

# GREAT AUSTRIAN DRIVE!

## GERMANS IN FRANCE MET BLOODY DEFEAT

Marvellous French Forces Not Only Masters of Enemy Hordes Which Still Outnumber Them, But They Have Inflicted a Six-Day Verdun on Teutons Which Will Prove Hard Blow To Enemy.

French in Possession of Most Important Strategic Points and Foch Has Situation Well in Hand—Allies Prepared To Meet Next German Drive For Paris.

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Wilbur Forrest)

With the French armies Saturday, June 15—the sober military view of the situation on the western front today finds it like the first real day of sunshine after weeks of rain. The marvellous French army and the equally marvellous leaders are not only masters of the enemy hordes which still outnumber them, but they have inflicted a six-day Verdun on the Germans which will prove to be a hard blow to the enemy's future operations.

The battle between Montdidier and Noyon beginning early in June and probably ending today, because yesterday and last night proved the enemy's inability to carry on the fighting in that sector, is one of the bloodiest defeats for the Germans since the six months' struggle before Verdun.

**Foch Prepared.**  
The French are in possession of the important strategic points that lie in the line gained by counter-attacks and at this moment it may be stated that Foch has the situation well in hand. He is prepared to meet with his inter-allied forces, the enemy's next move whatever or wherever it may be.

The Allied reserves are ready for the next stage of the great battle which Ludendorff is now forced to continue like a gambler who plunges to the end. Next to the Kaiser and Ludendorff and Hindenburg the greatest insane murderer in Germany today is Von Hutler, the general who invented the new German mass system of attack which was first attempted last fall before Riga. It again gained considerable success in the offensive of March 21 against the British in Flanders, though at a heavy cost. Its next success was in the surprise attack between Soissons and Rheims where its losses may be said to have compensated for the terrain won if Germany finally emerges from the war victorious.

**The German Dead.**  
But nothing can compensate the German people for their multitudes of dead lying still unburied today behind the narrow bulge of the Montdidier-Noyon line where Von Hutler's mass system proved to be the bloodiest slaughter in the consideration of time of the entire European war. I have already told how during the past six days the French cannon and machine guns levelled the closely ranked grey-green figures down like a moving machine cuts hay. The French burial squads are still working on the terrain retaken in the counter-attacks putting these corpses under ground. The work is terrific, but it is necessary. It is probable that the German troops on the other side of the line are engaged in the same kind of work.

**Germany Ignorant.**  
During this last great battle the people of Germany have not been permitted to know of these scenes. The German leaders dare not tell them. The soldiers who know are being carefully herded away from the interior of Germany. Even the desperately wounded lie in hospitals in Belgium, beyond which country to build an impenetrable wall of silence through which the real truth cannot filter. The third stage of the battle has been a great defeat for Ludendorff. It was a broken bugaboo that the Von Hutler system of mass attack could not be stopped. It has eaten into the one reserve enormously. It has weakened the enemy's morale and strength.

## WOMEN MAKE REFORM PLEA

Brantford, Ont., June 16.—At the closing session Saturday afternoon of the annual meeting of the National Council of Women the following resolutions were passed:  
"That the National Council of Women request the War Trade Board to direct the distribution of wool tops and spun yarn and worsted, so that it be not released for the manufacturer."

"That the National Council of Women do once more urge upon the government the importance of immediately establishing a federal department of public health, including bureaux of child welfare and venereal diseases, under the direction of a minister chosen, not on account of political affiliation, but only on the basis of competency."  
"That the National Council of Women express their indignation that the senate refuses its consent to the amendments to the criminal code raising the age of consent to eighteen years, thus preventing legislation for which the National Council has worked since 1895."  
"That the National Council of Women, realising their responsibilities towards the thousands of young girls who are congregated in our cities, owing to the opportunities of obtaining remunerative work, consider the absolute necessity of some better protection to be provided for them, in suitable housing accommodations."

## BRITISH TROOPS TAKE A GERMAN FRONT POSITION

Make Sweep on Two-Mile Front Just North of Bethune.

