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EARL KITCHENER

This is the first photograph to be published of Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, who succeeded to the title of his famous brother, the British war hero, who was lost at sea on the British warship Hampshire. Earl Kitchener, like his brother, is a soldier. He served in both India and Africa, rising to the rank of colonel.

SHARP FIGHTING ON PIAVE RIVER

UPPER JAW STALLED UNDER STOUT RESISTANCE; NETHER ALSO LACKS FORCE.

Enemy Along Piave River is Being Firmly Held, Especially on Crucial Sector of Montello Plateau.

The Austrian pincers are not closing upon Italy with the precision of last October when they forced back the Italian armies of General Cadorna from the Julian Alps to the Piave river and from the northern mountain regions almost to the plains of Venetia. In fact they do not seem to be closing at all.

The upper jaw in the Venetian Alps is stalled under the resistance of the British, French and Italian forces, and the nether one seems to lack the force necessary to bring it across the Piave river and push back the Italian troops which are clogging its path.

In the Alps the Austrians have been unable further to advance their lines since their initial onslaught last week. Everywhere from the Asiago plateau sector southward to the Piave river all their attacks have quickly been repulsed by the allied troops who, in their turn have delivered counterattacks, regained lost terrain, inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and taken a large number of prisoners.

All along the Piave river, from the mountain passes through which the torrent winds its way southward on its race to the Adriatic sea, fierce fighting is going on, especially on the famous Zenson loop and farther south from Fossalta to the marsh country around Capo Sile, some 20 miles east of Venice.

The Italian war office announces that the enemy everywhere is being held along the Piave. On the crucial sector of the Montello plateau, which bars the way from the north-east to the Venetian plains, the Italians have strengthened their position, on the northern edge of the plateau and repulsed two enemy attacks in advance on the northern border.

ARMY OFFICER BRIBED BY PROFITERS ARRESTED

Washington.—The trail of the government's pursuit of illegal profiteers on war contracts led to the arrest in New York of Lieut. James C. Staley, a reserve army officer, on a charge of accepting money from the Truefit Railroad Company of New York for a contract which he promised to procure.

The arrest was made by the department of justice agents who had followed the officer during the inspection of the plant of the rail company, whose proprietors acted in co-operation with the government to detect the fraud.

NO OPPOSITION TO DRAFT EXTENSION BY CONGRESS

Washington.—Should Congress decide that it is necessary at this time to extend the draft age limit either below 21 or above 30, no opposition will be offered by the war department in authorizing this extension, Secretary Baker said today, although the date already is in sight when it will become necessary to replenish the class one reservoir.

PERMANENT INCREASE OF NAVY PERSONNEL VOTED

Washington.—Permanent increase of the navy personnel from 27,000 to 35,000 men was voted today by the house during consideration of a bill amending the \$1,500,000,000 naval appropriation bill, but the proposal to increase the rank of lieutenant general to the rank of lieutenant general was not passed.

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ENEMY OFFENSIVE MEETS FAILURE

THEIR EFFORTS TO HOLD THEIR ANTAGONISTS LACK USUAL FORCE AND STAMINA.

BRIDGES ARE CARRIED AWAY

Further Enemy Loss Is Imminent Through Destruction of Pontoon Bridges Over Piave River.

Over the entire mountain region the Austrians have remained quiet, except when compelled to go on the offensive, and then their efforts to hold back their antagonists have lacked the stamina usual in men whose hearts are in their task. This condition has prevailed since the first onslaught of the enemy was summarily stopped by the fire of the British, French and Italian forces forming the barrier to the Venetian plains.

More heart is being thrown into the work by the enemy along the Piave from the Montello plateau southward to the region lying east of Venetia. Here he still seems, notwithstanding his heavy losses and numerous repulses on various sectors, bent on throwing his armies across the stream or pushing further westward with those of his forces that already have forced it. Nevertheless, further setbacks to the Austrians have followed those of past days on the Montello, where the Italians are viciously disputing the right of way to the plains. Likewise, near the famous Zenson loop, farther down the stream, the enemy's heavy attacks have been held and under the impetus of the Italian counter blows, he has fallen back nearer the river for reinforcements hastily brought up.

Still farther south between Fossalta and San Dona di Piave the Italians have further pushed back the invaders, and unofficial reports assert that they have recaptured the village of Capo Sile, lying on the edge of the marsh region some 20 miles east of Venetia.

It is not outside the range of possibility that a large number of the Austrians are in a fair way to be taken prisoner by the Italians, for a large number of the pontoon bridges which they threw across the Piave over the 1 1/2 mile front between the Conegliano railway bridge and the Zenson loop have been carried away on the bosom of the swollen stream. At any rate the loss of these bridges will necessarily seriously impede the reinforcement of the Austrians on the west bank of the stream and the replenishment of their supplies.

