

WEATHER.
North and South Carolina:
Unsettled tonight
and Tuesday.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 17, 1918.

FIVE CENTS

LITTLE GAINED BY AUSTRIANS IN BIG DRIVE ALONG PIAVE

Enemy Held in Check and in Some Places Hurlled Back
ENCOURAGING REPORTS

Teuton Invaders Made Three Attempts to Cross Over the Piave River

RESULT YET IN BALANCE

On Front in France Fighting Has Been Limited to Local German Attacks at Isolated Points

Although the situation along the great crescent-shaped battle line in northern Italy remains somewhat obscure, it seems that the Austrians have accomplished little at the inception of their drive against the Italian and allied armies. From the lower Piave river and northward along that stream come encouraging reports telling of the enemy being checked and at some points being hurled back across the stream.

From the Piave to the Brenta, where the Teutons advanced through mountain ravines in their attempts to break through the allied lines, the situation appears to be well in hand. It now appears that the Austrians made three unsuccessful attempts to cross the Piave. One was south of Montello, where the battle line leaves the Piave river and mounts to the westward into the Alps. One was between Canedo and Zenson loop where the Austrians effected a crossing last November and held a bridgehead for some time. The other was at S. Dona Di Piave, about 11 miles from the mouth of the river. At least some of these forces have been driven back across the river, while the others have not been able to develop any advantage from their early success.

Reports of the battle show that the tactics followed by the Austrians were similar to those which brought success to the Germans in the Somme and Aisne offensives. The enemy advanced under cover of a smoke barrage from bombs and smoke apparatus, in comparatively small parties. These were directed against portions of the line believed to be lightly held. In France the Germans succeeded by this method in gaining the rear of strongly held portions of the line which had to be evacuated quickly by the allies. Along the Italian front, however, the foe was not able to penetrate far into the allied positions and counter attacks soon drove him back to his lines.

The result is as yet in the balance. So far German troops are reported only in one sector on the mountain front, but it is not improbable that they will be dispatched to aid the Austrians if they can be spared along the French front. Furious fighting is said to be continuing and it is probable that harder blows will be launched by the enemy. The fact, however, that the first onset did not result in a virtual debacle such as ensued when the Germans and Austrians attacked along the Isonzo last October speaks volumes for the Italian morale, and late reports give reason for belief that the blow at Italy is not being launched with the force that has characterized the offensives of the Germans in France during the last three months.

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GREAT BATTLE HAS ONLY JUST STARTED

Enemy Has Failed to Pass Italian Area at Any Point

PRESSURE VERY STRONG

Advance Made Under Cover of Artificial Fog of Bomb and Smoke

FRUSTRATED BY FIRE

British Had Been Surrounded, But Counter Attack Freed Them and They Captured 300 Prisoners

Rome, Sunday, June 16.—The situation on the Italian front in its entirety seems very reassuring, says a semi-official note issued tonight. It is added that the great battle which broke out Saturday has but begun. Although having a strength of 60 divisions, the enemy attacking forces have not succeeded in passing the Italian advanced area at any point. Austrian pressure continues very strong along the entire front. The enemy is concentrating most powerful and fierce attacks astride the Brenta and across the Piave and it is still possible for the fighting line to flow backwards or forwards.

The enemy based his enterprise on various factors to assure him a victory, says the semi-official note. There was a relatively brief but extremely violent artillery preparation with a large number of gas shells. This bombardment was for the purpose of destroying the Italian front line and paralyzing the Italian artillery. Then under cover of an artificial fog from bombs and smoke apparatus the enemy in opening formation advanced to the attack. The enemy placed such faith in this preparation that he fixed his objectives for the first day's fighting more than 15 kilometers in advance and planned to descend from the mountain area and also reach the city of Treviso from the Piave river.

The enemy's bombardment was frustrated by the formidable fire from the Italian artillery, which destroyed lines of shelters and made full hits on massed troops as well as drenched his battle emplacements with gas. When the enemy infantry advanced into the front line zones, they found that resistance had been prepared for by the Italian machine guns and had to meet a counter attack from the Italian supporting troops. This resulted in the loss of a great part of the advantage he had gained and he left prisoners and machine guns in the hands of the Italians.

This is what happened to the Austrians along the whole front of the attack. North of Cessana, an advance group of British which had been passed and surrounded by the Austrians, resisted until a counter attack freed them and at the same time captured 200 prisoners. Southwest of Neumar, the French re-captured a strong point and took 185 prisoners. From Moschin to Monte Fenera the fourth army completely regained its advanced positions on Asolone, Fertica, Solarolo, Forte Di Sison, where the enemy had made slight progress. A storming detachment retook Col Moschin, with 250 prisoners, in 10 minutes. The prisoners included 25 officers.

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THE WAR HAS MOVED OVER HERE



HE CAN HELP, EVEN IF NOT MERCANTILE.

BAKER HAS APPROVED LONG TERM SENTENCES

18 Months to 20 Years Imposed on Conscientious Objectors to Service

Washington, June 17.—Sentences ranging from 18 months to 20 years imprisonment imposed by court-martial upon so-called conscientious objectors who refused military service at Camp Upton, N. Y., and Camp Gordon, Ga., were approved today by Secretary Baker.

