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Official News.

(Official Admiralty Press News, by Courtesy of Major Abraham, General Staff Officer.)

BRITISH OFFICIAL.
Des. 8. (Early).—The enemy's artillery was active during the night in the neighborhood of Presqueurs and north of Menin Road; otherwise there is nothing to report.
Palestine.—General Allenby reports there is no change in the situation on the Palestine front. Heavy rain fell on Dec. 7th, making roads difficult.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.
Dec. 8. (Late).—Yesterday between Asiago and the head of Frenzela Valley, the movement and assemblies of troops could be observed which always kept out of range of our rifle fire. They were shelled for a long time by the concentrated fire of our batteries and also served as objectives for big bombardment operations carried out by our air squadron and those of our allies. In all 150 machines attacked the enemy lines and caused damage, losses and explosions in munition depots. Descending afterwards to low altitudes the attacking aviators for a long time played with their machine guns on the enemy's troops. During the course of last night our dirigibles flew over the surroundings of Quero and of Mont Lavenza and dropped several tons of bombs on the bivouac of enemy troops and a column on the move.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.
The enemy's artillery activity was directed principally against our positions in the neighborhood of Flesqueurs, Monchy le Preux and on Passchendaele sector. On the west low clouds and bad visibility made conditions less favorable for flying but our aeroplanes observed for our artillery and carried out many low reconnaissances and the usual bombing raids. Hostile troops in trenches were engaged with machine gun fire. Very little fighting took place. One German machine was brought down

and one landed intact behind our lines. Four of our aeroplanes are missing.
Mesopotamia.—After securing Sakaltutan on Dec. 4th, the Turks were pursued as far as the village of Kara Terer, about 25 miles north of Deli Abbas, to which the enemy was driven on the 5th after a sharp engagement. The pursuit was carried out in very difficult country containing bogs and intersected by numerous water courses. Our troops and the Russians fighting on our right flank showed great power of endurance in overcoming all obstacles. On the morning of the 7th our aeroplanes bombed Tuzkurmati with good results and it is reported that they set fire to Kifri coal mine on the 5th and it was observed that fires were burning there on the following day. The total captures between the 3rd and 5th of December amounted to 227 prisoners, including the commander of the 105th and 106th Regiments and six other officers, also two machine guns and one field gun.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.
Washington, Friday.—After a short debate the Senate to-day adopted a resolution declaring war on Austria-Hungary. The House of Representatives also passed the resolution. President Wilson has signed the declaration of war on Austria-Hungary.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.
During last night our airships repeated their daring raids, dropping more than four tons of bombs on enemy encampments near Quieromotta Di Lavenza and Porto Gomano. Four aeroplanes were brought down and a captured balloon on fire fell in the neighborhood of Grisotera.
BRITISH OFFICIAL.
Dec. 9. (Early).—Last night the enemy's artillery was active south of Cambrai, on the right bank of the Scarpe, south of Lens, and in Passchendaele sector. During the afternoon of Dec. 8th naval aircraft carried out a bombing raid on Aryrke aerodrome. Weather conditions were cloudy, but many bombs were dropped on objectives. The bombers were attacked by enemy air craft scouts, two of which were driven down out of

control and appeared to be damaged. Many fights with patrols have been carried out during the course of which two hostile machines were destroyed and one shot down completely out of control. All our machines have returned safely.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.
From Stelvio to Brenta fighting was limited. In Agarina Valley our patrols captured some prisoners. On the Asiago Plateau our battalions completely and heavily shelled hostile forces.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.
Dec. 9. (Late).—On the Cambrai front encounters between our outposts and small parties have taken place. During the day west of Graincourt hostile artillery has been active at a number of points. A raid attempted last night by the enemy south of Lens was repulsed. We secured prisoners. Enemy artillery has shown increased activity in Messines sector. On the 8th inst. rain prevented flying until the afternoon when a certain amount of artillery work and reconnaissance was done. Bombs were dropped by our aeroplanes on hostile billets and many rounds were fired from the air at ground targets. Two of our machines are missing.
Amsterdam.—A Dutch lugger passed in the free zone the wreck of a vessel; no occupants were to be seen.
Washington.—It is announced by the Navy Department that a U. S. destroyer was torpedoed and sunk while patrolling in foreign waters at eight o'clock on Thursday evening. A large part of the destroyer's crew were lost, amongst whom was the commander of the destroyer, who was a brother-in-law of Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy.

(By Courtesy of Commercial Cable Company.)

AT WAR WITH AUSTRIA.
LENA, Dec. 7.
The President of the United States has signed the declaration of war on Austria-Hungary with the approval of Congress.

ITALIAN LOSSES.
BERLIN, Dec. 7.
Four thousand more Italians captured in the new Austro-German offensive on the north front, according to this afternoon's official communication. Monte Sisenol has been taken by storm.

