

ITALIANS HOLD TEUTONS FIRMLY

Terrific Struggle Still Rages in the North.

United States to Declare War On Austria.

Rome Cable — Prevailing opinion here in well-informed circles is that declaration of war between the United States and Austria will follow immediately upon the Allied conference in Paris.

The Italian War Office report said: "Yesterday there was intense artillery activity on the whole front of the coastal zone. The national navy and British monitors lent effective co-operation."

"In the afternoon the enemy three times made violent attacks on Monte Pertica, northwest of Monte Grappa. He was repulsed each time with severe losses. On Monte Tomba and Monte Monfenera the infantry actions were not renewed."

"Our aircraft carried out effective bombing operations, and engaged in several duels with hostile aeroplanes, as a result of which two enemy machines were downed."

ON THREE MAIN FRONTS.

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy Cable — The heavy fighting which began on Sunday in the north continues with great violence, centering on the slopes of Monte Fenera. Enemy masses alternate fierce artillery attacks with infantry assaults, which have been repulsed by the heroic bravery of the Italian troops. The battle is taking over a wide range and gradually concentrating on three main fronts. It is not a question of gaining or losing kilometres, but it is a gigantic battle in which Italy's part in the war with its resultant effect on the Allies, is largely at stake.

The Austro-German offensive, which began three weeks ago, has not diminished, but is steadily intensifying. Frontal attacks thus far have failed on the Piave and the northern Asiago plain. This compels the enemy to attempt to make a breach by one of the Italian flanks, as the only resort after the checking of the frontal attacks. This explains the gradual shifting of the front to three main divisions: First, along the Piave; second, from the Piave to the Brenta; third, from the Brenta across the Asiago plateau.

The enemy's advance on the Piave and the menace to Venice is fairly well checked after the bloody repulses of the last few days, but the Austrians and Germans are still on the east bank of the river, with formidable forces pressing against the narrow stream.

WHERE CONDITIONS ARE GRAVE. Behind Asiago, the Italians have made a splendid resistance, and the enemy attack has been worn down after he had suffered losses estimated at a good part of three divisions. But in the central section between the Piave and the Brenta Rivers, his attacks since Sunday are being steadily augmented, and it is in this portion of the line that the conditions continue grave.

The Italian positions which General Diaz announced as abandoned, are northwest of Quero, on the Upper Piave, and the front now runs south of Quero. It is along this line, where the mountains meet the plains, and the river valleys, that the greatest effort is now being made, near Monte Monfenera and Monte Tomba. This northern sector is very vital to the eastern front along the Piave, as a breach at the north would bring the enemy the rear of the Piave line, which, thus far, has resisted all frontal attacks. For this reason attention is being anxiously directed towards the north, not only as regards the immediate result there, but in connection with its effect on the Piave line.

ARMISTICE, NOT SEPARATE PEACE

Russia Will Fight Germans If They Decline.

"Red" Looters Foiled by Bank Heads.

Petrograd Cable — The Russian Government yesterday ordered General Dukhonin, the commander-in-chief, to open negotiations for an armistice with the commanders of the enemy armies. The proposal to negotiate peace was officially conveyed to the ambassadors of the Allied nations at Petrograd.

Petrograd Cable — The formal offer of an armistice to all the belligerents which the Council of People's Commissaries of the All-Russian Workers' and Soldiers' Congress proposes to make shortly, is not intended to forecast any effort toward a separate peace. On the contrary, it is declared definitely here that not only is a separate peace not desired, but that the rejection of the armistice proposal by Germany, even should it be acceptable to the Allies, will but mean a continuation of the war by the new revolutionary army with vigor against German imperialism, until the German people, "inspired by Russian democratic ideas," overthrow their rulers and demand peace.

