

GORITZ TORN TO PIECES IN LAST GERMAN DRIVE

Correspondent Sees, Shell-Battered City Just Before the Italians Retreated.

PAINTS PICTURE OF RUIN

Newspaper Men Have Narrow Escape as They Watch Artillery Battle—Outlines of City Still There, but It Is a City Sieved by Bombardment.

Headquarters of the Italian Army, Northern Italy.—Goritz is a symbol. "On to Goritz!" was the cry of the duke of Aosta's soldiers as they pressed through the little town of Lucino a few months ago, fighting their way down to the Isonzo river, then across the western bridge leading to the city, when the cry changed to "Goritz at last!"

Then this was reversed when the overwhelming invading force of Austro-Germans took up this same cry, "On to Goritz!" pressing down from the north, across the northern bridge to the city and ending with "Goritz at last!"

Thus Goritz has become a symbol of the huge change which has occurred. It was one of the furthest points forward on the Italian line, the center of a vast arc of fighting front stretching from Piave, far in the north, down to the Adriatic at Montefalcone, and it was the most populous and important city in the great crescent of territory which the Italian army had sliced off southwestern Austria—some six hundred square miles in all. And so Goritz was symbolic of that entire region which has twice changed hands in this war, and of the furthest advance in the first Italian campaigns.

I went to Goritz and saw the city on the eve of its agony. It was the last trip made there by anyone outside the military before the retreat began. The roar of the great Austro-German offensive already had commenced, though for the moment it was taken for a spasmodic renewal of the cannonade which had been going on for weeks. Within twenty-four hours the enemy had crossed the Isonzo 15 miles further north, turned the Italian left wing, beaten back the second army under General Capello, threatened to envelop the third army under the duke of Aosta, brother of the king of Italy, and put in execution that gigantic hammer stroke by which they hoped to finish Italy and cripple the whole entente.

Roads Left Clear.

My trip was made by invitation of the supreme command, with staff editor from headquarters as escort. As we sped along the road in the big army automobile I noted there were no troops along the road and bordering fields as one sees approaching Verdun or in the Somme or Flanders. This absence of troops in the rear was part of the system adopted, it was explained. All the repositioning of the army was done at night and the roads were left clear by day most of the time.

Ten miles out we crossed the Italian-Austrian frontier and entered Austria.

At Cormons, an Austrian village on the road, the signs above the shops were all in Italian, showing the Italians were right in the claim that all this section was racially Italian.

The cannonade began to be heard for the first time ten miles west of Goritz—a low rumble to the north and east, with now and then the muffled boom of a great gun. Day by day the fire was getting heavier, said our escort, who knew the ground by heart, and he added that the enemy forces had been increased from 120 battalions to 330 battalions.

As we passed through the town of Lucino, a far-out suburb of Goritz, it was seen to be half destroyed. Along the main street ran rows of battered buildings, with walls half down and shell holes making ugly gashes. But business was going on, men were at the cafes and women and girls strolled the street unconcernedly. Now the automobile turned up the steep side of Padgera hill, one of the outer defenses of Goritz where bloody hand-to-hand fighting occurred. One could see the old trench and wire system, now grass grown. All this hill had been swept bare by shell fire, but nature had kindly obliterated the scars and the hillside was again smiling with its verdure. The sound of firing had now increased to an enormous roar as we passed Padgera hill.

Turning the corner of a shattered wall we saw the Isonzo river lying ahead and on the further side Goritz rising in terraces with the huge battlements of the citadel towering on the right. The river looked about the width of the Potomac at Washington but with swifter current from the mountain feeders. Along the edge of the river ran rows of shell-torn walls with gaping windows. "This whole water front had been torn to pieces, and yet many of the demolished remnants of the buildings were occupied and work along the river wharves was proceeding.

Old Bridges Replaced.

The Isonzo river was crossed by the wooden bridge which Italian engineers built after all the old bridges had been blown up. On one side lay the wreck of a big pontoon. It was on pontoon bridges that the Italians entered the

city and this wreck was one of the remnants of that crossing. The big railroad bridge was lying in a wreck from artillery fire. Further on was the massive stone bridge, with one of its main arches blown to pieces. Near these bridges lie several important paper mills, where paper is made for government notes. All these mills were masses of ruins, with a few tall chimneys still standing among the debris.

Goritz itself was under the rain of terrific bombardment, for the full force of the great offensive was now only a few hours off.