## THE FRENCH RETAKE COEUVRES-ET-VALSERY

The Enemy Also Driven Out of the Small Village of Xivray.

London, June 16.—British troops in a local operation have captured the German forward positions on a front of two miles north of Bethune, according to Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France tonight. The text of the statement reads:  
"The number of prisoners taken by us in the successful operation carried out last night north of Bethune is 194. We also captured several machine guns. As a result of this attack our troops have gained possession of the enemy's forward positions on a front of two miles, securing all our objectives."  
"In the fighting reported this morning east of Nieppe forest the enemy, by a local attack, carried out under a heavy bombardment, succeeded in driving in three of our advanced positions west of Vieux Berquin."

"The hostile artillery was active this morning east of Arras and has shown some activity this afternoon north of Bethune."  
London, June 16.—The German late Saturday night carried out heavy bombardments against British positions north of Bethune and between Loere and the Ypres-Comines canal, says the British official communication issued today. The artillery was particularly active early Sunday morning in the neighborhood of Diekebusch Lake.  
The text of the communication follows:  
"Yesterday afternoon one of our ratings parties entered a German post northwest of Beris and brought back eleven prisoners. Further successful raids were carried out by us during the night south of the Somme and in the neighborhood of Hebuterne. They resulted in the capture of twelve prisoners and three machine guns."  
"The hostile artillery developed considerable activity during the night north of Bethune and between Loere and the Ypres-Comines canal, being especially active early this morning in the neighborhood of Diekebusch Lake."

## TWO MORE SHIPS SUNK OFF U. S.

Total of Twenty Sent to Bottom Since Submarine Campaign Began There.

Washington, June 16.—The Norwegian sailing ship *Kringdalen* has been sunk by a German submarine ninety miles off the Virginia coast. The crew has been picked up by an American ship.  
The Norwegian barque *Sanos*, 1,061 tons net from Buenos Ayres, was sunk by gunfire from a German submarine about ninety miles off the Virginia coast at 9 a. m.  
Fifteen members of the *Sanos*' crew were rescued. The sinking of the *Sanos* brings the total shipping losses to twenty as a result of the German submarine raid on the American coast.

## MINTO COAL FIELDS ARE VERY PROMISING

G. A. O. Gabany, Geologist for the Peabody coal interests of the United States who was at the Minto coal fields last week and will spend the coming week investigating the possibilities for coal mining in that district, said last night to the Standard that he believed there was a future for that district. "There seemed to be plenty of coal and from what he had seen if he would consider it a good coal for domestic use or for steam plants."  
If the necessary areas could be secured his company were willing to go in and mine coal there, and if they did go in their output would be not less than 1,000 tons per day. They would use what is called the stripping process and each machine used for stripping cost about \$100,000. To mine the amount they desired would call for an expenditure of between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

## THE ITALIANS RECOVER MANY POSITIONS THEY LOST IN THE FURIOUS AUSTRIAN ATTACK

Long, Expected Austrian Drive in Italy Launched At Daylight Saturday Along Entire Front From Asiago Plateau To Adriatic Sea After the Enemy Had Rained a Hurricane of Shot and Shell on Allied Ranks—Everywhere Fighting Is of Extremely Sanguinary Character, Especially East of the Asiago Plateau, in the Brenta Valley and on Mont Grappa.

In Initial Struggle the Enemy Succeeded in Capturing Several Front Line Positions in the Mountain Region From the British and Also in Crossing the Piave River—Counter Attacks However Have Restored All the Positions in the Mountains, Including Those on British Front—Austrians Claim To Have Captured Ten Thousand Prisoners.

The long expected Austrian drive in Italy was launched at daylight Saturday along the entire front from the Asiago Plateau to the Adriatic Sea, after the enemy had rained a hurricane of shot and shell upon the allied ranks.

