

BAKIAN OFFENSIVE IS ON EARLIEST

ITALIAN, FRENCH, BRITISH, SERBIAN AND RUSSIAN TROOPS GATHERED IN SALONIKI REGION

Roumania Preparing to Aid Allies, and Berlin Anxious Over New Danger

BAKIAN OFFENSIVE STARTED WITH RUSSIAN TROOPS HELPING; SERBS CAPTURE FORTS

Russian Troops Arrived a Month Ago But Their Presence Was Not Spoken of--Sharp Fighting in Progress--Athens is Wildly Excited Over Bulgarian Activity

London, Aug. 22.—The offensive in the Balkans is in full swing with Russian troops arriving to fight with the Entente forces and Roumania reported about ready to join in the war on the side of the allies.

Russians There Three Weeks Athens advices received to-day indicate that Russian troops have been in the Balkans for more than three weeks: the initial contingent having apparently arrived at Saloniki some time previous to July 31, the news of their coming having been just released by the Entente censorship.

Came by Siberia. It is only about 350 miles in an air line from the Russian to the Greek border at their nearest points, but Roumania and Bulgaria lie between them and to bridge the distance separating these countries, the Russians were obliged to travel thousands of miles.

Engagement is General. To-day's despatches regarding the military developments in the Macedonian indicate that the engagement is becoming general all along the 150-mile line.

East Out-weighs West. For the moment, at least, the operations on the eastern and western fronts are overshadowed by those in the Balkans. The Entente offensive however is proceeding unintermittently on both these fronts. In the north, France has resumed infantry activity along the Somme, capturing trenches near Estrees and Soyecourt, south of the press north of the line.

Fighting Near Florina. The heaviest fighting is on the front northeast of Saloniki, on the left bank of the Struma River from Kavajala to Barakli. On the western end of the line, hostilities are confined for the most part to artillery.

Another Brantford Boy Mentioned in Dispatches. Major Sydney Wilkes who has been fighting with the British forces in Egypt, has been mentioned in despatches for bravery under fire.

Minor Brushes. Minor artillery and infantry engagements occurred at other parts of the Serbian front during the day. To-day a series of isolated engagements took place all along the front. The Serbs gained a new success in the Moudena sector, throwing back the Bulgarians beyond the Greek frontier at Kukurus and occupying the spurs of that mountain and those of Kaymakalalan.

RUSSIANS ARE AT SALONIKI; GREGCIANS MUCH IMPRESSED

Athens, Monday, July 31, 6 p.m. (via London, Aug. 22—12.25 p.m., delayed by censor).—An initial brigade of Russian troops has arrived at Saloniki to join the Entente Allies in the fighting in the Balkans.

The arrival of the Russians has created a profound impression here. Even the Royalists who have consistently opposed participation in the war by Greece on the side of the Entente Allies, seemed almost stunned by the news that Russian troops had arrived to take the part in the campaign which, under other conditions, might have been taken by the Greek army.

The general feeling here is that the bringing in of Russian troops has dispelled definitely the dream of a greater Greece, which was conceived a year and a half ago by the then premier, Venizelos, who carried Greece well on the way toward entrance in the war with the Entente Allies.

It is regarded as possible that the presence of Russian forces in Macedonia will affect a change in the attitude of Bulgaria. In some quarters irritation is displayed at the recent foreign policy of the Greek government, which is said to have overlooked the interests of the nation.

HARTLEY DEWART WAS RETURNED IN S.W. TORONTO Liberal Standard Bearer Elected in Bye-Election By 600 Majority.

TEMPERANCE MEN FELL DOWN, Did Not Support Government Candidate; Waldron and Connor Negligible.

Toronto, Aug. 22.—Something happened in Toronto yesterday. Just what it was and what caused it both Conservatives and Liberals are unable to state definitely, but the net result of it is that Hartley Dewart, the Liberal standard-bearer, is the member-elect for South-West Toronto, and the first Liberal to represent Toronto riding in something like 18 years.

Liquor Told the Tale. The "explanations" for the remarkable reduction in the Conservative vote and Mr. Dewart's strong poll are as varied as the factors that had a part in the bye-election.

Fighting More General. Paris, Aug. 22.—9.35 a.m.—The fighting on the Saloniki front is becoming more general says a Havas dispatch filed yesterday at Saloniki. In the Doiran section, Serbian troops have captured Forts Kaimakedar and Cucerli.

ROUMANIA MAY ENTER WAR; NEW PHASE OPENING

New Ally Could Throw 800,000 Men Into the Field. BERLIN IS APPREHENSIVE. Despatches from There Indicate All Germans Do Is Hope.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Paris, Aug. 22.—All the morning newspapers comment at length on the possibility of Roumania joining in the war. The meetings that are in progress in Bucharest are taken to mean that all the various developments in the situation are being seriously considered, and the general tone of the comment is that the decisive moment for Roumania's action has arrived.

The operation of the Bulgarian armies in Macedonia are interpreted in some quarters as having been undertaken solely with a view to influencing the decision of Roumania. On all sides it is agreed that a new phase in Balkan history is opening, and the discussion by the press of the various diplomatic phases of the Roumanian situation is followed by an examination of the strength of the Roumanian army.

The statement is made on good authority that the number of Roumanian troops that can be mobilized exceeds 800,000, and that the army is in the best of condition after a long preparation.