Most of the men objected to fighting against Germany or Austria because they have relatives there. In approving the findings of the courts, the first of the kind to reach the department, Mr. Baker went on record as favoring the return of such men "to the countries of their preference" after the war.

Twelve objectors were sentenced as follows: Hyman Polkes, 15 years; William J. Seider, 20 years; Joseph White, 15 years; Szoldak Zsoldak, 10 years; Julius Leinthal, 18 months; Louis Silverman, 10 years; Mayer Sufferkind, 10 years; William Charles Schwab, 20 years; and Michael Clupa, 10 years.

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MILITARISM WILL WIN, SAYS KAISER

Declares He Leads the Most Capable People on Earth

HE HAS RULED 30 YEARS Past Four Years Have Seen Hardest Struggles History Has Ever Recorded

ARMIES ARE INVINCIBLE

Prussian Rule Has Given Germany's Sword and German Nation Strength to Triumph

Amsterdam, June 17.—Prussian militarism will bring victory to Germany, says Emperor William, in reply to a telegram of congratulations on the thirtieth anniversary of his accession from Chancellor von Hertling. The emperor declares that he leads "the most capable people on earth," and expresses the hope that the German people will have strength to bear their sufferings and privations. The telegram reads: "I express cordial thanks and kind good wishes to your excellency and the state ministry on the day on which, 30 years ago, I ascended the throne. When I celebrated my 25th year jubilee I was ruler I was able, with special gratitude, to point out that I had been able to do my work as a prince of peace.

"Since the world picture has changed, for nearly four years, forced to it by our enemies, we have been engaged in the hardest struggle history records. God, the Lord, has laid a heavy burden upon my shoulders, but I carry it in the consciousness of our good right, with confidence in our ship, our sword and our strength and in the realization that I have the good fortune to stand at the head of the head of the most capable people on earth. Just as our armies under strong leadership have proved themselves invincible, so also will be the home land, exerting all its strength, bear with strong will the sufferings and privations which just now are keenly felt.

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CAPTURE OF O'LEARY BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS

Irish-American Leader Was Caught in Cabin in State of Washington

Washington, June 17.—The capture of Jeremiah O'Leary, Irish-American leader, under indictment in New York, in a mountain cabin in Washington, will be followed soon by the arrest of a number of other Irish agitators in the United States on charges of treason or espionage.

The government has considerable undisclosed evidence against O'Leary and his companions, it was learned today, and arrest of his co-workers has been deferred only pending his apprehension. Officials intimated today that the government might not press its charges against some known conspirators if they disclose what they know of past relations between a group of Irish radicals in this country and agents working in the interest of Germany to promote rebellion in Ireland.

CONNIE MACK GOES TO COURT FOR PERRY

Cleveland, June 17.—The national baseball agreement between the American and National leagues is in danger of being abrogated as a result of a suit filed in common pleas court today by Manager Connie Mack, of the Philadelphia Americans, asking for an injunction restraining the Boston Nationals from interfering with his playing pitcher Scott Perry, awarded to the Boston Nationals by a majority vote of the national baseball commission.

Perry was purchased by Boston from the Atlanta club last year, partial payment being made. He was not on the Boston reserve list last winter and Manager Mack signed him as a free agent. Manager Mack refuses to abide by the decision of the commission, and says he will fight to hold Perry. Judge Morgan granted the restraining order, allowing Philadelphia full and uninterrupted use of Perry, pending final hearing of the suit.

Probe Debs' Speech. Washington, June 17.—Department of justice agents today started an inquiry into a speech of Eugene V. Debs, former socialist candidate for president, at Canton, O., yesterday, to be determined whether he made disloyal or seditious remarks. United States attorneys at Cleveland and Columbus are in charge of the investigation.

600 BOCHE TROOPS TRAINED FOR RAID

Attack on Xivray Overturned by American Artillery Fire

THEIR PLAN DISCLOSED

Raid Planned Week Ago and Troops Rehearsed Behind the Lines

CASUALTIES ARE HEAVY

Original Scheme to Reach Village From Three Sides — One Division Was Badly Cut Up

With the American Army in France, Sunday, June 16.—In their attack on Xivray on the Toul sector today the Germans hoped to enter the village and carry off a large number of prisoners, but the alertness of the American artillery observers completely overturned the enemy plan. Examination of the Germans captured in the fight disclosed that the enemy planned the raid a week in advance and that the 600 special troops who took part in it were rehearsed behind the German lines.

The enemy plan was to send forward a large party without preparatory artillery fire. This party was to take up a position near the American barbed wire and then send up a signal rocket for a box barrage to cover Xivray village and the approaching communication trenches while the heavier artillery was to bombard the village in the rear.

American artillery observers saw a large number of Germans creeping about in No Man's Land and thinking they composed a large working party the artillery signalled for a barrage. The American artillery and machine guns went into action immediately and before the enemy barrage could get started, had inflicted heavy casualties on the unprotected Germans in No Man's Land and played havoc with the plans for the raid.