And yet with the imminent danger many persons still clung to their homes and belongings with that same tenacity which makes the Vesuvian peasants cling to the mountainside when the volcano is raging and threatening to bury them. But most of these people on the streets are the poor who could not get away and the small shopkeepers who cannot afford to abandon their goods. The big stores are all closed and the place has an air of a deserted city, with only a few stragglers bringing up the rear. Goritz had 30,000 people, but only 5,000 are left, and these make only a scattered showing in the wide main street fringed on either side with its shell-torn fronts. It was raining hard and this added to the lugubrious spectacle.

Entering the city we passed the extensive Jesuit establishment where 600 seminarians are located. One corner was knocked off, the cornices were hanging and several big holes told where the shells had found a mark. The main contour of the street was preserved and the buildings were intact as a whole, but every second or third had been hit, some collapsing entirely, others with their front wall gone and their upper rooms with household goods showing from the street. But there was no vast area of completely leveled debris, as at Verdun or Monastir. The outlines of a city were still there, but it was a city sieved by bombardment.

Trip to the Citadel.

The trip to the citadel was the event of the day. This is a huge pile, with old-time moat and battlements and a great tower dominating the whole country for miles around. Here we were to view Mount Gabriel, Mount Michael, the Bianzizza plateau and the whole range of ground which had passed through this upheaval. It was uphill to the citadel. Everything showed the havoc of long continued fire. In one great court there was a pretty little chapel which had come through the ordeal untouched, though all around was a wreck.

Once upon the battlements a commanding view was ahead. There was one point of vantage where this view was particularly good, known as the observation post. We halted a moment, about to enter the post, but others wished to push on to the very front of the wall, and this view prevailed. It was a most fortunate decision, as we soon after had reason to know.

On the battlements a splendid view stretched out for miles over this battle-ground of mountains, valleys and plains, with the city houses clustered below and the roads winding off through the valleys and foothills. There in front was Mount Gabriel, this side held by the Italians, the other by the Austrians.

"There runs the dividing line," said the escort, pointing to a line of trees and depressions near the summit.

The Italian trenches could be plainly seen, but there was no need of indicating a dividing line, for the bursts of smoke along one side of the summit and the answering bursts from the other side told where the line was. Off to the left was Mount Michael, once swept clean by shell fire, but now green again. Nestled in a hollow was the convent of St. Catarina. The Bianzizza plateau was off to the left, and through the mist were the dim outlines of snow-topped Mount Nero, that outpost of the Italian advance.

As we stood surveying this scene there was the steady rumble of guns, with the crack of quick-firers and then the long "whiz" of ever-passing shells. But there was one "whiz" which instantly engaged every attention. We could hear it coming, and it was not going over, nor under, nor at either

side. Every one instinctively recoiled, and then—
Crash!

No More Observation Post.

Five of us went down in a heap, stunned as with a hammer blow. There was a great, enveloping noise, with the smash and crack of walls, the flying of fragments, and then the heave of tons of earth, mortar and masonry, plowed up by the huge missile.

It had struck that observation post. Just 15 feet away, which we were about to enter. There was no more observation post; it was swept clean. But fortunately the shell had gone straight through, battering down massive walls and digging a deep trench into the earth where it had exploded underground, throwing up great geysers. But while the earth and stone flew like hail, the underground explosion had held the shell fragments. Stunned as we were, the first impulse was of self-preservation. A hasty glance showed no one was seriously injured, though the trickle of blood on the right temple of one of the party told that a flying stone had found a mark.

"They have this range," said the escort as we struggled to our feet, "and one shot means that another will follow."

There was a hasty scramble from the battlement, over the tons of debris thrown up, which now completely blocked the three-foot path skirting the wall.

The shell had suddenly brought to a close our observation of the battle front with all its tragedy and majestic beauty. But worst of all, it put an end to all trips to Goritz, for the officer said no further chances of this kind could be taken. It was just as well, for now the great offensive of the enemy burst unexpectedly, and with it came the retreat from the Goritz line. Fortunately or unfortunately, I had seen it at the last moment when the tide was turning.

Situation Explained.

At the cafe here we went for lunch the officer from headquarters laid out the big military map on the table and explained the military situation. It was this: The enemy was bringing great masses of men to the north of the Bianzizza plateau. His design was evident. The Italians by their last advance had swung a ring which was threatening Trieste. To save Trieste the enemy must force the Italians back to the Isonzo river, as another Italian offensive would clear the Carso range and give the Italians the mastery of Trieste. To the enemy the time had come when he must act before the Italians played their final card and held the jewel of the Adriatic.

