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BRITISH AIR SQUADRON BOMBS MANNHEIM AUSTRO-GERMANS LAUNCH STRONG ATTACK ON NORTHERN ITALIAN FRONT ITALIANS DRIVE TEUTONS FROM ASIAGO PLATEAU POSITIONS DESPERATE FIGHT ENDS IN VICTORY FOR ITALIANS

Launching Attack on Asiago Plateau, Italy's Troops Win Back Positions and Guns Taken By Austro-Germans.

NINE THOUSAND ITALIANS CAPTURED, BERLIN CLAIMS

German War Office Reports Success in Austro-German Attacks on Asiago Plateau—Says Counter-Attacks Failed.

Rome, Dec. 25.—In a desperate battle which lasted all day yesterday, the Italians fought their way back to the positions from which they were forced the previous day on the Asiago Plateau, under an Austro-German attack, according to today's war office statement. Some guns and numerous machine guns which had been abandoned by the Italians in their retreat were recaptured when the old positions were reoccupied.

Berlin, Monday, via British Admiralty, per wireless press, London, Dec. 25.—The capture by Austro-German forces of Col Del Rosso and adjoining heights on the Asiago Plateau in Northern Italy, together with the taking of more than 6000 prisoners, was announced today by army headquarters. The statement reads: "Italian front: Between Asiago and the Brenta troops of Field Marshal Conrad von Hotzendorf stormed Col Del Rosso and the heights adjoining to the west and east. Up to the present more than 6000 prisoners have been brought in."



HELPING THE FORCES OF BRITAIN.—Macedonian children working among the hills, sifting stones for making military roads for the passage of British troops. The two children in the photograph are quite young—under ten years old, in fact—and at the time the photograph was made the temperature was 120 in the shade.

The text of the statement reads: "On the Asiago Plateau the battle, which continued fiercely and sanguinarily the whole day yesterday, diminished in intensity only at nightfall. Our counter-attacks, made several hours before dawn, succeeded, in spite of the difficult terrain and the very low temperature, in arresting the enemy and concentrating the fighting on to the positions from which we had moved the previous day."

Officers Captured. London, Dec. 25.—The Austrian official statement of Monday as received here supplements the German statement of that date regarding the capture of Col Del Rosso by reporting the capture also of Motte Valbella. It states likewise that a colonel and several Italian staff officers were captured.

"The enemy defended the ground gained with great stubbornness, counter-attacking our attacks and concentrating in front of his line a formidable force from numerous batteries."

Italy's Artillery Repulsed. Berlin, Dec. 25, via London.—Italian counter-attacks upon the positions taken in the Austro-German attack of Sunday were repulsed yesterday, as was an Italian drive at Monte Pertica, army headquarters announced today. More than 2000 prisoners were taken in the Col Del Rosso fighting, says the official statement, which reads: "Italian front: A lively artillery duel continued throughout the day between Asiago and the Brenta. Enemy counter-attacks against our newly won positions and a thrust at Monte Pertica were repulsed. The number of prisoners captured as a result of the engagement around Col Del Rosso has increased to more than 9000, including 270 officers."

"During the vicissitude of the fierce struggle some batteries and many machine guns which had been left in the destroyed lines were recovered. An enemy column advancing from Bertico toward the heights to the west of Malga Costalunga was destroyed by our fire."

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MILD WEATHER FAVORS ENEMY UNDERTAKINGS

Absence of Usual Snowfall Tells Against Italians in North.

PIAVE BATTLE RAGES

Austro-Germans Expected to Aim New Blow at Italy.

London, Dec. 25.—The Associated Press correspondent at Italian headquarters in northern Italy reports most unusual weather conditions in this war theatre, with little snow and exceedingly mild temperatures—conditions which are greatly aiding the Austro-Germans in their operations, the shifting of troops and the forwarding of supplies. "The battle is still raging on the Piave front. The Italians announce that they have recaptured, despite stubborn resistance, the positions they had lost the previous day on the Asiago Plateau. Berlin reports, however, tend to minimize the setback, and lay stress on the repulse of Italian counter-attacks against the positions newly won by the Germans and a thrust at Monte Pertica. The Germans report the capture of nine thousand Italians in engagements around Col Del Rosso. "The newspapers announce that the Austro-Germans will probably direct another and greater thrust at a different point, as it would appear from the shifting of large forces to the Franzosella valley and the mountainous region to the north. The move to Venice, seems, however, to have been removed for the time being."

