ITALIAN SEAPORTS BOMBARDED; MINOR BATTLES ALONG FRONTIER

QUICK, DECISIVE BLOW AT ITALY, AUSTO-GERMAN PLAN

Former Friends, Now Bitter Enemies, Lose No Time in Attacking Each Other—Italian Towns Bombarded by Warships and Aircraft.

BULGARIA MAY BE FORCED TO DRAW SWORD AGAINST TURKEY WITHIN SHORT TIME.

Heavy Fighting Resumed in Western War Theatre Where the British and French Are Improving Positions Preparatory to General Movement.

London, May 24—Little or no time has been allowed to elapse between the declaration of war and actual fighting between Italy and Austria. Early this morning Austrian aeroplanes, destroyers and torpedo boats descended on the Italian coast of the Adriatic and bombarded towns, including Venice, while in the Tyrol and on the eastern frontier Italian and Austrian advance guards are already in touch and have fired the first shots.

The plan of campaign has not yet been disclosed, but it is generally believed that attempts to inflict a quick decisive defeat, or, at least, one that will discourage the Italians, will be undertaken, largely by the Germans, under Field Marshal Von Hindenburg.

It is said that German troops, with heavy guns, aeroplanes and Zeppelins, are already passing through the valley of the River Adige in the direction of Verona, and that rapid and fierce blows will be delivered almost immediately on the Italian centre. This, the Germans doubtless believe, would serve to hold off an Italian advance from the province of Venice, where the fat nature of the country would give the Italians a greater chance of success.

Italy Germany's Most Hated Enemy.

Throughout Austria and Germany there is bitter denunciation of Italy, which for the moment has replaced England as the most hated enemy. In the allied countries, on the other hand Italian intervention is hailed with delight, and in the Italian quarters of London and Paris there have been enthusiastic demonstrations and cheering farewells to the Italians leaving for home to join the colors.

Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria have made no move yet. The government of Bulgaria has reiterated that it will continue to observe an attitude of neutrality so long as Bulgarian interests are not directly affected, and it sees no reason why they should be. The opposition, however, in voicing the opinion that Bulgaria should seize the opportunity to join the Allies.

Bulgaria may be drawn into the war through an incident which has arisen between her and Turkey over the seizure by Turkey of a number of Bulgarian cars loaded with goods. Sofia has lodged a protest against this action. Roumania may be affected by a change of fortune in the battles in Middle Galicia. Russia there is delivering a strong counter-offensive and has regained some ground along the San river, north of Jaroslau.

The most important battle, however, is that which is raging to the southeast of Przemysl, where the Austrians and Germans are making repeated attacks in an endeavor to break the Russian line, and thus relieve the pressure which the Russians are bringing to bear on the Germans who crossed the San.

Heavy Fighting in West.

Fighting is also in progress in Courland, along the East Prussian frontier, and in Central Poland, where the Germans have attempted an offensive along the Hawks river. None of these actions apparently have been decisive, although heavy losses have been suffered on both sides. Russia expresses satisfaction with the situation along the front.

Heavy fighting has been resumed in the western zone, from Arras to the sea, in which both Germans and French claim to have had the advantage. It is evident that the allies do not intend to relax their efforts on this front, although a big general movement has not yet been undertaken, the present operations having as their object improvement in their positions and forcing the Germans to counter-attacks.

The allies have landed additional troops on the Gallipoli peninsula, and though progress there must, for the time, continue to be slow, there is every evidence here that the resistance of the Turks, will before long, be broken. The loss to the allies is heavy, as is shown by the casualty lists, but it is asserted that the Turks are suffering much more severely, as they are under cross-fire from the ships.

NO PEACE FOR ITALY UNTIL ALLIES MAKE TERMS JOINTLY

London, May 24, (8 p. m.)—Italy has given her adhesion to the agreement already signed by the Allied powers not to conclude a separate peace. The signature of a formal document to this effect is imminent.

CHURCHILL TO HOLD A SEAT IN NEW CABINET

In Some Position Other Than First Lord of Admiralty.

FISHER'S RESIGNATION LIKELY PERMANENT.

First Sea Lord Declines to Work With Balfour — Lloyd George May Yet be Munitions Minister.