As we pored over the map the increasing roar of the artillery told that the enemy was losing no time in his part of the military game. The proprietor of the cafe was an intelligent old man, and I asked him if the fire we heard was the same as usual. He shook his head and said: "No, it is very much heavier and it seems as though something was going to happen." This was the instinctive feeling of the people on the spot who had gone through this day after day for months. They felt the blow coming.

On the corner there were two women of the working class talking together under an umbrella, for it was raining hard. Their indifference to the shell-seemed strange, and I stopped to ask them if the bombardment did not frighten them and keep them awake at night.

They were puzzled for a moment, as though not comprehending such an inquiry, and then they shrugged their shoulders.

"We are used to it," they said. "It used to frighten us at first, and the children still cry at night. But what can we do?"

These were typical townswomen who had become habituated to the danger and destruction all around them and were now stopping on the street corner in the rain to exchange the latest gossip. One of the women had the features of an Austrian, and she smiled as she heard the rumble of the Austrian guns and looked off toward the enemy lines so near.

Within three hours when we got back to headquarters the full force of the blow had been struck and the great Austro-German offensive against Italy was in full operation.

Girl Triples Wages.

Denver, Colo.—From \$10 per week as a presser in a local dry cleaning establishment to \$30 a week as a machinist in a plant that is working on war munitions is the sudden jump of Miss Titania Bitner, pretty seventeen-year-old Denver girl.

IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS OF THIS AND OTHER NATIONS FOR SEVEN DAYS GIVEN

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in The Southland Will Be Found in Brief Paragraphs

Domestic.

Referring to the recent defense of the war department made by Secretary Baker, ex-President William Howard Taft, in the course of his speech before a gathering of Atlanta, Ga., business men, soldiers and others, stated that he could bear witness as to the excellence of the work done in the eight or nine camps he has visited.

Ex-President Taft, in a speech, in Atlanta, Ga., said that in so far as the camps are concerned, the sites which had been selected and the care of the government and the people in housing, feeding and providing the means for comfortable living for the soldiers went, he was glad to give his testimony as to the splendid conditions he had himself seen.

"Sugar lines" were formed in Chicago January 31, hundreds of persons standing for hours at a number of big department stores awaiting their turn to purchase half a pound of sugar.

Edwin D. James, of Toledo, Ohio, and Carl S. Mather, of Pawpaw, Mich., second lieutenants of the first squadron, Ellington field, were killed when the airplanes in which they were flying collided head-on and fell 2,000 feet to the ground at Houston, Texas.

The cotton states official advisory marketing board was formally organized at a meeting in New Orleans of state commissioners of agriculture, marketing commissioners and presidents of farmers' unions in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, Georgia and Louisiana. The commissioner of agriculture of Georgia, J. J. Brown, was elected president.

The United States Steel Corporation paid to the federal government more than half its earnings in the final quarter of 1917, according to a statement made public by that corporation. Total earnings for that period amounted to \$59,724,125.

Washington.

A dispatch from Buenos Aires says the minister of war has recalled Argentina's military attaches from Berlin and Vienna. In political circles this action is regarded as significant and connected with the sinking of the Argentine steamer Ministro Irriendon, January 26.

The situation in Argentina is tense and the authorities are maintaining more than their usual silence on the situation, but several events at the government house lead to the belief that the government is at last preparing to take an important step.

Abandonment of the headless Monday program was predicted at the close of a prolonged conference between Fuel Administrator Garfield and Director General McAdoo. A final decision was not reached, but there was every indication that both officials, as well as President Wilson, who has been consulted, feel that the purpose sought can be accomplished from now on by continuance of preferential coal transportation and distribution and by railroad embargoes now in force.

Admiral Penti has been appointed the commander of the Brazilian fleet which will co-operate with the allies in European waters. For a long time it had been known that the Brazilian fleet would assume the responsibility of patrolling the entire coast line from Guiana border to the southern boundary of Brazil, but this is the first indication that the Brazilian fleet would co-operate in European waters with the warships of the allies.

Senator Hughes of New Jersey died after a long illness. Word of his death was received at the white house. He was born in Ireland April 3, 1872, and had a meteoric rise to political fame. He was assistant to Major Gen. Fitzhugh Lee in the Spanish-American war. He was an avowed sympathizer with labor, and the Paterson, N. J., laboring men sent him to the national house of representatives, then to the senate.

In a message to the nation's farmers, delivered to an agricultural conference at Urbana, Ill., President Wilson told them that he thought that statesmen on both sides of the water realized that the culminating crisis of the war had come, and this year's achievements would decide it. The president, suffering with a severe cold, authorized President James of the University of Illinois to deliver the address for him.

