

DESPERATE BATTLE NOW IN PROGRESS BETWEEN THE PIAVE AND BRENTA

Fate of Venice and Security of Italian Line Hang In Balance

TEUTONS CLAIM IMPORTANT GAINS

British, Fren and Americans Active In West—American Soldier Killed

Italian possession of Venice and the security of the Piave line depend apparently on the outcome of the desperate battle now in progress between the Piave and Brenta rivers.

Exercising Strong Pressure. The Austro-Germans are exerting very strong pressure here and are reported to have brought up Austrian troops from the eastern front and to have brought up Austrian troops from the eastern front and to have transferred General von Below's army to this sector.

Successful Around Asiago. Around Asiago, the Italians have checked the Germans and have been successful in offensive operations.

On Western Front. On the western front the infantry activity has increased somewhat.

In American Sector. In the American sector the artillery firing continues very active and there have been further clashes between American and German patrols.

Kerensky Reported at Large. Premier Kerensky is reported to be at Lugna, 30 miles south of Petrograd.

Transparent Service. Display of transparent service flags with emblems of homes and of emblems in business places, will feature the American Red Cross Christmas membership drive.

Guns Heard in Venice. Venice, Nov. 18.—(Delayed)—The rumble of guns is heard throughout the city by day and night as the fleet and the Venice coast batteries shell the enemy at the mouth of the Piave.

AUTHORITIES STILL LOOKING FOR MAN. Chicago Nov. 20.—The federal authorities are still looking for the man who occupied the seat adjoining the one under which a device resembling a bomb was found and which almost created a panic in the Auditorium theater last Friday night.

Leaves for Italy. Paris, Nov. 20.—General Marie Fayolle, commander of the French forces in Italy, departed last night to take up his duties.

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Counter-Attacks Repulsed. Berlin, Nov. 20 (via London).—Strong Italian counter-attacks against positions captured on the northern slope of Monte Tomba on the mountain front near the upper Piave were unsuccessful.

HARD FIGHTING ALONG THE PIAVE

Correspondent Visited Zenson, Fagare and Zega Mill—Talked With Duke of Oosta, Commander

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 19.—(By the Associated Press)—(Delayed)—The correspondent Monday made a tour of 30 miles along the Piave battle front, visiting Zenson, Fagare and the Zega mill where desperate fighting has occurred.

At Fagare, Folina and the Zega mill the rout of the enemy was complete, being accomplished in fearful hand-to-hand fighting on Friday night and Saturday.

The tour along the front took the party to the very centers of the hardest fighting and along the inundated region where the country side was transformed suddenly into a vast inland sea.

At the barracks they were counting Austrian rifles and guns gathered in the court. The line of captured materiel extended for miles.

General Euberoni, of the famous Bersaglieri brigade, which carried the day, came out to greet the party.

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BRITISH PREMIER WEATHERED STORM

Premier Came Out of Near-Crisis Stronger Than Ever—Newspapers Make Various Comments

London, Nov. 20.—The reception of Premier Lloyd-George's speech in the house of common by the morning newspapers justifies the assumption that the storm which lately threatened a crisis has passed not only without damaging the premier's hold on the country but perhaps even strengthening it.

The Daily News which has been hostile to the premier, says that his reply yesterday concerning the military council contrasted startlingly with his Paris speech and asks that if the council is one almost gloom while the speech in the house was marked by almost exaggerated optimism.

The Morning Post, another critic, objects again to the premier's proposal. It says it may not work for unity, but for division and paralysis which result from a conflict of expert opinion.

The Graphic says the speech failed entirely to clear up the situation and wonders why the tone of the Paris speech was one almost gloom while the speech in the house was marked by almost exaggerated optimism.

Other editorials hail the premier as a victor. The Daily Telegraph says he won hands down, adding: "No movement against a government in our time ever perhaps was so completely defeated in a single speech."

