

BARRIER RAISED BY ITALIANS AND ALLIES STILL BLOCKS ENEMY

Austrian Offensive Thus Far Has Met With Almost Signal Failure All Along Front.

BIG BATTLE ALONG PIAVE Invaders Being Pushed Back Toward the River and Are in Precarious Situation.

THEIR BRIDGES MISSING Little Fighting in Progress On the Front in France.

The barrier the Italians and their allies have raised along the great battle area from the Asiago plateau to the sea remains impenetrable to the Austrians.

The operations by which the enemy had hoped to press his way from the mountain peaks in the Alps and across the Piave river to the plains of Venetia thus far have met with almost signal failure. Where the enemy was able in the mountains to press back slightly the allied defenders of the front in the first day of their offensive the ground has been regained; where he crossed the Piave river and apparently was threatening the plains with invasion, he now is being sorely harassed at every point by the Italians.

The battle is not a stalemate. In the mountains the Italians, British and French troops seemingly have the upper hand; along the Piave from the Montello plateau to the mouth of the river east of Venice the Italians, notwithstanding vicious thrusts by the enemy here and there, apparently are gaining the upper hand.

Little fighting of moment is in progress in the mountain region, but all along the Piave battles of great violence are in progress with the invaders meeting resistance upon which they had not counted and being steadily pushed back toward the western bank where the Italians have pressed back the enemy closer toward the Piave, while at Lison, near the Fossata canal, enemy attacks were repulsed. Farther down the stream, a short distance from the Venetian plain, the Italian front line has been pierced by the enemy, but 200 prisoners and firmly held their ground against a counter attack.

In the violent air fighting that is in progress all along the front, the allied aviators have joined the allied armies and are performing daring feats. Among the enterprises carried out by them has been the bombing of pontoon bridges thrown by the enemy across the Piave.

Empty stomachs continue to play an important role both with the Austro-Hungarian armies and the people inside the dual monarchy. Prisoners taken by the Italians are noticeably ill-fed. In the Italian front line, cities and towns in the empire and kingdom because of lack of food. The people, even officials, are declared to be at their wit's end in endeavors to alleviate the situation. The Hungarian premier is said to have told parliament that the kingdom has only one-fourth the food necessary to maintain the people in health and that it would be hard to hold out until the new harvest is garnered.

Even in the Italian theatre, little fighting is in progress. Southwest of Soissons, near Faverolles and a little farther south near Hautvesnes the French in more of their daily attacks have bettered their positions and taken prisoners from the Germans. In the regions of Arves and Albert the British likewise have made gains and also repulsed German attacks near Morris, on the Flanders front.

The German official communication records the repulse of an American attack northwest of Chateau Thierry, in the Marne region, and asserts that the Americans suffered heavy losses. This probably refers to the fighting of Thursday in the Belleau wood, where the Americans advanced their lines more than half a mile after the enemy had refused to accept the gauge of battle.

GUM CAUSED ILLNESS. Man Held at Selma Charged With Distributing It to Children. Raleigh, June 21.—Pending the report of a chemist as to the analysis of chewing gum which it is alleged has produced sore throats and illness among children of several communities in North Carolina, the trial of B. W. Pulliam, under arrest at Selma for distributing the gum, has been deferred by the United States commissioner at Selma. Federal authorities are making efforts to arrest two other men supposed to be in charge of the wholesale distribution of the gum.

Heavy Floods Tear Up Austrian Communication Lines Along the Piave

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, June 21.—(By the Associated Press).—Fresh rains have torn up the Piave river into a swirling yellow flood which moves silently but swiftly, dealing a fatal blow to the Austrians on its western bank, tearing up the communication lines and preventing succor being given the shattered divisions struggling under the steady pounding of the Italian guns of the Duke of Aosta's third army.

The satisfaction of the Italians over the present situation is matched only by the anger of the Austrian command. According to prisoners the swollen river has been the culmination of a series of difficulties which prevented the Austrians from making headway either on the Montello plateau or that section of the country lying between the Treviso-Mestre and the San Dona di Piave-Mestre railway line where the fighting has been hard and cruel all the time with the Austrians sorely pressed at every point and harassed on both sides of the river by the Italian small guns and also huge pieces belonging to the navy mounted on boats which move about the waterway at will.

ANOTHER AUSTRIAN DRIVE IS EXPECTED

Considered Only Question of a Brief Lapse of Time Before New One is Started.