London Cable — A body of troops and Red Guards, under command of Commissary Menjinsky and Col. Muraviev, commander of the Petrograd

garrison, appeared before the State Bank in Petrograd yesterday, according to a Reuter despatch, and demanded that 10,000,000 rubles be handed over within ten minutes. Menjinsky declared that anyone who opposed the execution of the order would be treated as a traitor. Officials of the bank and delegates of the Town Council and the Peasants' Union assembled in a room in which the doors and principal safes were guarded by sentries from the Semenofsky regiment and refused unanimously to meet the demand, whatever the consequences.

At the expiration of the ten minutes, further parleying disclosed that neither Menjinsky nor Muraviev had any order of requisition from the Council of Maximalist Commissioners. Delegates from the front who accompanied the soldiers joined in the protest against the invasion of the bank. Muraviev eventually withdrew his troops.

After a conference with the Council of Commissioners, Muraviev returned with a message that the Council recognized that the demand addressed to the bank and the form in which it was made was not in accordance with the law. He expressed regret for his share in the incident.

LOST FOR THE REDS.

Petrograd Cable — The archives in the storeroom of the National Police Department have been turned over to the new authorities, including money aggregating 500,000 rubles.

The wife of Premier Kerensky is reported to have been arrested by some of the Red Guard while tearing down Bolshevik posters in which Kerensky was referred to in uncompromising terms.

CHASED THROUGH THE MINE FIELDS

British Admiralty Tells of Saturday's Fight.

Three Hun Cruisers Destroyed or Badly Hit.

London Cable — The British Admiralty this evening issued a report dealing with the engagement Saturday off Heligoland. Eight British and German naval forces. The statement says: "The British forces sighted shortly before eight o'clock in the morning four light cruisers, accompanied by destroyers and mine-sweepers or patrol vessels. The latter made off to the north-east, a destroyer sinking one by gunfire. A number of the survivors were rescued. "The enemy light cruisers and destroyers turned off toward Heligoland and were pursued by the British advanced forces through the mine fields. A running engagement occurred under a heavy smoke screen until four enemy battleships and battle cruisers were sighted. The advanced forces then broke off the enemy engagement and turned back to meet their supporters outside the mine fields.

"The enemy did not follow our vessels outside the mine fields. Our vessels report that during the action they scored a number of hits on the enemy. One light cruiser was seen to be on fire, a heavy explosion was observed on another, while a third was dropped behind, evidently damaged, when the action was broken off.

FRENCH ALSO ON OFFENSIVE

Attack On 6-Mile Front North of the Aisne.

May Compel Retreat On a Long Front.

London Cable — The French this afternoon launched an attack on their portion of the Rheims-St. Gobain-Cambrai salient. The offensive is on a six-mile front north of the Aisne.

While no details of this movement have been received, it doubtless has the object of pushing back the Germans eastward in the former sector and northward in the latter region toward Laon, strategic moves which, if successful, doubtless will compel that portion of the German line north of St. Quentin, which is still intact, to fall back precipitately eastward.

The French thrust may mean that the two allies are making a combined operation to break in this salient and compel a German retreat between Verdun and Lille. This would mean the evacuation of practically all of Northern France.

The French troops to-day attacked in the region to the north of Craonne and Berry-au-Bac on a front of about two-thirds of a mile and penetrated the German positions to an average depth of about 400 yards, capturing strong defenses and taking 175 Germans prisoner, according to the French official communication issued this evening.

The communication says: "West of the Miette River we attacked to-day at about 3 o'clock on the salient of the German line to the south of Juvin-court. On a front of about one kilometre and to an average depth of 400 metres our troops reached all their objectives and captured strong enemy defenses."

Air in the Lungs. In one minute, in a state of rest, the average man takes into his lungs about 48.8 cubic inches of air. In walking he needs 97.6 cubic inches; in riding at a trot, 201.3 cubic inches; and in long distance running, 347.7 cubic inches.

It's all right to forgive and forget, but most of us would rather be forgiven than forgotten.