BATTLE CONTINUING ON ASIAGO PLATEAU.
ROME, Dec. 7. (Official).
On the Asiago Plateau the battle is continuing without interruption. The withdrawal of our troops from the Melletia salient to a rear line defence was accomplished Wednesday night and yesterday morning under protection of artillery which held up the advance of the enemy's masses. After violent artillery preparation north of Ronchi Valley to Monte Caberlaba the enemy attempted with large forces, to break our lines south of Galis. The attempt failed owing to the bravery of the Fourth Bersaglieri Brigade in opposing the enemy in a strenuous struggle lasting twelve hours. After six attempts were repulsed in which the enemy suffered severe losses, he was compelled to retreat at Monte Sisenol.

ON THE CAMBRAI FRONT.
LONDON, Dec. 7. (Official).
A successful local operation was carried out to-day north of La Vacquerie. The trenches constituting our objective were captured by Ulster troops, making a considerable improvement in our line at this point. Southeast of Ypres our patrols last

Five Roses Flour

Not Bleached - Not Blended

night successfully attacked hostile workin partjes. Northeast of Ypres a hostile raid was repulsed and a number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy. In these encounters prisoners were taken. The afternoon official announcement says infantry action on the Cambrai front during the night was confined to patrol encounters, in which we secured prisoners. The enemy's artillery on both banks of the Scarpe has shown increasing activity. An official issued by the war office to-night says local engagements on both sides of Graincourt were successful for us.

ROMANIANS JOIN ARMISTICE.
JASSY, Roumania, Dec. 6.
The Russian command having proposed an armistice to the enemy and Roumanian troops, it was decided that the Roumanian troops should associate themselves with this proposition. As a consequence hostilities were suspended at 8 o'clock.

BOLSHEVIKI IN CONTROL.
PETROGRAD, Dec. 8.
Fifteen hundred Bolsheviki are reported to have arrived at Vladivostok indicating that the Bolsheviki Government is in control of the trans-Siberian railway.

ITALIANS HARD PUSHED.
ROME, Dec. 9. (Official).
The Italian army has been forced to yield more ground, the Austro-Germans having driven a wedge between Monts Tondarecar and Badeneche, are now thrusting at Valstagna on the Brenta. Three days' bombardment and large use of asphyxiating gases enabled the enemy to eliminate the arch which constituted our foremost line of defence on the eastern side of the Asiago Plateau. The retreatment was accomplished gradually,

every inch being contested stubbornly. The Rustr-Germans are now holding a wedge between Monte Tonarecar and Badeneche and attempting to force a way to Fozza to strike our lines from the rear and invade Valstagna district. The valor of our soldiers is unparalleled. Entire regiments of Italian troops surrounded Monte Fler and Castle Gomberto, and sacrificed themselves to retard the invaders' advance, enabling the remainder of our units to retire to new lines. A formidable new enemy attack is expected, our aviators reporting large numbers of Austro-German troops streaming into Asiago Plateau from all directions.

AUSTRIAN REPORT.
VIENNA, via London, Dec. 7.
The total number of Italian prisoners captured since Tuesday in East Asiago, is 15,000.

THE GAS DID IT.
NEW YORK, Dec. 9.
The Times' correspondent, under date of Dec. 7th telegraphs that gas, and not German shells, drove the British troops out of Beaurion Wood, the men being unable to live there with their gas masks off. The big guns were taken back to vantage points from which to shell the German lines.

SEVER'S CONNECTION WITH GERMANY.
QUAYAYUQUIL, Dec. 8.
It is officially announced that Ecuador has severed diplomatic relations with Germany.

ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVE.
LONDON, Dec. 8.
British headquarters to-night reports that local fighting occurred this

afternoon east of Boursies. No infantry action on the remainder of the front. Enemy artillery was active during the day against our positions in the neighborhood of Flesqueurs, Monchy le Preux and Passchendaele sectors.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.
PARIS, Dec. 8.
Active artillery fighting occurred last night on the right bank of the Meuse between Bezonvaux and Beaumont and in the vicinity of Hill 344. South of Senones a German raid was repulsed completely. Comparative quiet on the remainder of the front.

GIVEN PRESS NOTICE.
TOKIO, Dec. 6.
President Wilson's message to Congress, published throughout Japan, received unusual editorial notice, special stress being laid on the advantage of a complete exposition of the principles for which the United States entered the war.

U. S. DESTROYER SUNK.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.
The United States destroyer Jacob Jones has been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine while on patrol duty in foreign waters. Sixty-nine officers and men have been lost. 37 saved.

ANOTHER AIR RAID ON LONDON.
HALIFAX, Dec. 9.
Another raid has taken place on London by six airplanes, two of which have been captured and four driven back. Seven persons were killed and thirty injured. One of the latest of German submarines has been captured by a United States warship and towed into Boulogne. The crew mu-

tinied and killed the captain and officers of the submarine.

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at
in the afternoon the
the new Methodist Church
by Rev. J. R. Saint,