"The premier achieved a great personal triumph," says the Times, "and also completely vindicated to the satisfaction of the house of commons the essential soundness in its broad principles of the scheme for a closer union of the allies."

The Daily Express says the speech demonstrated Premier Lloyd George is the inevitable head of the nation in this hour of trial and urges him now to "rid the ship of state of the barnacles still clinging to it."

Coke Prices Fixed. Washington, Nov. 20.—Basic prices for by-product coke were fixed by the fuel administration as follows: Run of cokes, \$6; selected foundry, \$7; and crushed over one-inch size, \$6.50.

Aid No Communiqué Today. London, Nov. 20.—No headquarters communiqué was issued today, says the official wireless message from Petrograd.

Will Germans Destroy Most Beautiful City of the World. These two pictures show scenes in Venice with its gondolas, the most beautiful city of the world, which the Germans are now approaching.



THE MISSING BOAT FROM ROCHESTER LOST IN IRELAND

Boat Contained Five Men, Only Survivors of the Crew of Twelve

HAD BEEN MISSING FOR THREE WEEKS

Death Roll of the Rochester Now Reduced From 19 To 14

London, Nov. 20.—The missing boat from the steamship Rochester which was sent to the bottom by a German submarine November 2, has just landed at a port in Ireland, the British admiralty announced today.

Given Up For Lost. Hope had been abandoned for the second officer and eleven other men in a boat from the Rochester who at the time of the arrival of the five survivors in Ireland had been missing for 18 days.

The landing of the five men reduces the Rochester's death roll from 19 to 14. Four men died of exposure in another boat. Two were killed by the explosion of the torpedo and one was drowned.

OVERWHELMING DEFEAT OF PACIFISTS EXPECTED. Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 20.—The overwhelming defeat of the pacifists by the supporters of President Samuel Gompers at the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was expected today by the rapid disposal of many important resolutions upon which the anti-war party had been expected to show fight.

Washington, Nov. 20.—The second and the last of the government's suits against the alleged anthracite coal trust was heard in the supreme court today when proceedings brought to compel the dissolution of the Reading company, a holding corporation, and affiliated railroad and coal companies were called for re-argument.

GERMANY TRANSFERRING TROOPS FROM THE EAST. Copenhagen, Nov. 20.—Reports from several sources in Germany bear out the assumption that, taking advantage of the situation in Russia, the German government is making heavy transfers of troops from the Russian front.

LAST SUIT AGAINST COAL TRUST IS HEARD. Washington, Nov. 20.—The second and the last of the government's suits against the alleged anthracite coal trust was heard in the supreme court today when proceedings brought to compel the dissolution of the Reading company, a holding corporation, and affiliated railroad and coal companies were called for re-argument.

Government Taking Advantage of Chaos in Russia—Part To Italy. Anzor Italy, if the Austrians and Germans find the reinforced Italian army had a nut to attempt to crack, the central powers can easily and quickly change to the defensive on a strong line for the purpose of seeking to force a decision on some other selected front with the bulk of their strategic reserve.

NEW CASE MENINGITIS AT SEVIER REPORTED. Greenville, S. C., Nov. 20.—It was officially announced today at Camp Sevier that one new case of meningitis had developed in the last 24 hours, but that there had been no deaths among the troops.

German Fishing Vessel Missing. London, Nov. 20.—An official report received here from Berlin denies the statement made by the British admiralty on Sunday that a German mine sweeper was sunk in the engagement of Saturday off Helgoland.

AMERICAN DESTROYER SUNK; 21 LIVES PROBABLY LOST

Washington, Nov. 20.—Sinking of the American destroyer Chauncey in collision in the war zone early yesterday morning, with a probable loss of 21 lives, was announced today by the navy department.

No further details were given in a brief report to the department from Vice-Admiral Sims. The Chauncey was a small, old type boat of only 420 tons.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT. Secretary Daniels made this statement: "The Chauncey, a small American destroyer on patrol duty in foreign waters was sunk in a collision early Monday morning. First dispatches indicate that 21 lives were lost. Further information will be made public when full reports are received."

