

# Italians Take 2,000 Captives as Austrians Again Retreat

## INTREPID MEN OF SOUTHERN ARMIES SWARM OVER FOE

### General Diaz' Troops Crush Foe Drive on Mountain Positions and Send Regiments Reeling Back from Highly Important Ground.

By Associated Press.

Success has apparently crowned the offensive of the Italians in the mountains north of the Venetian plains against the Austrians. The attack Saturday has gained heights where the enemy was strongly entrenched and the fighting is still going on. Vienna admits a retreat to "prepared positions" which is the expression used in official statements to mean that an enemy blow has gained important ground.

After three days of struggling the Italians are still hammering hard at the most powerful and threatening positions of the enemy.

They have not only gained ground, but have held it against desperate counter attacks by the Austro-Hungarians, who were mown down by artillery fire and completely checked by the Italian infantry.

#### Believe Enemy Ousted.

Detail maps of the area in which the fighting is going on do not show distinctly some of the places mentioned in the official statements. The Vienna admission that the new Austrian line runs through "Simple wood" is, therefore, without significance, but as the positions held by the Austrians before the Italian attack began were above the forest line, it would seem that the enemy has been ousted from the higher ground he formerly held and thus placed at a disadvantage in the fighting to come.

The Italian attack was seemingly planned with care. On the right flank of General Diaz' forces is the Brenta river, which affords protection against a flanking attack. On the left there are two deep valleys which lend themselves to the tactics adopted by the Italians.

#### French Advance Line.

In France there have been local attacks at various points north of the Marne on the west side of the salient driven into the allied lines by the German offensive that was begun May 27. The French have advanced their line north of the Clignon river once more and have passed the railroad line running from Cherzy to Vinly. Further north the French have taken strong positions along ridges to the east of Villers Cotterets forest.

There have been no unusual engagements along the British or American fronts, but there is a tenseness along the whole line from Ypres to Rheims and even to the east, along the French and American sectors, there is expectation that the breaking of the storm may come. In front of Amiens this feeling is especially marked. There the Germans began a great bombardment but have not sent their infantry into action.

There was intense activity in aerial fighting Sunday. The French brought down or put out of action 21 German airplanes, while the British shot down 22 and drove 10 down out of control.

## UNCLE SAM MOVES TO TAKE WIRE LINES

(Continued From Page One.)

steam railroads while under federal control. Postmaster General Burleson in a letter, which the president approved as stating the reasons "truly," advised Chairman Sims that the power and discretion to act, as proposed in the resolution "seems imperative to safeguard public interests." The postmaster general added:

#### Letter from Burleson.

"At this moment the paralysis of a large part of the system of electrical communication is threatened with possible consequences prejudicial to our military preparation and other public activities, that might prove serious or disastrous. We are reminded that there is not a nation engaged in war that entrusts its military or other communications to unofficial agencies. I deem it, therefore, my duty, not merely to approve, but to urge the adoption of the resolution in order that the president may act if necessary, to safeguard the interests of the country during the prosecution of the war." Secretary Daniels wrote: "I believe that such resolution is of high military importance and that during this period of war the commander-in-chief of the army and navy ought to have the power to take possession and control of any telegraph, telephone, marine cable or radio system, and operate the same subject to those conditions of law, so far as applicable, which are in force as to steam railroads while under federal control. It was found absolutely necessary early in the war to take control of radio systems and I think it is almost as important that the president should have the power to control all methods of communication."

The president's statement was in a note to Chairman Sims of the committee, approving a letter from Postmaster General Burleson. There was no direct reference in any of the correspondence to the minutes sent out by the Commercial Telegraphers' union for a strike of Western Union operators July 8. Mr. Burleson, however, wrote that he deemed the legislation necessary, "at this moment when paralysis of a large part of the

system of electrical communication is threatened with possible consequences prejudicial to our military preparations and other activities that might prove disastrous."

It was said tonight that on the senate side at least there probably would be strong opposition to the bill that might make it difficult for the administration to get action before the recess.

#### Vail Is Ready.

New York, July 1.—Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, said today that the company would enter no objection to congressional legislation, as recommended by President Wilson.