CONCENTRATE THIS TIME

Present Drive, Carried Out As General Attack, Is Believed to Have Been the Plan of General Ludendorff.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, June 20.—(By the Associated Press).—It is considered only a question of a brief lapse of time before the Austrians will begin another offensive. It is said that this time they probably will concentrate their efforts instead of scattering them as they did a week ago when they followed the German plan of attempting to make a big general offensive over a long line before revealing their point of attack.

It is thought that the plan was even dictated by Gen. Ludendorff, the German commander, who did not realize that the Austrians were too weak to attempt the fact that the Austrians will feel the necessity of renewing their attack.

AUSTRIAN LOSSES ON ALLIED FRONT EXCEED 120,000 MEN

Paris, June 21.—The Austrian losses in their offensive on the Italian front exceed 120,000 men, according to a dispatch to La Liberté from Rome, quoting the correspondent of the Corriere D'Italia.

SWEDEN CAN'T SUPPLY SHIPS WITH PROVISIONS

Vessels Leaving American Ports Have to Take on Supplies Sufficient for Return Voyage.

An Atlantic Port, June 21.—Evidencing the acute food situation in Sweden, it is now necessary for Swedish ships leaving this port to be provided with supplies and coal for the return trip to United States ports. Licenses are being granted for the purpose by the United States shipping board.

The fact was disclosed today when the masters of two Swedish ships about ready to sail from this port, presented themselves at local ship chandlers with the necessary federal permits for supplies and coal for the return voyage.

The captains of the two vessels confirmed statements that it was impossible to re-provision or re-coal ships in Swedish ports. They attribute this partly to the fact that profiteers have sold much of the nation's food supply to the German government owing to exorbitant prices obtained. They also declared that livestock in the country is perishing from starvation and that conditions are rapidly growing more acute. Careful supervision of all supplies furnished by federal agents guarantees that no surplus food is permitted on ships, for fear it might reach Germany.

Half Prisoner Exchange. Moscow, June 11.—(By the Associated Press).—Because of a disagreement with Germany concerning the exchange of war prisoners, the Russian change of war prisoners has issued an order to stop immediately the repatriation of all Germans between the ages of 16 and forty-five years who are fit for military service.

ADDITIONAL GAINS MADE BY ITALIANS

Counter-Offensive Along the Piave Continues to Press the Austrians Back.

ALSO LOSE ON MONTELO

Five Attacks on the Italians at Lison, on the Piave, Made by Austrian Airmen Are Already Taking Part in the Fighting.

Rome, June 21.—Italian forces yesterday continued their counter-offensive on the Piave river front in the region of Fagare and Zenson and gained further ground from the Austro-Hungarians, the Italians war office announced today.

"For the first time," the statement says, "our airmen and those of our allies had as companions during American pilots who, as soon as they arrived at the front, wished to participate in the battle.

The Austro-Hungarian pressure continued strongly on the Montello yesterday, the war office announces, but everywhere the invaders were checked and the Italians, counter-attacking, regained ground.

The Austro-Hungarians launched five heavy attacks on the Italian lines at Lison, to the west of San Dona di Piave. Exhausted by their exceptional losses, the attackers were forced to retire in the face of the Italian resistance.

The statement issued by the Italian war office says: "On the Montello yesterday the pressure of the enemy continued strongly but everywhere he was held by our troops who, counter-attacking, regained ground. Advances attempted by the army towards the west and south animated the struggle, particularly east of the Ca-Ghellera-Bavaria line and the vicinity of the Nervosa station.

The Pilsa brigade and the 29th and 30th regiments, advancing with admirable elan, captured 400 prisoners and a number of machine guns. They wrested contact from the enemy two or our batteries of medium calibre which were promptly put into action against the enemy.

"On the Piave the struggle was concentrated in some sectors. West of Cardafu a hostile attack was completely repulsed.

"More to the south, in front of Fagare and Zenson our counter-offensive action began on the night of June 19-20 has continued irresistibly and has taken us on to the positions which we held the day before.

"The enemy suffered losses equal to his atrocious resistance. Several hundred prisoners remained in our hands.

"In the area west of San Dona di Piave the enemy attempted a strong action against Lison (northeast of Meolo). At first he was stopped by our fire. He renewed his attacks four times in vain until, exhausted by the exceptionally heavy losses suffered, he was forced to yield in the face of the dauntless valor of the Sardianis and the 15th and 152nd regiments, which were valiantly helped by the 11th battalion of the 29th Infantry, the Bisagno brigade and by a Bersaglieri cyclist column.