London, May 24, 11.20 p. m.—Progress in the formation of the new coalition ministry was made at conferences held today at the residence of Premier Asquith in Downing street. The details of the new ministry were not sufficiently advanced, however, for an announcement of its personnel to be made this evening.

It is known, however, that Premier Asquith has decided that Winston Spencer Churchill shall remain in the cabinet in some other position than that of First Lord of the Admiralty. It is understood that the premier tried hard to retain Viscount Haldane as Lord High Chancellor but the Unionists were so strongly opposed to this that Haldane will retire.

There is renewed talk of David Lloyd George combining the offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer and Munitions-Minister, but this point still remains unsettled. Pressure has been brought to induce John Redmond, the Irish leader to accept a seat in the cabinet, but thus far without success.

Fisher Won't Work With Balfour

Lord Fisher's resignation as First Sea Lord seems to be a definite one, he having declined to work with Arthur J. Balfour at the Admiralty.

Concerning the question of responsibility for the Dardanelles operations the Daily Mail this morning declares that Lord Fisher signed and sealed all the documents relating to that undertaking, and that the war-council, when it was decided to carry the operations out, was under the belief that Lord Fisher approved of this decision. The Daily News says it thinks that if Lord Fisher disapproved of the operations he ought to have protested or resigned at the time they were first mooted and not have waited until now.

Although it is expected that an announcement of at least some of the cabinet appointments will be made tomorrow there are still so many difficulties in the allotment of offices that it will be next to impossible to make the complete list available until later.

Sent Crack Army Corps From Constantinople To The Dardanelles

Part of German General's Scheme to Bolster Up Courage of Turks at Home and Try to Check British on Gallipoli Peninsula—Met With Disaster.

Paris, May 24.—News received here from the Dardanelles is to the effect that the recent attack against the British troops near Kaleh Tepe by two Turkish divisions was carefully prepared by General Von Sanders, the German commander, and his staff, not only with the object of inflicting a check on the Allies but with raising the spirits of the Turkish troops and reassuring public opinion, which is said to have been profoundly impressed by the heavy Turkish losses at the beginning of May.

General Von Sanders brought up the First Army Corps, a crack organisation which had been reserved for the defence of Constantinople. Their landing was greatly hampered by the bombardment from the Allies aeroplanes. Two divisions of this corps, which had been put ashore the night before at Maidos, immediately marched to Kaleh Tepe and attacked the Australians and New Zealanders the night of May 18-19. They were completely beaten, however, losing two thousand men killed and five thousand wounded, the report says.

On the southern end of the peninsula the French troops faced strong defensive works. At certain points they advanced to within a few yards of the Turks, and fierce bayonet and hand-grenade fighting followed. In one of these hand-to-hand struggles it is asserted that a Colonel infantryman named Laborde spontaneously took the lead as his group was entering a Turkish trench and by throwing grenades succeeded, unaided, in stopping a counter-attack and preventing quick-firers being used until he fell wounded.

Capture of "The White Way" Ended Struggle Begun Last October

Victorious Capture of German Position Conclusion of French Offensive at Lorette — Most Important Tactical Triumph French Have Won Since War Began.

Paris, May 24.—"The capture by French troops of the German works at Blanche Vole (The White Way), the evening of May 21 marked the victorious conclusion of our offensive on the Massif De Lorette," is the opening sentence in the report of the French semi-official eye-witness of conditions at the front, as given out in Paris to-day.

"Loretteborg is a word which for the last six months has appeared often in the correspondence of the German soldiers," the eye-witness continues. "At ten o'clock in the morning of May 9, along the entire attacking front detachments of the first line jumped from the trenches. Two hours later three of the enemy's lines were in our hands, but we found ourselves face to face with a small German force, and this checked our attack. Our losses were serious. Telegraphic communication was cut, for we were well within the German lines. Our maps could no longer guide us, for the artillery had made chaos of the branch trenches. Our progress was by leaps and bounds, from one shell hole to another. Thus we held our ground. Some detachments pushed further forward, but the main attack stopped at the fourth German line. Night set in which was not any decisive result.

"May 10th and 11th the situation was unchanged.