"I believe in giving the president all the powers he wants in the matter of control of the telegraph and telephone lines," Mr. Vail added. "I have no statement to make now. At the proper time this company will be prepared to place its position before the public."

## FIGHTERS SAVED IN HEROIC FIGHT AGAINST FLAMES' BLOCK IN DANGER

(Continued From Page One.)

Herman Peters, D. B. Welpton and Charles Sanders.

The Elks obtained the three upper floors of the building for their club rooms eight years ago. Extensive remodeling has recently been made and new fixtures installed.

The building of the Cook Paint company, just east of the Elks building, was slightly damaged by water and smoke.

Three Narrowly Escape.

John, Reagan, Herman Metz and Herbert Richardson had narrow escapes from instant death.

The three men stood in the doorway of the building and were in the act of stepping out to the sidewalk when there was a rending sound.

Metz held Richardson back with one hand and pulled Reagan into the shelter of the doorway, not a moment too soon, for a huge sign and a mass of the brick cornice came tumbling down and crashed at their feet.

Nearly a ton of the debris landed on the spot where Reagan had been standing for an instant, and from which Metz had pulled him.

Had Metz not been warned by the sound the three men would have been crushed to death.

Police Give Aid.

Sergeant Samuelson of the police department was in charge of police handling the large crowd attracted by the fire. Every man on the third detail of the police department was called in to assist in policing the fire.

Apparently the police would have been unable to handle the crowd had not military police and men of other details who came as spectators assisted. The detail under present conditions is about one-half normal.

Dr. Drew, assistant police surgeon, dressed the injuries of the firemen who were taken to the Lister hospital. Spectators expressed indignation over the present system of not having police surgeons at the station to answer emergency calls of this nature. Firemen were forced to wait in the street nearly half an hour before medical attention could be summoned.

Late street cars in all directions were blocked by lines of hose and forced to make a detour of the business section.

Building Total Loss.

Owners of the building are of the opinion that the building will be practically a total loss. It is not believed the walls will stand during remodeling.

Practically every available fireman responded to a call for volunteers by Chief Salter to enter the ground floor stores and cover stocks with salvage covers and prevent damage from water. At the time it was expected momentarily that other floors would fall.

Notes of Fire.

One was possessed of a strained sense of humor suggested that possibly the reason the flames spread so rapidly was that "the Elks had been dry since May 1, 1917."

Soldiers of the military police aided

Omaha police officers in holding back the huge crowds which congregated at the scene.

The lobby of the Paxton hotel was piled high with luggage of the guests who had answered to the "alert" that their home for the night might soon become untenable. Some of the other guests possessing less presence of mind, or perhaps more firm principle of safety first, wasted little time with their own attire and still less with their baggage.

The fire was the first big downtown blaze in Omaha in which steam engines were not employed. The motors of the big motor trucks were used exclusively to increase the water pressure. The old steamer which was such a delight to bystanders has become a relic of the past.

Wild rumors swept the fire lines shortly after the roof fell. A report that three firemen had been buried within the building and could not be located was in circulation during the duration of the blaze.

If anyone thinks there are not many men of draft age left in Omaha, a view of the crowd of spectators at the fire would have disabused them of this. The mass of the masculine element of the spectators was made up of young men of draft age. Outside of the guests of the nearby hotels, who had been rudely awakened from their slumbers and had sought the streets for "safety first" there were few elderly persons in the crowd.

When the firemen first appeared on the scene someone kept yelling: "There's a big fire in Dundee." It distracted the attention of some of the firemen working on the ground.

One of the Mickle brothers appeared on the scene soon after the fire had gotten under control. He viewed the destruction that had been wrought to the stocks in the building. A friend approached and, referring to the damage that had been done the Schultz stock, said: "I see a competitor of yours has been put out of business." "Yes," answered Mickle, "but I hate like hell to see him put out that way."

A rumor spread through the ranks of the firemen and police that Pete McDermott, one of the firemen, was among the missing and had been suffocated in the building. It was found, after investigation, that he was safe and sound in bed. He was working on the day shift.