Ambassador Francis at Petrograd called the state department that a group of Russian anarchists had notified him he would be held personally responsible for the safety of Alexander Berke-mar and Emma Goldman, under prison sentence in the United States for violating the draft law.

Through their control of bunker coal the allies are in position to stop not only the shipment of goods to Spain from the allied countries, but from neutrals as well, consequently they are in a position to bring powerful pressure to bear to insure fair treatment in the Spanish markets.

Licensing regulations as applied to bakers were extended by President Wilson in a proclamation to take in hotels, restaurants and clubs which do their own baking, to include thousands of small bakers heretofore exempt, and to cover the manufacture of bread of every kind, including cake and crackers, biscuits and pastry. In fact, all bakery products.

New regulations for selective draft physical examinations have been issued, and being less stringent, will bring into the army many who would otherwise be exempted.

Agreement between the United States and Great Britain and Canada on the terms of separate conscription convention which only await the signatures of the representatives of the governments concerned, has been announced by Secretary Lansing. The convention gives the citizens of each country the option of returning to their own country for military services within a fixed period.

Quick retaliatory measures have been forecast as the answer of the United States and the allies to Spain's interference with the shipment of goods across her frontier. In fact, certain Spanish ships now in American ports ready to sail are being held up pending a clearing of the situation, although the war trade board in a formal statement denied that vessels were being kept in port.

European.

Forty-five persons were killed and 207 injured in the German air raid recently on Paris, according to the latest revised figures.

The city of Paris has allotted burial plots in perpetuity without cost to the families of the victims of air raids.

The French government is bearing the expense of all killed in the war.

In Russia the Bolsheviks have captured the important Black sea port of Odessa and also the railroad junction of Orenburg, which lies near the Asiatic frontier.

The Russian Bolsheviks are continuing their program of hostilities against Rumania, the revolutionary committee of the Black sea fleet having confiscated a large number of merchant and other vessels in the Black sea in order to hamper Rumania's commerce.

The Rumanians have captured from the Russians the town of Kishinev, capital of Bessarabia.

"The submarine is held." Thus in words Sir Eric Campbell Geddes, first lord of the English admiralty, summarized the results of the first year of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare, which began February 1, a year ago.

Dr. Alexander Wekerle, Hungarian premier, in address the diet February 1, said: "Our readiness for peace is sincere and earnest. We never strove nor do we strive for conquests. We are ready to seek a just understanding."

The British torpedo gunboat Hazard was sunk in the English channel on January 28 as the result of a collision. Three men were lost.

The peace conference at Brest-Litovsk is in session again, but no details of the proceedings have yet been made public.

The British casualties during the month of January are reported to total 73,017.

A crowd of carousers broke into a factory at Novo Archangelsk, Russia, and became trapped in the cellar. Some one lighted a candle, the alcohol exploded and the whole bunch went to kingdom come.

Twenty persons were killed and fifty were injured in a raid on Paris. One of the German machines was brought down and the occupants made prisoners.

Fragments of projectiles dropped by German birdmen on allied cities show that they are winged torpedoes weighing from 160 to 200 pounds, explosive bombs and incendiary bombs.

An increase in the British shipping losses is shown in the official summary issued February 1, which reports the destruction of nine vessels of more than 1,000 tons, and six of lesser tonnage.

The Bavarian king is reported to be taking a very active part in the peace deliberations between Russia and the central powers.

The Huns attempted to break through the hill region to the Venetian plain, but failed around Monte Tomba and sectors west. It is reported, however, that the Austro-Germans have been taking up reinforcements in the Asiago district preparatory to a further series of attacks to reach the lowlands around Bassano and Vicenza.

In the twelve months of unrestricted warfare launched against American and allied shipping by Germany one year ago, there have been sunk by submarines, mines and raiders 69 American vessels, totaling 171,061 gross tons, according to a careful compilation of records of sinkings which have been made public during the period.

Enemy airplanes dropped bombs on London. One of the invading aircraft was brought down in Essex.

Serious strikes are reported to be in progress throughout Germany. In Berlin and suburban towns 90,000 workers are said to have quit work. Various large factories engaged in the manufacture of war supplies, especially airplanes, are affected. Intentional Socialists are reported to have taken an active part in the calling of the strike.

Italian success against the Austrians in the mountain region of northern Italy has been extended by the capture of Monte di Val Bella, another dominating height on the Asiago plateau.

OIL TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION OF OILS NOW UNDER LICENSE.