BRITISH WIDEN THE SALIENT IN DEFENSES OF CAMBRAI

London Cable — Thursday's British official communication reads:

"On the southern battle front the day has been spent in consolidating the large area over which our troops advanced during the last two days. This has been successfully carried out, except at Fontaine Notre Dame, which we captured this morning, but the enemy subsequently retook it by a counter-attack.

"Much credit is due to the transportation service for the rapidity with which the concentration for the operations of the last few days was effected. Roads and railways, both broad gauge and light, have been developed, and, since the advance, extended in a manner which has contributed largely to the success of our preparations and subsequent operations."

London Cable — The British are carrying forward successfully their manoeuvre which has as its objective the encircling and capture of the important railroad junction of Cambrai, in Northern France. Cavalry, tanks and infantry are operating along a line running from west of Cambrai to south of the town. All of the vast area captured the past two days has been retained and consolidated with the exception of Fontaine Notre Dame, a village captured this morning, but subsequently lost as the result of a counter-attack.

In addition to heavy losses in men killed or wounded more than 9,000 Germans had been made prisoner up to midday Thursday. The British casualties are declared to be considerably less than the number of prisoners taken by General Byng's men.

To the south of Juvin-court, in the Aisne region, where the French troops took several positions from the Germans Wednesday, a counter-attack which cost the enemy heavy losses has been effectually blocked, and General Petain's troops are still holding their vantage.

9,000 PRISONERS. Reuter's correspondent telegraphs from British Headquarters in France under date of Thursday evening, Nov. 22:

"We have not yet reached the limit of our victory. The success grows hourly. The total of prisoners is approaching nine thousand.

"Great stretches of new country and fresh villages are being captured. Besides increasing in depth the wedge is spreading at the base.

"The weather continues most unfavorable, a heavy mist preventing an accurate observation. Nevertheless, the airman continue to fly over the battleground, penetrating far into the enemy territory at the level of the tree tops.

VILLAGES ARE INTACT. "The latest village captured is Cantuing, and the troops are now in the neighborhood of Bourbon and Moeucare, while fighting is promising in the region of Rumilly.

"The enemy attempted only a few small counter-attacks between Rumilly and Noyelles with troops hurried up for the purpose, but all were easily repulsed.

"At Cantuing and beyond Malsnieres we have broken into sections of the last line of defence, and now hold the Hindenburg line with the famous tunnel, where the counter-attacks have been heavy and pressed with great determination. But we hold everything taken.

"Our casualties are almost incredibly small. The troops are most cheerful, and are roaming over new and unspoiled country, where villages have not been destroyed and fields abound."

THE SALIENT WIDENED. R. T. Small, telegraphing from British Headquarters this afternoon, writes:

"British cavalry, tanks and infantry were to-day operating along a line running from west of Cambrai to the south of that town. Meanwhile, the offensive had been successfully prosecuted on the left and in the region of Bullecourt the German line had been pushed back considerably, thereby widening the salient which the British have driven into the enemy territory to the south and southwest of Cambrai. The attack around Bullecourt was a complete success, and something like 700 prisoners were captured here.

"Sanguinary hand-to-hand fighting has taken place at many points. During the night three German counter-attacks in Noyelles and Rumilly were beaten off and another thrust by the enemy near Bullecourt was smashed.

"The number of prisoners is increasing steadily. More than eight thousand were in the hands of the British last night, and large contingents have been coming back during the early morning hours. This morning the cavalry, tanks and infantry at many points west and south of Cambrai were less than three miles from the outskirts of the town."

THE GERMAN REPORT. Berlin Cable — The text of the German statement reads:

"The battle south-west of Cambrai continues. By the massed use of tanks and infantry and by launching his cavalry the enemy sought to effect a break through, which was denied him on the first day's attack. He did not succeed in his objective. Although he was able to gain a little ground beyond our front lines, he was not able to attain greater successes.

"The enemy troops, which were effectively caught by the fire of our artillery and machine guns and greatly thinned, encountered the counter-thrust of our brave infantry.

"On the western bank of the Scheidt, our troops drove back the enemy to Anvaux and Wastaine and on the eastern bank to his positions of departure, south of Rumilly.