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE GET BIT OF SETBACK

Bolsheviks Angered by German Ban on Conference of Socialists.

HUNS PLAY FOR TIME

Seek to Protract Negotiations, While Rushing Removal of Troops.

London, Dec. 25.—The Bolshevik commander-in-chief, Ensign Krylenko, reports the transference of large numbers of German troops to the western front and the southwestern Russian front.

Civil war in Russia seems to be spreading. The negotiations between the Bolsheviks and the central powers apparently are not proceeding smoothly. Time gained by the Germans in the negotiations would mean so much more time for the shifting of troops, now being carried out with the greatest speed possible.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, has called the attention of the peace delegation to this fact. A special despatch from Brest-Litovsk announces the Germans were not ready yesterday to reply to the Russian peace terms, and consequently the meeting of the peace delegates was postponed until Monday afternoon.

It is reported that the refusal of Germany to issue passports to the German Socialists, Haas, Ledebour and Kautsky, who desire to go to Stockholm to acquaint themselves with the Russian revolutionary conditions, has produced in Russia an impression which may hamper peace negotiations.

Minister Trotsky has sent a telegram to his delegates at Brest-Litovsk in this connection, declaring that if the Germans refused their socialist passports this would create such a bad impression at Petrograd that it was deemed necessary that the German delegation, which is expected here Thursday, should go to Stockholm instead.

The Bolshevik commissioners have issued a manifesto to all Russian workmen declaring that as the armistice will probably be transformed at an early date into a general peace to all the European peoples, preparation of military equipment is a waste of national labor and funds, and that consequently the output must be stopped immediately and replaced by the production of peace supplies, which the country needs. "The newspapers announce that a delegation from the enemy powers is coming to Petrograd to participate in a conference presided over by Trotsky to discuss the political aspects of an eventual peace conference. Another enemy delegation will participate in the commission meeting at Odessa to discuss technical questions."

ENEMY STRIVES HARD TO BREAK THRU TO PLAIN

Austro-Germans Maintain Offensive Against Lines of Italians.

VARY THEIR TACTICS

Test Strength of Italian Positions in Brenta River Sectors.

London, Dec. 25.—The City of Mannheim in Germany, on the Rhine, was bombed by a British air squadron early on Monday, says an official statement covering the operations of army aviators during Sunday and in Monday's early hours. A ton of bombs was dropped and several fires were started. All but one of the British machines returned.

The text of the statement reads: "The enemy's machines were very active on Sunday and five of them were brought down in air fighting, three of them falling in our lines. Two other hostile machines were brought down in our lines by anti-aircraft gunfire. One of these latter was a large, twin-engine machine with three occupants, who were made prisoner."

"Our night-flying machines bombed several of the enemy's airdromes with good effect. At daylight on Monday one of our squadrons bombed Mannheim on the Rhine with excellent results. A ton of bombs was dropped and bursts were observed in the large main station in the works and also in the town, where fires were started. Very heavy anti-aircraft gunfire was directed against our airplanes when they were over their objective and one of our machines was damaged and forced to land. Several of the enemy's scouts made repeated attacks upon our formations, but were driven off. The other machines returned except the one aforementioned."

These valleys lie on opposite sides of the Brenta River, with German divisions operating east of the river in an effort to push thru the valley of San Lorenzo and the Austrians fighting west of the river in an attempt to effect a penetration by the Franzosella route.

The latest attack on the west side of the river was preceded by a heavy bombardment. This preparation was followed up by the advance of successive waves of infantry from a large concentration of enemy forces which succeeded in making a few hundred yards progress. The Italians, however, are still contesting the ground, their counter-attacks being yet in progress.

Enemy troops from the Russian and Rumanian fronts have been identified during the latest attacks. It is established that Austrian troops along the Piave are being shifted to the mountain region with the evident purpose of concentrating all attention on breaking thru from the north.

The menace to Venice from the recent success of the enemy in one of his numerous attempts to cross the old Piave has now been ended by a brilliant night attack. The Seventh Bersaglieri drove the enemy from his foothold on the west bank near the mouth of the river, and forced him back across the stream to his old position on the east bank.

