west of the Oise), Vinly (north of the Clignon river, and northwest of Chateau Thierry) and at Montarillet (east of Rheims), capturing prisoners and machine guns.



Alexander Kerensky

KERENSKY STATES RUSSIA SHORTLY WILL JOIN ALLIES

LONDON, June 26.—Alexander Kerensky, former provisional premier of Russia has arrived in London.

Former Premier Kerensky is on his way to America.

Kerensky was introduced to the British labor conference here this afternoon and was received by the delegates with loud cheers.

"I believe, indeed I am certain," said the former premier, "that the Russian people will shortly join you in the fight for the great cause of freedom."

Kerensky reached London incoognito four days ago. Since then he has moved about quietly, though busy, conferring with prominent Russians in England over the necessity of entente allied assistance in Russia.

Kerensky intends to go to America in a week or ten days.

Kerensky told the labor conference delegates: "I have just come straight from Moscow and it is my duty as a statesman and a socialist to tell you and the people of the world that the Russian people, the Russian democracy, are fighting against tyranny."

FORMER CZAR NOT ASSASSINATED

LONDON, June 26.—There is no foundation for the persistent rumors that Nicholas Romanoff, the former emperor, has been assassinated, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow, dated June 21.

A report received in Copenhagen through Stockholm Tuesday quoted the Russian newspaper Vijn as saying that Russian Red Guards had murdered the former emperor in his residence at Ekaterinburg, where he was removed recently from Tobolsk. A dispatch from German sources last week reported that the former emperor or had been removed to Moscow for safe keeping.

DELANO RESIGNS TO SERVE IN ARMY

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Frederick A. Delano has offered President Wilson his resignation as member of the federal reserve board to accept a commission in the army engineer corps to do railroad reconstruction and management work in France. The resignation has not been accepted.

NO INFORMATION ABOUT TURKISH ATROCITIES

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Minister Caldwell at Teheran has advised the state department under date of June 24 that he has been unable to obtain further information regarding the reported seizure of the American consulate and looting of an American hospital by Turkish troops at Tabriz, Persia.

LEAGUE OF PEACE FROWNED UPON BY HERTLING

German Chancellor Says There Will Be No Further Discussion of President Wilson's Four Principles of a Basis for a General Peace—Wilson Refuses to Answer Suggestion.

AMSTERDAM, June 26.—There will be no further discussion of President Wilson's four principles of a basis for general peace by Count von Hertling, the imperial German chancellor.

This announcement was made by the chancellor in the reichstag in the debate after the speech of Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann. Proposal of a league of nations after the war is not looked upon with favor by Count von Hertling, who intimated that such a league might make it uncomfortable for Germany.

"I originally had no intention of taking part in this debate," said the chancellor. "The reasons for my contemplated reserve are obvious, namely, the experiences I have had together with my predecessors in previous speeches."

Always Misunderstood
"If we spoke our willingness for peace that was regarded as a symptom of weakness and our immediate impending collapse. By others it was interpreted as crafty traps."

"Did we speak on the other hand, of our unshakable will to defend ourselves in a war of conquest so criminally thrust upon us, it was said that it was the voice of German militarism to which even the leading statesmen must submit willy-nilly."

"I went a step further on February 24, and expressly stated my attitude toward the message of President Wilson in which he discussed his four points and gave, in principle, my assent to them. I said that these four points of President Wilson might possibly form the basis of a general world peace. No utterance of President Wilson whatever followed this, so that there is no object in spinning any further threads there started."

League of Peace
"There is still less object after statements which have since reached us, especially from America. Those statements, indeed, made it really clear what is to be understood from a peace league of peoples or a league of peoples for the maintenance of freedom and justice."

"Our opponents made it clear that they would be the kernel of this league of peoples and that it would in this way not be difficult to isolate the uncomfortable upward strivings of Germany and by economic strangulation to extinguish her vital breath. I considered it as against this quite proper that the foreign secretary make a statement on the details of our political position in the east from Finland to the Black Sea and in my opinion he fulfilled the task thoroughly."

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GRANTS PASS COURIER DESTROYED BY FIRE

GRANTS PASS, June 26.—The offices of the Rogue River Courier were almost entirely destroyed by fire yesterday. The blaze started from a fire under the melting pot in the back yard, caught in a small shed and spread to the building. The flames spread rapidly, with dense smoke, making it impossible to enter the building. The loss is estimated at \$6,000, partially covered by insurance. Five hundred dollars' worth of paper was lost, also many books.

BELGIUM GIVEN CREDIT OF TWO MILLIONS MORE

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Belgium today was given another credit of \$2,250,000, making Belgium's total loans from the United States \$122,800,000. Aggregate credits to the allies now amount to \$5,972,500,000.

DROP PLANS TO RAISE AGE LIMIT FOR ARMY DRAFT

Opposition of Baker and March Cause Postponement of Action to Include Men Up to 45 in Draft Registration—War Department to Submit New Plans for Bigger Army.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Secretary Baker and General March, chief of staff, informed the senate military committee today that they opposed as premature and unnecessary the proposed extension of the army draft age limits.