"North of Cortellazzo (at the mouth of the Piave) parties of sailors and Bersaglieri daringly broke in the enemy's lines, capturing 200 prisoners afterwards firmly holding the positions.

"At Cavanzucchetto (at the eastern end of the swampy region near the coast) we extended our bridgehead.

"The aviators, in spite of adverse atmospheric conditions, carried out their usual activity. Enemy machines were brought down.

"For the first time our airmen and those of our allies had as their companions daring American pilots who, as soon as they arrived at the front, expressed a desire to participate in the battle.

"The valiant Major Daratts, who had won his 34th victory, did not return from his 35th instant from a heroic war flight."

AMERICAN STEAMER IS SUNK IN COLLISION

Steamer Schurz Sent Down Off North Carolina Coast Yesterday. One Seaman Killed.

Washington, June 21.—Sinking of the American steamer Schurz in collision with the American steamer Florida off the North Carolina coast early today was announced tonight by the navy department. One seaman was killed, but all others of the Schurz's crew were saved.

The collision occurred at 4:40 o'clock this morning, ten miles southwest of Cape Lookout. The Schurz was afloat for two hours after being struck and the Florida stood by to take off her ship's company. The Schurz was the former German ship Geler of 1,600 tons burden. 225 feet in length. Manuel Gouveia, Jr., of Honolulu, was the man killed. The survivors were being taken to an Atlantic port when the report reached the department. Nothing was given out as to the circumstances of the collision.

ONE ENEMY PLANE BROUGHT DOWN; BRITISHER MISSING

London, June 21.—The official statement on aerial operations, issued tonight, says: "On the 20th instant low clouds and rain greatly hampered flying operations. One enemy machine was brought down and one of our machines is missing."

ROUND UP IDLERS AFTER JULY FIRST

All Men of Draft Age Must Either Engage in Useful Occupations of Fight.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BOARDS

Crowder Explains the Work of Fight Order Which Becomes Effective Monday Week—Chauffeurs Regarded Essential.

Washington, June 21.—Instructions to draft boards were issued today by Provost Marshal General Crowder explaining and amplifying the work of fight order under which after July 1 all men of draft age, regardless of their present classifications, must engage in employment held to be productive or join the army.

"When it has been determined that a person in deferred classification is an idler or is engaged in non-productive service," say the instructions, "the classification and order number of such person will be withdrawn and he will be immediately inducted into the military service."

Several specific rulings are made as to the effect of the order upon certain classes named as non-productive. In the case of sports and amusements the language of the order is repeated with emphasis but without mentioning professional baseball, an expected announcement of deferred classification had been awaited with keen and widespread interest. In making public the instructions, however, officials of Gen. Crowder's office said baseball playing "at present" is regarded as non-productive though there will be no ruling until an individual case has been appealed from a local board.

Chauffeurs "public and private" are eliminated from the non-productive class unless they engage in work held to be non-productive in addition to their mechanical duties. This feature of the instructions attracted attention because it would class as useful a family chauffeur who performed his duties and would send him into the army if he also acted as butler or handy man around the house.

The boards are directed to apply common sense in considering without the aid of the emergency order, and to aid registrants in making necessary changes in employment by furnishing lists of those summoned for examination to the United States employment service.

RE-OPEN HEARINGS ON PROHIBITION QUESTION

Senate Committee Reluctant to Adopt Jones Amendment If It Would Hamper Shipbuilding.

Washington, June 21.—Hearing that absolute prohibition might so affect the labor of the country as to interfere with the prosecution of the war, the Senate agriculture committee decided to reopen hearings on the Jones prohibition amendment to the \$11,000,000 emergency agricultural appropriation bill in order to investigate more fully that phase of the question. The hearings were to have been resumed tomorrow but owing to inability to representatives of the shipping board and others to be present they were postponed until next Tuesday.

In reaching agreements to continue the hearings the committee called upon Secretary Daniels, Postmaster General Burleson, Chairman Hurley and Bainbridge Colby of the shipping board; Director General Schwab of the emergency food corporation and the heads of a number of industrial plants employing large numbers of men to appear as witnesses. Supporters of the amendment also plan to call a number of witnesses and Senator Gore of Oklahoma, chairman of the committee, who returned to Washington last night to take charge of the bill, said the hearings would continue two or three days.