Meanwhile, the food situation and the war weariness of the people with its dual monarchy again are making trouble for the authorities. Troubled times also seemingly are in store for the German government, owing to lack of bread. In Vienna mobs are reported to have raided bakeries and stoned the residence of the premier and even to have attacked one of the wings of the imperial palace. Troops had to be called out to restore order.

AMERICAN TROOPS STORM GERMAN TRENCHES

American troops stormed German trenches and machine gun nests in front of Canby, in the Montidifior sector. Those of the German garrison who remained to fight and carry out their orders to hold the positions at any cost, were killed by rifle and machine gun fire and bayonet.

The Americans also took prisoners. The American artillery put down a heavy box barrage on the rear of the enemy positions. A few minutes later the infantry swarmed over the top and rushed the trenches. Some of the Germans had tried to escape through the barrage, crashing to their rear, but few of them got through, for numerous German dead were found later.

Prisoners captured declare that they had orders to hold on at all costs, and this war apparent by the desperate manner in which they fought.

MANUFACTURERS MULCTED HARD FOR BOGUS SERVICE

Washington.—Methods by which contingent fee contract agents in Washington suppressed competition in bidding on government war orders, inflated prices, manipulated bids and even "double-crossed" their own clients by representing competing contractors, were uncovered today by the department of justice in examining correspondence seized in raids. Some manufacturers paid thousands of dollars for "purely imaginary services."

THE FOOD SITUATION IN AUSTRIA IS DESPERATE

Copenhagen.—According to the Venetian Zeitung, the mayor of Vienna in a statement explaining the food situation has said that last month a proclamation was issued to the farmers compelling them to deliver a certain amount in large grains. The amount had proved to be 18,000 metric tons of grain, but as a matter of fact the farmers had only 12,000 metric tons of grain available at the time.

OVER THE LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Raleigh.—William D. Covington, negro delinquent of Auburn, was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Ernest Raines as a deserter and taken to Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C. for delivery.

Kinston.—Policeman John W. Taylor left here for Camp Jackson with two draft deserters and five delinquents, all colored. He showed up at the camp with eight men.

Charlotte.—An inch and a quarter of rain fell over Mecklenburg county in general, according to official figures of the local United States weather bureau. Meteorologist Atto said it seems that both Carolinians were well soaked.

Morganton.—Judge J. C. Fritchard spoke here under the auspices of the War Savings Stamp committee and made a strong appeal. The Morganton cornet band furnished music.

Charlotte.—The Deffance Rock Mills of Charlotte, Morehead Jones president and manager, expects to have their new dye house completed the coming week.

Fayetteville.—Four cars of the second division of Atlantic Coast Line mail train No. 80 were derailed at Viny Lake, three miles south of this city. The train carried express only and there were no casualties beyond slight injuries received by two members of the crew.

Washington.—To maintain closer relations with government departments which are now controlling the disposition of the industry's output, the executive committee of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association authorized the establishment of a permanent bureau here.

Wilmington.—The city council in special session ordered a telegram sent to the state corporation commission, withdrawing opposition to the petition of the Tidewater Power Company for an increase of street taxes on city and suburban lines.

Raleigh.—A recent visitor to the Experiment Station at West Raleigh was Mr. Dan M. Green, Extensionoultry Husbandman of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, who came for a conference with A. G. Oliver in regard to the poultry club work in North Carolina.

Salisbury.—An ammunition train of 27 trucks which came in from Newport News en route to a southern camp, had two men more than when they left the Virginia city. These were two alleged deserters that the lieutenant in charge had picked up on the way.

Warsaw.—A disastrous hail storm did considerable damage to growing crops in a neighborhood a few miles east of Warsaw. Tobacco crops especially were damaged many thousands of dollars worth. The storm was entirely local however, and no effects of it felt here, or in other neighborhoods.

Greensboro.—The vocational training school of the war department for 258 negro registrants was begun at the A. & T. college here. Nearly all of the negroes brought here for training are from the District of Columbia. This is one of a large number of schools designated by the war department as places where special vocational and military training will be given.

Raleigh.—New force is given to the campaign in North Carolina against incendiarism in the enactment by congress of the law "to punish willful injury or destruction of war material or of war premises, or utilities used in connection with war material and for other purposes." The general interpretation of this act covers the entire transportation and shipping facilities, all public utilities and all products of industry or agriculture suitable for war purposes.

Washington.—The marine corps casualty list contained the names of three North Carolinians as follows: Died of wounds: Eritas Joseph L. Orr, Matthews, N. C. Severely wounded: Oscar H. Jordan, Ore Hill and Corp. Eugene McCord, Charlotte.