"On May 12 a decisive effort was made at night. The German resisted obstinately behind their defenses, but at daybreak we had captured the small fort. Complete success had not been gained, but the continuous fighting from May 12 to May 20 had resulted in our mastery of the plateau tected by a double and triple system of barbed wire entanglements and other defences, the whole protected by quick-firing guns. At various points heavy artillery, carefully concealed, had been placed.

"To overcome these obstacles we carefully prepared our attack, multiplying our trenches and placing our heavy artillery in the rear.

"The division charged with the attack on Lorette comprised three regiments of infantry and three battalions of chasseurs.

"May 9 we attacked the trenches of Blanche Vole from three sides simultaneously. Thirteen days of intense uninterrupted fighting resulted at two o'clock on the morning of May 22 in a splendid tactical victory. The enemy attached the greatest importance to the holding of the Lorette Heights. On the Plateau alone over 3,900 German corpses were counted. One thousand prisoners were taken, as well as a great quantity of material, including machine guns, bomb-throwers and rifles. The French losses were heavy.

"By this capture of the Massif De Lorette one of the principal objects of the operations north of Arras was attained and a severe check was inflicted on the enemy, who believed himself impregnable in his admirably organized positions.

"During the fighting the Germans were twice relieved by fresh troops.

"This is one of the most important tactical victories," the eye-witness says, in conclusion, "won by French arms in Northern France."

REPORTED ITALIAN CONSUL AT TURKISH CAPITAL KILLED

London, May 24.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Odessa says it is reported that the Italian consul at Constantinople has been killed.

RUSSIA LOSES WARSHIP IN BLACK SEA?

Despatch Alleged to Have Been Received in Berlin from Bucharest Says the Wentelemont Sunw with 1400 Men.

Berlin, May 24, (By wireless to Sayville)—The Overseas News Agency today gave out the following:

"According to a Bucharest despatch, the Russian armored man-of-war Winteleimot has been sunk, with 1,400 men, in the Black Sea."

The foregoing evidently refers to the Russian battleship Panteleimon. This warship, whose destruction is said to have caused the loss of 1,400 lives, is put down in naval reference books as having a complement of about 740 men.

In times of war, however, this number might be increased considerably. The Panteleimon was built in 1897. She was 378 feet long. Her displacement was 12,582 tons. She carried four 12-inch guns, sixteen 6-inch, four 3-inch, six 3-pounders and five 12-inch tubes.

KING OF GREECE MUCH IMPROVED IN HEALTH

London, May 25 (3.44 a.m.)—A despatch to Reuter's Telegraph Company from Athens says that considerable relief is manifested by the newspapers and the public over the improved condition of King Constantine, who, in the opinion of the attending physicians, has now passed the danger point.

AUSTRIANS AND ITALIANS FIGHTING ALONG FRONTIER

Number of Minor Engagements in Progress — Austrian and German Troops Pouring Towards Scenes of Actions.

STIR UP REVOLT AGAINST ITALY IN TRIPOLI IS PART OF THE GERMAN PLAN.

Von Buelow and Staff and German Representatives at Vatican Take Their Departure From Rome.

Vienna, May 24, via London, 6.55 p.m.—The Austrian War Office announced today fighting had begun along the Italian border, where a number of small battles are under way. Italian cavalry has appeared on the coast near the frontier. The statement follows:

"The general situation in the northeastern theatre of war is unchanged. Battles continue in Middle Galicia. During the engagements of the last few days in the hilly country of Kielce, Russian Poland, thirty officers and 6,300 soldiers have been captured.

"In the southwestern theatre of war, after the declaration of war, small battles were begun at some places in the Tyrol, on the frontier. In the frontier area on the coast Italian cavalry appeared near the frontier town of Strassoldo.

Lugano, Switzerland, via Paris, May 24, 11.15 p. m.—Austro-German troops continue to pour towards the frontier from Innsbruck and Meran. The Swiss railroads are greatly overcrowded with Italian refugees, and reports reach here that the Italians resident in Austria and Germany are being badly treated.

Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador, who is expected to come here from Rome, has not been heard from, and the German consul here has no knowledge when he will arrive.

Rushing Troops to Frontier.