LICENSE BY FEBRUARY

Gasoline and Kerosene Is Not Mentioned But Expected to Be Taken Over Soon—Oil Tankers Have Been Discontinued.

Washington.—Government control of industry as extended to oil in a proclamation by President Wilson putting under license the manufacture and distribution of all fuel oils. No mention is made of other oils or products, including gasoline and kerosene, but they, too, probably will be put under control soon. Authority under the proclamation is to be vested in Mark L. Requa, of California, recently named as chief of the fuel administration oil division. Licenses must be obtained before February 11 by all manufacturers and distributors whose gross sales of fuel oil, including gas oil, amount to more than 100,000 barrels a year.

A series of regulations drawn by the fuel administration establish in the east a list of preferential consumers who must be supplied in the order they are given regardless of contracts outstanding.

Difficulties of transportation, it is declared both in the President's proclamation and in a statement prepared by the fuel administration, makes licensing necessary that essential industries be supplied. Operation of the control will cut the supplies of the less essential industries where lack of transportation creates a shortage.

ORGANIZATION ACCOUNTS FOR MONEY ENTRUSTED

To Date \$79,450,727.35 Has Been Appropriated for Relief Work—Criticism Answered.

Washington, Feb. 4.—What the American Red Cross has done with the vast sums of money entrusted to it by the people of the United States is stated in detail in a report just issued by the national headquarters. To date, \$79,450,727.35 has been appropriated for relief work in this country and abroad.

For foreign relief \$44,657,795 has been appropriated as follows: France, \$30,519,259.60; Belgium, \$1,999,631; Russia, \$751,404.87; Rumania, \$2,617,398.76; Italy, \$3,146,016; Serbia, \$871,180.76; Great Britain, \$1,703,642; other foreign countries, \$2,536,000; American soldiers who may be taken prisoner, \$343,627.

The foregoing appropriations are from the time the United States entered the war until April 30, 1918. For the United States the Red Cross has appropriated \$2,612,532.60 and the reason this sum is not larger is because the government provides nearly everything our army and navy needs, and besides, there is no civilian distress in this country of any considerable proportions.

The great variety of the military and civilian relief work being done by the Red Cross is indicated briefly in the following list: canteens that afford food, baths and sleeping quarters for men at the front rest stations and recreation centers for soldiers in transit and at port of arrival in France; care of destitute children; furnishing supplies to 4,000 hospitals; teaching mutilated soldiers new trades; reconstruction of villages; bringing together families of soldiers scattered by the war; farms for convalescent soldiers; sanitariums for tubercular and other patients; food, clothing, medicine and shelter for the homeless and destitute; and other activities too numerous to mention.

It is stated by the national war council that all salaries and administrative expenses are paid out of membership dues, so that every penny given to the Red Cross war fund has been spent for relief. This answers the rumors that have been circulated about the expenses of operation.

AMERICAN TROOPS HOLD THEIR OWN

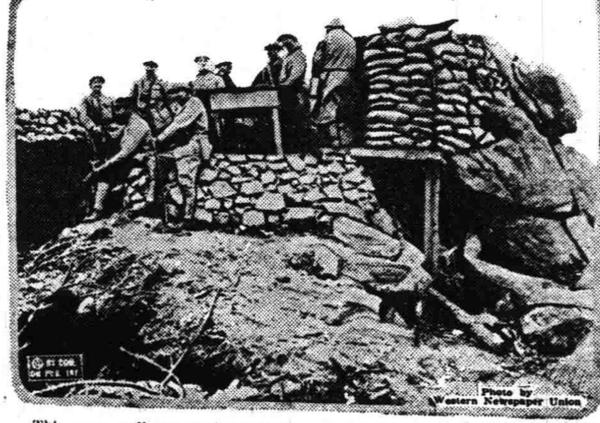
Apparently with the Germans it was a case of the biter having been bit in their attack on the American sector in Lorraine. Although Germans placed a heavy barrage along the American line of several kilometers, the Americans responded with avidity and with their 75s tore up the German front trenches, blew up several of their dugouts and cut their barbed wire entanglements.

NAVY IS PREPARED TO TRANSPORT 500,000 MEN

Washington.—Secretary Daniels authorized the statement that the navy is assured of enough transport facilities to make sure that there will be 500,000 American troops in France early this year, as was stated by secretary Baker recently before the senate military committee.

Mr. Daniels made the statement when informed that Secretary Baker's forecast of the number of men to be sent abroad had been challenged.

OBSERVATION POST IN THE VOSGES



This is a well-organized observation post of the French in the Vosges mountains.