Chapel Hill.—President Graham announced that he had just received an award of \$350 to establish a new scholarship in chemistry to be called the De Post scholarship, the award having been made by the De Post Powder Company.

Winston-Salem.—Approximately \$25,000 damage, partially covered by \$75,000 insurance, was caused by the fire which destroyed the building occupied by Myers' department store.

AUSTRIAN LOSSES IN DRIVE TREMENDOUS

A LOSS OF 120,000 MEN IS PRACTICALLY ONLY RESULT OF OFFENSIVE.

STILL FIGHTING FIERCELY

Enemy is Being Steadily Pressed Back Towards Western Bank of Turbulent River.

The Austrian losses in their offensive on the Italian front exceed 120,000 men, according to a dispatch to La Liberte from Rome, quoting the correspondent of The Corsier D'Italia.

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

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, 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 pressed back toward the western bank of the now turbulent river which has swept away many of their pontoon bridges in the center of the line, leaving them in a rather precarious predicament.

Fresh rains have forced the river well out of its banks and the question of sending Austrian reinforcements to the western side or conveying food and military supplies to the men already on the border of the plains has become a critical one.

Hoping to alleviate the situation, the Austrians again have delivered attacks on the Montello plateau.

TO ESTABLISH AIR ROUTE FROM U. S. TO EUROPE

Washington.—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 services have been merged. This was disclosed today by Major General 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 across the Atlantic in August, September or October of this year are already well advanced. American co-operation is sought and General 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 40-hour voyage. It is estimated the trip would take.

WORK OR FIGHT ORDER WILL BE ENFORCED

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

ACUTE FOOD SITUATION IN SWEDEN EVIDENT

An Atlantic Post—Bridging the acute food situation in Sweden, it is now necessary for Swedish ships leaving this port to be provided with supplies of coal for the return trip to United States ports. The fact was disclosed when the masters of two Swedish ships, about ready to sail from this port, presented themselves with the necessary federal permits for supplies of coal for the return voyage.

ANOTHER AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE SOON

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy.—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 will probably 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 advance over the line which separates their point of view.



Sergt. Frank Lanckton, orderly of Gen. John J. Pershing for the past ten years, has returned to France after having been temporarily detached from his chief to accompany Secretary Baker back to America. He was the constant attendant of the secretary of war throughout his tour abroad.

AUSTRIANS HAVE LOST SPIRIT

NEARLY 40,000 MEN FACED BY FRENCH ARMY AND LITERALLY CUT TO PIECES.

Evident Loss of Do-or-Die Spirit by the Teutons Shown in Recent Operations.

The attacks of the Germans near Rheims resulted disastrously to them. Hardy had left their trenches after one of the most terrific bombardments with shells of all calibers, including gas projectiles, ever experienced on the western front, nearly 40,000 men were faced by the reinforced French armies and literally cut to pieces and forced to fall back precipitately. Only at one point, to the east of Rheims, did the enemy succeed in penetrating the French line. Here they were ejected almost immediately. The German official communication describes the attack as a demonstration of artillery and men-throwers.

The Teutonic allies apparently have lost their spirit of do-or-die. Their attacks everywhere have lacked the tenaciousness of days gone by.

Instead of ploughing through allied lines with stubborn indifference to casualties so long as an objective was gained, they now waver and then halt in the face of the artillery and rifle fire of the men barring their way, and with the points they were trying to gain still far beyond their reach.

Ambitious attempts by the troops of the central powers in the past few weeks have proven this. The opening of a gateway to Paris through the western front, running from Montdidier to the Marne, failed completely; the offensive on the Italian battle line launched by the Austrians seemingly has failed miserably in the mountain regions and apparently has almost been stopped along the Piave, while a stroke started by the Germans against Rheims broke down in its inception without the enemy taking a yard of territory.

And in these various attempted enterprises the high commands of the German and Austro-Hungarian armies have seen their men literally mown down until battlefields have been clogged with dead or wounded as recompense to the allied troops.

GERMAN DESTROYERS AND SUBMARINES PENNED UP

London.—Twenty-one German destroyers, a large number of submarines and numerous auxiliary craft are penned in the Bruges canal docks as the result of the recent British naval operations at Zebrugges.

AMERICANS SEND GAS FROM THEIR PROJECTORS

With the American Army in France, the Americans in the Weverle have sent their first gas against the German lines from projectors. A German raid at Remieres wood was repulsed. Some of the enemy were killed and one prisoner was taken.

Five bombing planes dropped 32 bombs on the station and tracks at Confans (east of Verdun). Several enemy machines were encountered on the way.

THE AUSTRIAN EMPEROR IS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED

London.—Reuter's Rome correspondent says that, according to reports the Austrian emperor who is at the front, is disappointed at the results obtained in the present offensive and believes of the offensive against the Germans took for only about a week's delay.

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