"Before and behind our line, distributed over the whole battlefield, we

the wreckage of tanks which have been shot to pieces. Our aviators and motor guns took a prominent part in their destruction.

"At nightfall fighting activity on the battlefield diminished. South of Vendhuill the enemy did not repeat his attacks."

THE FRENCH FRONT.

Heavy Artillery Action Again the Feature.

Paris, Cable — The War Office announcement to-night reads: "During the course of the day the artillery fighting took on the character of quite marked intensity in the region north of the Chemin-des-Dames, between the Aisne and the Miette and at various points of our Champagne front. An enemy attack on our posts in the sector of Maisons de Champagne failed.

"On the right bank of the Meuse the artillery action was violent about mid-afternoon in the sector north of Chambray."

The Belgian War Office report says: "On November 21 quite marked artillery activity was displayed in the region of Langensmeed. Last night a strong German reconnoitering party attempted to approach one of our advanced posts in the neighborhood of Klippe, but our barrage fire, which was immediately started, completely dispersed it. A second attack on our posts in the sector of Ramecapelle and Dixmude, and other points.

ITALIANS ARE HOLDING THE TEUTONS BACK

Stand Firm in Desperate Battles Along the Northern Border.

AGAINST ODDS

All Along, the Enemy Has Three Men to Two of Defenders.

Headquarters of the Italian Army in Northern Italy Cable — The fourth Italian army, under General Robilant is meeting the full force of the tremendous shock of the enemy has concentrated between the Piave and Brenta Rivers. In authoritative quarters the correspondent was told that the enemy forces delivering this blow are in the proportion of three to two as compared with the Italian forces and this is practically the relative strength of the two wings west of the Brenta, where General Pecori commands the first Italian army, and the right wing along the Piave, where the Duke of Aosta holds the enemy as in a vise.

It is in this position that the Fourth army is experiencing the intensest action, with attacks following in rapid succession. Reports early in the day were satisfactory, as the main fighting ground was further north, on the enemy's positions, though at one point the enemy succeeded in breaking through the Italian lines on the foothills of Monte Fontana Secca, compelling the reformation of the defensive lines a little further back.

These fortifications are marked by the heaviest fighting, with the enemy repulsed, coming forward for three successive attacks, which were met at the point of the bayonet and driven back.

Just west of this main field of action the Italian first army rushed the enemy positions near the Brenta River, and in two attacks and counter-attacks held the occupied ground, which was strewn with enemy corpses.

On the lower Piave the enemy forces in the bushes on the west bank of Zenson are now placed at 700 men, who are being raked by the artillery, as they have tried to set up a line of machine-guns across the small area they occupy.

REACH MAXIMUM INTENSITY. An officer accompanied by a civilian observer has just arrived here from the northern fighting front, where they have been watching the operations just to the west of the point where the enemy's mass attacks were reaching their maximum intensity to-day. The centre of this section is along the Brenta River, leading to the large city of Bassano, and thence widening, fan-shaped, into the Venetian plains. The observers were so close to the fighting line that their army automobile narrowly escaped falling into the hands of the enemy.

The fighting ground gave evidence of the intensity of the struggle during the last few days. The positions and trenches lately occupied by the Austrians were strewn with bodies, which lay half-covered with snow, as it was impossible to bury the slain because of the rapid shifting of both lines.

The most desperate fighting was around Monte Melleta, where the Italians held one side of the eminence and the Austro-Germans the other. The enemy's object was to advance through the two valleys of Frenzola and Valstagna, which open directly into Bassano and the plains. Plans found on Austrian officers on the battlefield gave precise directions of the hour and minute at which the advance along these two valleys to Bassano shall be carried out, as though the enemy believed no doubt existed of his successful advance.

THE ITALIAN OFFICIAL. The Rome War Office reports "Yesterday the enemy launched several

attacks between the Brenta and the Piave Rivers. He was singularly repulsed with the bayonet at the barrier lines of St. Marino, where he left prisoners and machine guns in our hands."