"The Chauncey was one of the old type destroyers, completed in 1902. Her displacement was 420 tons and her complement 91 officers and men."

For several years before the war the Chauncey was used only in coast defense work and was classified as a coast torpedo vessel.

American Mission Meets With British War Cabinet

London, Nov. 20.—None of the numerous allied war councils which have occurred in the past three years occasioned the same interest as today's historic meeting of the American war mission and the British war cabinet. The scene is the dingy old residence in Downing street, which has served the prime ministers of many generations as both home and office and the room is the council chamber where the cabinets and where the destinies of the empire have been shaped since the days of the American revolution.

chancellor of the exchequer, and Oscar T. Crosby, assistant secretary of the American treasury, at the table beside him. The military and naval heads of both the government and officials representing other departments of war work will be grouped together.

A group of reporters and photographers and curio sightseers were on the scene early in the day.

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LIVERY STABLE BURNS; 34 HORSES LOST IN FLAMES

Losses In Fire About \$45,000, With \$7,000 Insurance

J. H. CREASMAN HAS THIRD STABLE LOSS

Upper Biltmore Avenue Is Saved By Chief Wood and Firemen

For the second time within five days a disastrous fire has visited Asheville; this morning the livery stable belonging to J. H. Creasman on Biltmore avenue is a total wreck and 34 horses are dead.

Patrolman Shook, of the police department, caught the 10-month-old infant of Mr. and Mrs. Stephens when Mr. Creasman dropped it into his arms; this officer also brought Mr. and Mrs. Creasman safely down a ladder.

Seven dogs were also lost in the fire. They were quartered in the veterinary hospital in one of them was "Doc," the famous Boston bulldog. In an effort to save "Doc," Dr. Stephens smashed a plate glass window into his office and climbed into the building; but the animal was already beyond help and Dr. Stephens was driven back by a mounting wall of fire.

Suspect Incendiarism. The origin of the fire is so far an unsolved problem, and city officials stated today that indications point very strongly to incendiarism.

The alarm was turned in at 2 o'clock, but when the firemen reached the stable, smoke and fire were pouring from the windows and the entire structure was a seething furnace.

Separated by about 20 feet of alley from the fire, the Westall building now became the principal point of attack in the strenuous work to protect the street from the flames.

Hotels Threatened. The fire in the Westall building was in considerable danger. To save this hostelry firemen mounted to the roofs and used water freely.

The night clerk at the Swannanoa roused his guests to be ready for any emergency, and with baggage already packed they stood ready to move out before the flames if the fire should pass the firemen.

In the Oxford hotel in the Westall building, the guests also made ready to flee before the flames, and Frank Mears of the O. K. Auto Supply and Transit company, moved out his cars and took them beyond the fire zone.

The Henrietta, occupied by young women, was not close enough to the fire to be in danger.

The smoke from the burning hay poured from the doors and windows of the building in thick suffocating volumes. Caught in one black wave of this smoke, Mrs. Ross leaped from the second story and slightly injured herself about the head.

The horses, it is believed, were suffocated by this smoke before the fire reached them. Not a horse in the building was saved, and of the total number Mr. Creasman owned 30.

Green Brothers Furniture store two, J. P. Rich and company one and the Asheville Paint and Glass company one.

This morning hundreds of people stood outside the roped areas of the fire swept building and watched the preparations to remove the charred wreckage and the carcasses of the dead animals. The lines of the stable could be traced by the half-consumed bodies of the horses.

Fifteen minutes before the fire alarm was sounded, Captain Pinner and Patrolman Shook passed the stable looking for Lum Featherstone, wanted for alleged assault. Featherstone had been employed at the stable, it is said, and the policemen flashed their lights into the office or is missing.

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