Berlin is Nervous. New York, Aug. 22.—A New York Times cable from Berlin, dated Aug. 21, says: The Berlin Boerse reacted sharply to-day to more favorable news from Roumania. The latest reports received from Sofia, Vienna, and Berlin from Bucharest indicate that, for the present at least, sober second thought has been largely dampened the war fever there, due largely to the impression made on the Roumanian Government by war news from the west and east fronts and particularly the progress of the great battle in the Poldia.

King Ferdinand appears still to have the upperhand and conferences of Conservative and pro-German party leaders in Bucharest indicate that powerful circles are working at high pressure to prevent the die being cast for war.

Italy's King Enters Gorizia. Demonstration of Joy As His Motor Car Passed Through the Streets.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Udine, Italy, Sunday, Aug. 20 via Paris, Aug. 22.—King Victor Emmanuel entered Gorizia to-day under the fire of the Austrian artillery. Lucienio bridge, which he crossed to enter the city, continues to be the object of relentless shelling by the Austrian guns, but, unmindful of the danger, the King determined to make a personal visit to the captured city.

Police Force on Strike. Sherbrooke, Que., Aug. 22.—The Sherbrooke police force, turned down when it demanded an increase in pay from the city council, has decided to go on strike.

Steamship Changes. London, Aug. 22.—The important shipping firm of Furness, Withy and Company, Limited, has secured a preponderating interest in the Prince Line steamers, owned by the Prince Line, Limited, of New Castle on-Tyne, comprising upwards of forty vessels ranging from 2,000 to 6,000 tons each and operating in various parts of globe.

TREMENDOUS STRUGGLE IS RAGING ABOUT THE STOKHOD; COMMITTED TO DEFENSIVE

Difficulties of the Country are Tremendous, as Marshy Nature of Soil Renders Dug-outs and Deep Trenches Impossible—New Horrors of Warfare Invented by the Enemy

By Special Wire to the Courier. London, Aug. 22.—(New York Times cable)—A despatch to the Morning Post from Petrograd says: Extremely heavy fighting is still taking place on Brusiloff's front, where practically the whole energy of the Germans on the Russian front now is concentrated, leaving them helplessly committed to a policy of almost passive resistance everywhere.

Brusiloff Dominates Country. Upon the fighting now in progress on Brusiloff's 300 mile front depends the question whether the Germans can hold out or must retire from their whole line of the front in Russia. Brusiloff commands the whole front south of the Pripiet River, and moves forward or keeps stationary his various armies as occasion requires. The difficulties of terrain in this region are excessive. All defensive works must be built above ground, as it is impossible to dig a couple of feet without finding water. A portion of the Stokhod basin, some sixty miles in length and a dozen miles in width, consists of marshy ground.

Country is Marshy. Indeed, on a sufficiently large scale map, the whole region looks like nothing so much as a jigsaw puzzle, the saw lines representing rivers, streams and streamlets, bearing a multitude of names, while most of the pieces between are swampy soil. Here and there slight elevations provide dry land and furious battles are fought for possession of a site that gives some chance of a night's sleep in comparative dryness.

Fate of Enemy Regiment. In one of the combats the Russians caught an Austrian regiment. It was I believe, one composed of Polish legionaries, who fought like tigers on both sides—while attempting an attack over a swamp where every step occupied a couple of minutes. The regiment was unable to get forward or return, caught by Russian maxims, which wiped out every man.

Another Horror of Warfare. The Germans continue to exercise their inventiveness, but always in the same direction, namely the perfecting of some new horror. While at the front I heard of yet another novelty which has just been used at Krevto. The Germans fired home a sort of liquid, which produced a sensation of burning. A man struck say on the arm, was not disabled, and on the second day thought lightly of his burn, but on the third or at the latest on the fourth day, he died. This new devilry produces clotting of the blood and consequent death.

Russia Honors Verdun City. By Special Wire to the Courier. Paris, Aug. 22.—The Russian Government has conferred the Cross of St. George upon the City of Verdun in recognition of its heroic defense. A despatch from Petrograd says a special delegation leaves the Russian capital this week to present the decoration to the Mayor of Verdun, as representative of the city.

Greek Troops Oppose Bulgars and Have Lost Many Soldiers. Greek Commander at Seres Has Called all Reservists There to Arms—Usual Enemy Guarantees Published by Athens Government.

By Special Wire to the Courier. London, Aug. 22.—Greek troops have been fighting the Bulgarians in the vicinity of Seres since Sunday morning, says an Athens despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

The Greek Commander at Seres has called to arms all the reservists in that locality, says the despatch. That the fighting is of a stubborn character is indicated by the fact that a large number of Greek soldiers have been killed.

It was stated in a Paris despatch yesterday that Fourth Greek army corps had fallen back from Seres as well as from Kavala and Drama. Seres is an important city of about 30,000 population, 45 miles north-east of Salonika. Athens, via London, Aug. 22.—The Greek Government has published combined German and Bulgarian guarantees repeating those given at the time of the occupation of Port Rupal, and including promises to respect the territorial integrity of Greece. Assurances are also given of the evacuation of the German and Bulgarian troops when military necessities will permit that the liberty and property of the inhabitants will be respected and compensation allowed for damages occurring from occupation.

Colonial Theatre Monday, Tues., Wednesday, Aug. 21, 22, 23 METRO SPECIAL "A Royal Family" ALSO Feature Serials "GRAY" and "PEG O' THE KING"

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