"At Monte Pertica the enemy fruitlessly renewed the attack three times. He was arrested completely by artillery fire at Monte Monfenera. A few outstanding elements of our advanced lines on Monte Fantana Secca were reached.

"During the early hours of last night enemy masses on the Asiago plateau attacked our positions at Casera and Meletta d'Avanti, but our troops, offering heroic resistance and counter-attacking promptly, drove them back to the positions whence they started."

"The summits of Monte Fontana and Monte Spinucra, on the northern Italian front between the Brenta and the Piave Rivers, have been captured," the Berlin War Office report states.

BAYONETS AS KNIVES.

Italian Army Headquarters Cable The action ebbs and flows around the slopes of three low mountains just west of the river—Monte Tomba, Monte Monfenera and Monte Cornella. Monte Monfenera is just on the edge of the river, and it is here that some of the most desperate fighting has occurred. It is the key to the situation, as at that point the river turns into the Venetian Plains, and the whole battle hinges on control of the river passage leading to the plains.

The first assaults began five days ago when von Velow's Germans on the lower Piave were swung northward for this supreme blow. The attacks have intensified steadily each day until yesterday and to-day, when they reached the maximum.

Beginning with artillery preparation, the Austro-German infantry advances came in successive waves, first at the northernmost mountain, Cornella, where the Como Brigade of Italians held the line until crowded back by superior numbers. The enemy then took positions back of the town of Quero, and violent artillery and infantry attacks were centred on Monfenera and Tomba.

Much of the fighting in the mountains was at close quarters, with bayonet charges and desperate hand-to-hand struggles along an extended front. Through Monday, Tuesday and today charge followed charge, and counter-charge followed attack. In some of the bloodiest fighting ground has changed hands three or four times.

USE BAYONETS AS KNIVES.

At the little village of Naranzine, on the slopes of Monte Monfenera, the enemy first gained lodgment and sought to surround the large Italian force, but was thrown back by a splendid rally of the Italian lines, which swept forward with cheers until the position was clear. It was the bloodiest kind of fighting, with bayonets first, and then with bayonets wrenched from their sockets and used as double-edged knives.

Again the enemy massed forces higher up on Monte Monfenera, backed by batteries concentrated from all points. Before this intense shellfire the Italian infantry gave ground slowly until the upper slopes were abandoned. But the fighting goes on with unabated desperation, and it is still too soon to say what the outcome may be of this heaviest blow to break through to the western Venetian plains.

The conduct of the Italian troops is above all praise. They are contesting every foot of the way, fighting like tigers and with spirit and confidence, even in the face of greatly superior numbers.

BRITISH WIN IS HEARTENING

Has Good Effect On Wall Street To-day.

Trade Predicts Lower Prices On Coarse Grains.

(Supplied by Tomenson, Forwood & Co., Merchants Bank Bldg.)

Chicago Report — Leading longs in corn are getting out, and the largest shorts are covering on an advancing market. It is regarded as for the best interest of the entire trade to go slowly, on the belief that an evening up of present open trades and dropping of further large operations should be done. It is realized that no economic benefit can come to the market from extensive trading by any individual. The impression prevails that the market has had all the bulge it is entitled to for the present, unless there should be more aggressive covering. One trouble with the market, is the absence of a balance wheel and the disposition on the part of the bears to oversell on weak spots, as the closest market observers see it.

GRAIN OPINIONS.

Bartlett Frazier: There was some good selling of corn around the high point, and we believe that with the amount of short covering which has occurred that the market is in shape to work lower. Oats ought to get fair reaction.

Ware & Leland: It is likely that receipts of corn will have to increase materially and cash premiums decline before the futures will be affected to any appreciable extent.

MORNING STOCK LETTER.