British Attorney-General Arrives at Atlantic Port

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 25.—On a British vessel arriving here today was William E. Thompson, head of the American Red Cross Mission to Russia, who is returning to the United States to make a report of the condition in that country with reference to the work of his organization. Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Company, and Sir Frederick Edward Smith, attorney-general for Great Britain, were also among the cabin passengers. A large number of wounded Canadians returned on the ship.

BRITISH AIRMEN BOMB MANNHEIM

Over Ton of Explosives Dropped on German City—Explosions and Fires Caused in Important Works.

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Investigation proved the men were burned to death after they struck the ground. It was said the machine was flying at a height of 200 feet when it struck a "side slip." When the machine struck the ground the gasolene tank was torn open and ignited by a spark. The men were strapped in and with their machines and clothing affixed were unable to remove the straps.

Port Worth, Tex., Dec. 25.—Lieut. Rainboth and Cadet Manson, Canadian aviators, who had been here about two months in training, were incinerated in an airplane accident yesterday. Their identity was made known by Royal Flying Corps officers tonight. Both of the men were members of the Royal Flying Corps for several months previous to coming to Port Worth.

Local Operations and Artillery Activities Reported in West by British War Office.

London, Dec. 25.—Today's official statement issued by the British war office on the Franco-Belgian front operations reads: "We took a few prisoners in night patrol encounters south of Cambrai. There was considerable reciprocal artillery fire last night west of La Bassée and east of Ypres."

Monday night's war office statement regarding the same war theatre said: "A hostile raiding party was driven off southeast of Ypres. There was considerable hostile artillery fire in the afternoon in the region of Ephey and south of Poelcapelle."

MIMICO MACHINIST IS KILLED BY TRAIN

James Stuart Misses His Footing While Boarding Shunting Engine and Falls Under Wheels.

James Stuart, 48 Springhurst avenue, was instantly killed yesterday afternoon while attempting to board a light engine at Sunnyside station. The accident occurred shortly after 5 o'clock. Stuart, who was employed in the G.T.R. machine shops at Mimico, was in the habit of going to his work on one of the shunting engines passing between the city and Mimico. He missed his footing as he tried to step aboard the engine, and was thrown to the second track. Another train coming at a fast rate of speed from the west rolled over him, crushing and mangle his body almost beyond recognition. He was literally cut to pieces.

The remains were removed to the city morgue, where an inquest will be opened by Coroner Young at noon today. Stuart was 36 years of age, and leaves a wife and one son, nine years of age.

UNEARTH PLAN TO OVERTHROW SOCIAL ORDERS

Shilka Incident Believed First Move in World-Wide Scheme.

GENERAL PROPAGANDA

Bolshevik Enlist Support of American and Irish Agitators.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Evidence has been uncovered by government agents indicating that American Industrial Workers of the World, Russian Bolsheviks, Irish agitators and revolutionists in various countries at war with Germany may be seeking to lay the foundation of an elaborate worldwide plan to overthrow existing social orders.

This was admitted today by officials here in connection with news of the discovery of a quantity of rifles, revolvers and ammunition in the Russian freighter Shilka, which has just arrived at a Pacific port, manned by a notorious Bolshevik crew. Government agents suspect that the guns and munitions were intended for Industrial Workers of the World here, although it was said a full report on the mysterious cargo has not yet been forwarded by officials at the port of arrival.

The Shilka incident is only one of many cases leading officials to believe the connection between parties in several of the allied countries may be more tangible than the indefinite link of moral sympathy. Certain Irish agitators and I. W. W. leaders recently have gone from the United States to Russia, after being in close touch with each other here, and reports have been received that Bolshevik organizers would come to America of re-logic to spread their doctrine of "the world revolution."

Although prosecution of I. W. W. leaders has been vigorous, officials have evidence which they claim shows that the menace of this organization is being held to be supported largely by German money, remains strong. Further action against the agitators is foreseen. This will be hastened if it is found that the band is working with Russian Bolshevik leaders to bring about premature peace in Germany's interests, or to hamper America at home.

Extreme care is being taken by this government to avoid antagonizing the Bolshevik movement in Russia, despite the international trititions it has caused.

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Vertical text on the left margin containing various small notices and advertisements.