Having made extensive preparations for the drive by bringing up strong reinforcements in men and guns, many of them brought from the former battle line in Rumania and Galicia as a result of the debacle in the east, the enemy is using them without stint in order to debouch from the mountain passes and cross the Piave river and gain the Venetian plains.  
Everywhere the fighting is of an extremely sanguinary character, especially east of the Asiago Plateau, in the Brenta valley and on Mont Grappa. In the initial struggle the enemy succeeded in capturing several front line positions in the mountain region from the British and also in crossing the Piave. Counter-attacks, however, have restored all the positions in the mountains including territory to a depth of 1,000 yards along a 2,500 yard front captured from the British. At last accounts the allied troops everywhere were strongly holding the enemy and King Victor Emmanuel's men were gallantly striving to throw back the invaders across the Piave. The Italians have taken more than 3,000 Austrian prisoners, among them eighty-nine officers. As yet the Vienna war office have given brief mention to the battle, saying that the Austrian armies had invaded the Sette Comuni Plateau, lying at an altitude of 3,400 feet northwest of Asiago, and that up to noon Sunday more than 10,000 Italian, English and French soldiers and a considerable number of guns had been captured.

**Italian Statement**  
Rome, June 16.—A battle of great violence, in which large masses of infantry are being used by the Austrians in an attempt to break through the Italian lines, in the eastern sector of Asiago Plateau, in the Brenta Valley and on Mont Grappa is described in the official report from Italian headquarters today. The enemy's attacks were met in the advanced defensive area.  
"The Italian forces are firmly holding the Asiago front, according to the war office announcement. They have completely reoccupied the original positions on Asolone and Monte Solarolo and are closely pressing the enemy along the Piave."  
The statement reads: "A great battle has been in progress on our front since yesterday."

**Violent Gun-fire**  
"After artillery preparations, which was exceptionally intense on account of the violence of the fire and the number of guns employed, the enemy has begun his expected offensive by launching large masses of infantry to attack our positions in the eastern sector of Asiago Plateau, at the end of the Brenta Valley, and on Mont Grappa, by attempting at several points to force the Piave, and by carrying out heavy local demonstrative actions on the remainder of the front."  
"Our infantry and that of the allied contingents fearlessly bore the tempest of destructive fire, and, supported by a barrage of their own artillery, our preparations with a timely and deadly counter-preparation and bombardment, bravely sustained the enemy's onslaught in the advanced defensive area."

**British Statement.**  
London, June 16.—The Austrian troops who penetrated the line held by them on the Italian front have been driven back and the British line has been completely re-established. This announcement is made tonight in the official statement issued by the war office on the operations in Italy.  
The statement says:  
"The pocket in the British front mentioned in the communique of last night has been cleared of the enemy during the night and the early hours this morning, and we are now again established on our original front line."  
"Our Austrian divisions attacked the British line Sunday and on the left penetrated the front to a depth of a thousand yards along an extent of 2,500 yards. There the enemy was held the official statement continues. "Over 350 prisoners have been counted and we have in addition captured two mountain guns and a considerable number of machine guns."

**Gallant Italians.**  
"In the early hours of yesterday, when the hostile attack was first launched, invaluable assistance both in infantry and artillery was immediately provided by the Italians on our left, and this assistance was largely responsible for bringing the Austrian infiltration to an immediate halt."  
Heavy fighting is continuing in many places along the Piave, on the eastern end of Montebello height and astride the Brenta Valley.  
Three additional enemy airplanes were destroyed in air fighting yesterday, seven having previously been reported. The clouds remained low and distant reconnaissances were impossible. The energy of our air service has been mainly confined to attacks on bridges for troops, which the enemy was attempting to throw across the Piave. In these attacks the aviators have been very successful.

## TWO BODIES FOUND IN CHAMCOOK LAKE

Special to The Standard  
St. John, N. B., June 16.—The bodies of Daniel Irwin and Samuel Macfarlane, who were drowned in Chamcook Lake May 1, were recovered today, they having come to the surface forty-six days in the water. The bodies rose near where the overturned canoe was found on the site of the accident. Divers were employed a few days after the men were lost and they searched for three weeks unsuccessfully. The bodies were badly decomposed and were buried today.

Irwin and Macfarlane were fishing at the time of the accident, of which there were no witnesses. Irwin was the captain of the late Sir William Van Horne's yacht. Both men were married and leave families.