New York Cable — The British victory, which seems to grow, is bound to have a strong effect on the market. It will give the backbone that is needed. We look for much high prices in the leather stocks, especially Hilde & Leather preferred. Tobacco stocks are slated for a good advance. Some of the railroads are high enough. Reading has had a 25 per cent. advance, and is selling as high as it should in the present market. Pennsylvania should do to buy on the weakness like yesterday.

LOSSES LESS THAN CAPTIVES

Great Record of British Troops in New Drive.

Italian Situation Much More Cheerful.

London Cable — The British casualties in the advance toward Cambrai are reported to be very considerably less than the number of prisoners taken, it was announced to-day by Major-Gen. F. B. Maurice, Chief Director of Military Operations at the War Office.

The British, said Gen. Maurice, had advanced to a depth of 6 1/2 miles at the farthest point on a front of ten miles, which was a record advance in 24 hours on the western front, and was further that the progress made during three months' fighting at Ypres.

"The victory at Cambrai, Gen. Maurice continued, was the direct result of the fighting at Ypres and therefore, the men who fought at Ypres deserve equal credit for the Cambrai success.

"We were able to give the Germans a surprise blow at Cambrai," said General Maurice, "because they had skinned this sector like they did along the remainder of the line, in order to prevent us from taking Passchendaele. After we took Passchendaele they brought up a division from the Russian front in an effort to retake it.

"The fighting in the Cambrai operation is all in the open, enabling the cavalry to assist the tanks and infantry. There are no German defences prepared in this sector, and their next line evidently is beyond Cambrai.

"On the Italian front the chances of the Germans breaking through are diminishing hourly. The situation there is more satisfactory than it was a week ago, although it would be premature for me to say that Venice is safe.

"We have, however, reached the stage where there is every reason to have complete confidence in the situation. The Italians have been enabled to bring up guns, ammunition and supplies in ever-increasing quantities and every hour's time gained by them means a more favorable outlook. The time is drawing nearer when the Franco-British reinforcements will be brought into play."

Gen. Maurice announced that the operations in Palestine, near Jerusalem, were continuing with complete success. The British troops were still six miles distant from Jerusalem, fighting in the hills of Judea, he said, and it would be unwise to make any anticipatory statement regarding the fall of the city.

LONG FLIGHT TO HARRY THE TURK

Big Plane Flew From England to Raid Constantinople.

Made a Series of Eight Stops En Route.

London Cable — The Admiralty announces that a successful air attack in the vicinity of Constantinople has been fully accomplished by a large British bombing aeroplane, which flew from England to a British base in the Mediterranean in a series of eight flights. The stopping places included Lyons and Rome, and the total distance covered was nearly two thousand miles.

The machine was actually in the air thirty-one hours. This is believed to be a world's record for a cross-country journey, and for the weight carried. During some parts of the flight strong winds and heavy rainstorms were experienced, and there was one stretch of 200 miles over a mountainous country, where it would be impossible for any machine to land.

London Cable — The Associated Press has received the following telegram from France: "Canada will be intensely interested in the splendidly successful attack on the River Scaupe. The credit of the victory goes to General Byng, the Canadians' former commander. With him are some Dominion Staff officers who elected to go with him when he left the Canadian unit was led by a Canadian officer, who, since the Passchendaele battle, joined Byng's splendid army. The tanks, which broke through the German defences, have hundreds of adventurous young Canadians. This service is becoming as popular with the Dominion troops as the Flying Corps."

MANY CANADIANS RUNNING TANKS

ITALY'S TROOPS ARE CONFIDENT

Rome Cable — With all the Arctic rigors and bloody work at the front, the morale and confidence of the Italian troops is at the top notch. A brigade of Alpini were seen passing to the front. They did not wear those jaunty Alpine hats with a cock's feather, as one sees them in Rome, but were figures in gray, topped with steel. They swung forward rapidly, as though eager to arrive, and to every enquiry they replied with confidence, lacking every trace of vainglory. It is this confidence which is Italy's greatest asset at this critical moment, for the heroic defenders really believe that they will hold the enemy back.