Decision to hold further hearings resulted from testimony given this week before the committee by Mr. Colby who declared that the taking of beer from shipyard employees would lessen their efficiency and reduce the tonnage output about 25 per cent.

When the committee met today Senator Kenyon, republican, of Iowa, and other supporters of prohibition, declared opposition to reporting favorably the Jones amendment if it would interfere with the successful prosecution of the war and said that before they cast their votes they desired to ascertain further if the opinion expressed by Mr. Colby indicated clearly the shipping board's attitude.

BREAD RIOT IN VIENNA WERE RENEWED THURSDAY

London, June 21.—Now bread riots started Thursday night in the Favoriten and Brigittenau districts of Vienna and there are more than 150,000 unemployed workers on strike in the Austrian capital, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Vienna.

An attempt to attack the German embassy in Vienna, according to Vienna correspondents of Munich newspapers, was dispersed by the police. There were many arrests and some persons were injured. There were many cries of "Germany is starving us. Down with Germany."

AIRPLANES MAY BE FLYING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO EUROPE IN A FEW MONTHS

British Air Council Decides Upon Trans-Atlantic Air Route From This Country as a Definite Project—Initial Flight to Be Made Next Four Months—Gen. William Brancker Of England Talks of the Plan.

Washington, June 21.—Establishment of an air route to Europe from the United States in order to bring the full force of American effort in the air to bear against Germany, has been decided upon as a definite project by the British air council, the new organization into which all British air service has been merged. This was disclosed today by Maj. Gen. William Brancker, controller of equipment on the council, who is in Washington to discuss this and other projects relating to air warfare with American officials.

Plans for an initial flight cross the Atlantic in August, September or October of this year are already well advanced. American co-operation is sought and Gen. Brancker hopes that the first machine to make the crossing will carry both British and American pilots. At least three British pilots regarded as qualified for the trip are now here and several types of machines produced in England have ample fuel capacity for the forty hours of flying it is estimated the trip would take. The attitude of the American government toward the project has not been disclosed, although Gen. Brancker laid stress on the fact that the sole purpose of the trip was to blaze a new trail to Europe over which American aircraft can be delivered next year without taxing shipping. Presumably it arises from the fixed purpose of the British air ministry to carry the bombing warfare into Germany on a steadily increasing scale until not a vital spot in the German empire is safe from allied raids.

After Gen. Brancker had made public his plans, Secretary Baker said that no army aviation officer had yet (Continued on Page Two).

SEVERE PUNISHING IS GIVEN THE HUNS

American Artillery Pours Avalanche of Shells Into Wood Near Chateau Thierry.

Many Germans Known to Have Been Assembled There—Perishing's Men Straggle Out Lines North of Belleau Wood.

With the American army in France, June 21.—(By the Associated Press).—The American forces northwest of Chateau Thierry this morning further straightened their line by a series of small but brilliantly executed attacks on the north side of Belleau wood.

American artillery at midnight last night poured an avalanche of projectiles into the wood to the east of Chateau Thierry where aerial photographs had showed there was a host of German troops and much enemy material. The enemy undoubtedly was severely punished. The American fire reached the highest concentration in a 10-minute period when 1,200 shells of all calibres fell on one small area. Later the American gunners concentrated their fire on the town of Brasles where many of the enemy were assembled and which was the scene of recent captures of prisoners by our patrols. Aerial observations today show the extreme urgency of our fire, but of course the exact effect is unknown.

The American troops rushed the desired positions held by the enemy in Belleau wood without the customary artillery preparation. The Germans for the most part took a few shots and then retired. One enemy post held its ground and was quickly annihilated.

To the east of Belleau wood, a thin line of American skirmishers advanced firing as they went, and obtained their objectives without difficulty. All the operations were carried out as planned. As a result the American positions have been strengthened and we are better able to withstand an assault when it comes.

GERMANY'S BEST TROOPS PLACED BEFORE AMERICANS

With the American army in France, June 21.—(By the Associated Press).—The formation of the German 8th division was placed in front of the American troops northwest of Chateau Thierry and also why a prize regiment of that division now is in the front line is shown by a letter taken from a prisoner. The letter was written June 20 by Grenadier Landauer of the Grenadiers' regiment, 110, to his relatives in Germany. It is Grenadier Landauer himself who is the prisoner and his letter is eloquent testimony as to the impression the Americans have made on the emperor's best troops. The letter reads: "We are again in the front line because the American regiment opposite us has achieved some success and we as a model division, are to make good this loss. "At the present moment we are lying in reserve in a small wood where we have made dugouts and are furnished here with all sorts of stuff, from a nearby inn. Of course we are getting all sorts of knocks from the enemy artillery which especially at night shoots at us accurately. "I have heard with joy that no harm come to you through the acts of enemy aviators. "Letters taken from other prisoners which had been written to them by German civilians said that the writers were safe, notwithstanding the air raids made by allied aviators. One letter mentioned the recent raid on Karlsruhe and after describing the results, he killed and wounded and the property damage said: "These rasals waited until Corpus (Continued on Page Two).