Provost Marshal General Crowder, whose approval of the extension has been cited by advocates of the change in the senate, also appeared before the committee to say that while he was not insistent upon immediate legislation, he thought action should be taken in time to secure new registrants under the revised age limits early next year.

Submit New Plans
In advocating that the draft legislation be unchanged for the present, Secretary Baker and General March said that within 60 or 90 days, probably about the middle of August, after the proposed recess of congress, the administration will submit a new comprehensive army program, covering not only the number of men it is proposed to raise, but also dealing with shipping and other problems.

After the conference with Secretary Baker and his aids the military committee decided to follow their recommendations and to oppose any legislation at this time changing the draft age limits.

Secretary Baker said an "enlarged program for the army is planned, in a formal statement made after he had been closeted with the committee for nearly three hours with his aids."

Enuf for Present
"I presented to the committee statements," said Mr. Baker, "that for the present there are enough men in class one sufficient for our prospective needs and when the enlarged program of the United States is ready for presentation to congress we will at the same time have complete data on which to base any recommendations in the age limits of the draft."

Secretary Baker, General March and General Crowder, it was stated, all opposed the amendment by Senator Johnson of California, proposing that in future draft calls, states which have already furnished by voluntary enlistments an excess over their quotas, shall be given credit for such excess. Senator Johnson was satisfied with the statement.

GERMAN RAIDER ON BERMUDA RUN

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Shipping operating in the area east of longitude 40 between latitude of Cape Race and Bermuda has been warned of enemy activity, the navy department today announced.

"The government on yesterday evening issued a warning to shipping operating in the area east of longitude 40 between latitude of Cape Race and Bermuda," said the announcement.

No explanation was given, but a report of a German raider in that vicinity was brought to an American port yesterday by an incoming steamer.

233,639 TONS SHIP SUNK DURING MAY

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Allied and neutral shipping sunk by German U-boats during the first 28 days in May totaled 233,639 gross tons, according to estimates made by the navy department. Senator Beckham of Kentucky announced today in the senate.

367,961 CALLED TO COLORS FOR ARMY IN JULY

Call Issued Today for 124,525 With 00ne for 220,000 Issued Last Night, Makes July Largest Month Yet—Exhausts Class One—Reclassification Depended Upon.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, gave figures stating that in August, when the final call on men in class one will have exhausted that class, there will be 3,300,000 men in the army and that the highest estimate of the number of American troops which will be in France by that time is 1,450,000.

Senator Chamberlain announced that it is proposed to call in August 300,000 draft men, in September 150,000, in October 150,000, in November 150,000 and in December 125,000. These 825,000 men, he said, are expected to exhaust class one.

New Draft Call Made

WASHINGTON, June 26.—White and colored draft registrants numbering 124,525 were summoned to the colors for general military service in a call issued today by Provost Marshal General Crowder. Mobilization will take place at intervals during the month of July, starting with the enrollment of 33,250 white selected men on July 5.

Today's call combined with that for 220,000 to be mobilized July 22-25 ordered by General Crowder last night and with the various special calls previously issued will remove from civilian life during July a total of 367,961 men, the largest number of men called in any one month since the draft became operative.

The call issued today is divided into four sections for entrainment purposes. From July 5 to 9, white registrants numbering 33,250 are to be entrained; from July 15 to 19, white 21,255; from July 16 to 20, colored 45,000; and from July 29 to 31, colored, 25,011.

Reclassify Class 1

Although the order issued last night for 220,000 men probably will deplete the present available in class one in most of the draft districts, it men called for July will not go to camp until after the middle of the month and by that time it is expected the additions gained by reclassification and by the new registration of 21 years of age youths will be available.

The quota, of white entrainment of 33,250 for July 5-9 includes Oregon, 1,350; Fort McDowell, Cal.; Wyoming, 1,000; Fort Logan, Colo. White entrainment of 21,255 for July 15-19 inclusive includes California, 1,350; Fort McDowell, Cal.; Colorado 718; Fort Logan, Colo.; Wyoming, 282; Fort Logan, Colo.

No other western quotas of whites or colored in call issued today.

CLE ELUM SWEPT BY \$1,500,000 FIRE

YAMKIMA Wash., June 26.—Fifteen hundred people, mostly foreigners, are homeless as a result of yesterday's holocaust at Cle Elum, where the damage by the flames amounted to fully \$1,500,000.

A sweeping gale fanned the flames, which started in the G. H. Moss grocery, over the entire business section of the city, all of which, with the exception of a school, two brick bank buildings and a few smaller houses, is destroyed.

The Ellensburg national guard company was placed on duty to prevent looting. Cots were hurriedly constructed and placed in any buildings left standing, and meal tickets, food at the Northern Pacific depot restaurant were issued to as many as possible of the victims.