The original enemy plan was for the attacking party to divide into three sections and to enter Xivray from three different directions. Only one section actually reached the outskirts of the village, but only after it had been cut up badly by the American barrage fire.

A majority of the American casualties, which do not include any missing, resulted from the German artillery fire. Casualties among French civilians occurred when a German shell burst near a church as a procession of villagers was emerging from mass. Many of the French wounded were cared for in American hospitals.

This afternoon the American artillery opened a retaliatory fire against the area behind the German lines while the Germans apparently angered by the failure of the raid, bombarded villages as far as eight miles behind the American lines. The whole Toul sector is now echoing to the heaviest gunfire in many weeks.

WATER FROM DANVILLE TO FIGHT FLAMES

Danville, Va., June 17.—Three yard locomotives were used this morning to haul water from Danville to Pelham, N. C., to fight flames which threaten to consume the Southern Railway coal chute and water tower at that place. The Danville fire department responded to a call for aid. As there was no water at Pelham with which to combat the flames, the Danville locomotives ran to and fro continuously, ten miles to the scene, the water in their tenders being used to fight the fire. Traffic on the main line of the Southern was blocked several hours.

On Eve of Revolt. Washington, June 17.—A dispatch reaching the state department today from Stockholm quotes a report from Petrograd saying the whole of the Ukraine is on the eve of a revolt against Germany.

Plane Crosses Kent Coast. London, June 17.—A German airplane crossed the Kent coast of England soon after noon today. It was chased back to sea by the British anti-aircraft guns.

Premier at Front. Paris, June 17.—Premier Clemenceau spent Sunday at the front. The etic Journal says the premier refused to talk but that he smiled when he declined to discuss the situation.

Austrians Driven Back. With the Italian Army, Sunday, June 16.—Austrian troops which forced the Piave river have been driven back. The fighting along the river is intense.

CALM CONFIDENCE IN BIG OFFENSIVE

Outcome of Austrian Drive Is Viewed Hopefully

BE FAILURE FOR ENEMY

No Teuton Offensive Begun So Badly As on the Italian Front

IS DIRECT CONNECTION

Gamblers' Throw the Most Desperate War Has Yet Seen, Is Opinion Daily Express

London, June 17.—The outcome of the Austrian offensive is viewed hopefully, even confidently, by the newspapers here. This view is based on the staunch resistance of the allied defensive and the failure of the enemy to make anything like a big success in his initial advance.

It is admitted that some days must pass before the results of fighting on such a great scale can correctly be judged, but the conviction is firmly expressed in several quarters that it will end in failure for the enemy. "Failure," says the Daily News, "on the first day of these attacks as conducted on the modern German plan has hitherto been fatal as in the case of Vimy Ridge, and in the present case, the fact of failure can hardly be doubted."

The newspaper cites the opinion of its correspondent on the Italian front that no enemy offensive up to this time has begun so badly, and adds: "There is strong ground for believing that an enemy failure is imminent."

The opinion is expressed by several papers that there is a direct connection between the initiative of the offensive and internal conditions in Austria-Hungary. The Daily Express describes as a "gamblers' throw the most desperate that the war has had seen," while the Times declares it is "a desperate attempt to keep up the waning spirits of such elements of the population as still remain faithful to the established institutions of the Austro-Hungarian state."

The Daily Mail and others predict that an Austrian failure to gain a decision will have serious internal effects. Germany's hand generally is seen behind the move. The Daily News believes that it is an offensive "imposed by Germany on an ally which long ceased to have any part in the struggle and which is sinking to a condition of internal disintegration and despair."

The Daily Mail says: "It can hardly escape the Austrian people that they are being driven to slaughter for the profit of Germany."

TWO GERMAN CLUBS AT SAVANNAH TO DISBAND

Will Go Out of Business on the Advice of Lutheran Church Pastor

Savannah, Ga., June 17.—Acting upon the advice of Rev. William Hoppe, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, special meetings have been called of the German Friendly society and the Country club, formerly the German club, for the purpose of disbanding both organizations. Dr. Hoppe told the members yesterday that their patriotic duty to do this. W. H. Eskedor, president of both organizations, says the property of each of them will be placed in the hands of trustees for the duration of the war and he anticipates the funds on hand will be donated to the Red Cross or invested in Liberty bonds. The German Friendly society has about \$25,000 in cash and the Country club really is very valuable.

American Gets French Cross. Washington, June 17.—Award of the French cross of war to Private W. J. Guyton, as the first American soldier to be killed on German soil, is announced by General Pershing in a continuation of yesterday's communique received today at the war department. Guyton belonged to the American force operating in the Vosges.

Are Made Commanders. Paris, June 17.—Captain David McKay Peterson, of Honesdale, Pa., and Captain Kenneth Marr, of San Francisco, have just been appointed to the rank of commander of squadrons of American flying machines.

Crops Requisitioned. Amsterdam, June 17.—All new crops have been ordered requisitioned by the Hungarian government, according to a report from Budapest. All flour mills have been put under government supervision.