BASEBALL STILL HANGS IN BALANCE

Players So Far Not Exempted From Work or Fight Order. Classified as Non-Useful.

TEST CASE IS AWAITED

No Ruling Will Be Made Until Appeal Is Made—Herrman Points Out Number of Men Who Would Be Out of Jobs.

Washington, June 21.—New regulations issued to draft boards today by Provost Marshal General Crowder to govern application of the work or fight order, do not rule specifically upon the status of the professional baseball players or other classes which may be affected, but emphasize the section of the order placing games and sports among the occupations classed as non-useful.

In an oral statement announcing the regulations, officials of General Crowder's office said "at present" the occupations of a baseball player is regarded as non-productive, but that until a case had been appealed from a local board there would be no ruling on the subject.

255 BASEBALL PLAYERS WOULD BE THROWN OUT OF JOBS

Cincinnati, O., June 21.—Chairman August Herrman, of the National Baseball commission, in a statement which was sent to Provost Marshal General Crowder today, calls the latter's attention to the fact that 255 baseball players of the 309 players carried on the reserve lists of the sixteen major league clubs will be forced to seek other employment, if the amended selective service regulations issued from Washington today, are strictly enforced.

"If the regulations as issued are to be applied to these 255 ball players of the major leagues—that are affected," said Chairman Herrman's statement, "it will absolutely crush a business that has more than \$8,000,000 capital invested, exclusive of the value of their franchises and players."

In his statement Herrman said: "The book value of the combined plants of the sixteen clubs, not including the franchise value or the value of players, is \$8,837,754.12, while the amount subscribed by the officials and stockholders of the various clubs for Liberty bonds amounted to \$8,523,450. "I am quite sure that no other line of business or occupation can make a better showing than this."

The statement informs General Crowder that the average of the players who volunteered was \$2,521.24, and of those who were drafted \$2,441.26 for a period of six months only. To this paragraph Chairman Herrman added: "So it cannot be held that they sought service in order to benefit their condition from a financial standpoint."

The statement adds: "It will be quite a loss to some of the clubs when their players who are now in classification A-1 are ordered to report for duty there cannot and should not be exceptions made in cases of this kind and that class of players must stand in the same category as far as the draft regulations are concerned, as any other player."

"Attention is called to the fact that the professional baseball player is employed only during six months of the year and that, all of them stand ready during the winter from October to March to seek essential employment."

CROWDER ORDERS 165 TO A & E. COLLEGE

Men From Pennsylvania Will Take Technical Training at State College in Raleigh.

By S. R. WINTERS. Washington, June 21.—Provost Marshal General E. H. Crowder announced today that 165 men from Pennsylvania would be detailed to the Agricultural and Engineering college of West Raleigh on July 15. They will take prescribed courses fitting them for auto mechanics, blacksmiths, carpenters, electricians. The war department issued a call for 8,976 men from the country at large to enlist for technical training in the foremost educational institutions.

"Volunteers will be accepted from Pennsylvania until July 1st, after which date local boards will be authorized to select the 165 men for North Carolina from the questionnaires showing aptitude. Forthwith they will be inducted into service and entrained for West Raleigh. The requirements of General Pershing's forces for specialists are heavy and the plans call for 40,000 men this summer."

WILSON TO BE HONORED

Will Be Declared a Citizen of Florence, Italy.

Florence, Italy, June 21.—President Wilson on the Fourth of July is to be solemnly declared to be a citizen of Florence. This decision was arrived at today by the mayor and municipal council of Florence and the Florentine senators and deputies. It has also been decided to hold a great parade over the main thoroughfares of the city. An Italian parchment will be sent to President Wilson in testimony of the honor conferred upon him.

Loan to Greece.

Washington, June 21.—A credit of \$15,700,000 to Greece, the first under the new financial agreement between that country and the United States was announced today by the treasury department. This brings the total allied credits to \$5,970,840,000.