On the Italian Frontier, via Chiasso, May 24, via Paris, May 25, 12.15 a. m.—The Messagero in Rome today prints a story to the effect that it has been assured that German and Turkish officers already have gone to Tripoli and Cyrenica, taking with them money and gifts for the chiefs of the tribes in the interior of those countries.

It is hoped by these officers, the newspaper adds, to bring about a great insurrection against Italian rule and force the Italian troops and the loyal population to retire to the coast where they will be under the protection of Italian warships. It is also asserted by the Messagero that the Austrian navy has arranged to send submarines to make torpedo attacks against the Italian coast defenses.

"The prudence and energy of the Libyan government," the Messagero adds, "will be able to meet the unfortunate situation which the Turkish and German emissaries daily are trying to make worse. Late events must have convinced the government of the necessity, while the great war lasts, to adopt a system of resolute defense around coastal cities."

The newspapers of Italy, in their articles on the war, give expression to the seriousness of the great task that Italy has undertaken.

The Corriere Della Sera, of Milan, after comparing the strength of the Italian and Austrian fleets, warns the nation that a victory for Italy can be obtained only after grave sacrifices and hard trials. The newspaper says that submarines and mines have radically altered naval warfare, giving the advantage to the defensive navy over an attacking force or warship.

Von Buelow Quits Rome

London, May 25 (3.10 a.m.)—A despatch to the Stefani Agency from Rome says that Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador to Italy, accompanied by the Princess Von Buelow, and all the German representatives at the Quirinal and the Vatican, departed from Rome by train at 9.30 o'clock last night.

Austrian Submarine Appears Off Venice

Geneva, May 24 (9.25 p.m.) via Paris May 25 (12.45 a.m.)—A number of armored trains and aeroplanes arrived at Trent today from Innsbruck. The Austrians seem to fear an attack from the Valtellina region and they are therefore making all preparations for that eventuality. Skirmishes occurred today on the banks of the Isonzo river, which flows into the Gulf of Trieste.

An Austrian submarine, probably from Pola, was seen off Venice this morning. Two German spies have been taken to Verona.

The Austrian Emperor's proclamation to his people, recalling the victories over Italy, has further inflamed the Italian feeling.

Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador, is expected to reach Chiasso at 9.30 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Swiss government has informed the authorities at the Canton of Ticino that the Prussian and Bavarian diplomatic representatives at the Vatican will reside at the Episcopal Palace at Lugano during the war.

Advices from Innsbruck say that a furious crowd at Vienna broke through the lines of troops around the Italian embassy and insulted the Italian Ambassador, but the soldiers prevented the mob from entering the embassy building.

It is reported here that more than fifty Italians living in the Trentino were shot yesterday as spies because the railroad bridge at Meran was blown up.

The Italian troops on the frontier, it is understood, will begin their forward movement tonight.

Vienna, May 24, via Amsterdam, May 25 (3.53 a. m.)—The Italian Ambassador to Austria-Hungary, the Duke of Avarna and the members of the embassy staff left here this evening on board a special train, by way of Switzerland, for Italy. Their departure was without incident.

NORWEGIAN STEAMER SUNK BY GERMANS

Submarine Fired on Ship which Rescued Crew of the Minerva.

Newcastle, Eng., May 24.—The Norwegian steamer Minerva was sunk by a German submarine Saturday night. The crew of the steamer was landed here this evening by the steamer Iris. The captain of the Iris reports that after he had rescued the crew of the Minerva his submarine sent a torpedo at the Iris, narrowly missing her.

The steamer Minerva sailed from New York April 16 for Christiania. She arrived at Kirkwall May 4th and from there was taken to Shields, arriving in the latter port May 5th. She was a vessel of 2,413 tons and was owned by Jacobson & Sons, of Christiania.

DEALERS IN RESPIRATORS REAPING A HARVEST

Rush for Protection Against Poisonous Gases from German Shells Follows Police Warning.

London, May 24.—(Gazette Cable)—The warning given by the police last Saturday, advising the citizens to close all doors and windows in the event of a Zeppelin raid, for fear of poison bombs being dropped, had a curious sequel today, the people rushing to buy respirators. Many stores were sold out of their supplies within an hour. Except the mouthpiece, the respirators are made of non-inflammable celluloid or rubber, with motor goggle fittings to protect the eyes.