## Five Die, 14 Hurt In Air Raids on Mannheim By Allied Aviators

Paris, July 1.—Five persons were killed and 14 injured at Mannheim, Germany, Saturday morning by bombs dropped by allied aviators, says a Havas dispatch from Basle. Severe property damage also resulted.

A successful attack on the Badische aniline and soda factory at Mannheim on Saturday was announced in official reports from the British air ministry Saturday night. Many bombs were dropped and six bursts were observed on the factory. In air fighting over Mannheim during the attack the British airmen drove down three German machines out of control.

## Big Increase in Amount of Revenue Collections

Washington, July 1.—Internal revenue collections for the fiscal year ending yesterday totalled \$3,672,000,000, compared with \$800,000,000 the year before and with \$3,400,000,000 which it was estimated the war revenue measure passed by congress last fall would yield.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper, in announcing these figures tonight, estimated that the cost to the government of making the collections was \$12,000,000.

## English Parliament Member Forcibly Taken From House

London, July 1.—Having refused to leave the House of Commons when ordered to do so by the speaker for disorderly conduct, Noel Pemberton-Billing, member for Hertfordshire, was forcibly removed by the officials.

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## ONLY 24 PERSONS SAVED AS PIRATE STRIKES IN DARK

(Continued From Page One.)

or the engine room crew who may have been killed by the explosion of the torpedo, it is clear that everyone got away. One of the small boats, called accident boats, was held back for those lost to leave the ship. But when all the others were away, the captain went to his cabin for an electric torch, and on returning found that this also had gone.

#### Hailed in English.

"The submarine hailed the boat in English: 'Come alongside, it ordered.' The boat was pulling down to pick up a drowning man. The second officer stood up and shouted back: 'We are picking up a man from the water.'"

"Come alongside," repeated the brusque voice from the submarine. The boat held on its way and forthwith two revolver shots were fired at or over it.

"Come alongside as I will shoot my big gun," shouted the submarine commander. The boat lay alongside the submarine and the captain (probably the man picked up) was ordered on board. In case he should be made prisoner and kept on board, he gave the second officer, who remained in the boat, the course to steer. He was then taken to the conning tower of the submarine, where two officers awaited him.

"The commander asked him sharply: 'What ship is that?'"

"It is the hospital ship Llandoverly Castle," answered the captain.

"Yes—the commander did not attempt to appear surprised—but you are carrying eight American flight officers."

"We are not," replied the captain. "We have seven Canadian medical officers on board. The ship was chartered by the Canadian government to carry sick and wounded Canadians from England to Canada."

#### Is After Americans.

"The submarine commander reiterated: 'You have been carrying American flight officers.'"

"I have been running to Canada for six months with wounded. I give you my word of honor that we have carried none except patients, medical staff crew and sisters."

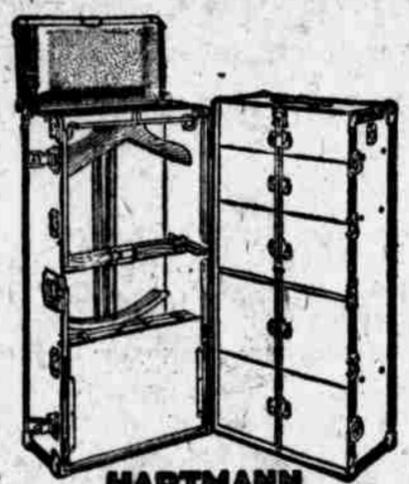
"The commander then demanded if there were any Canadian medical officers in the boat and he was told there was one. He ordered him to come aboard."

"Where are our other boats?" asked the captain. The submarine commander did not answer. He was watching the Canadian medical officer being roughly hauled on board and thrust along the deck. This was done so violently and with such plain intention to injure the Canadian, Maj. T. Lyon, of the Canadian army medical corps, that he actually had a small bone in his foot broken by the handling he received.

"There was another German officer in the conning tower, the second in command, who had not yet spoken. In reply to the captain's question he motioned over his shoulder with his field glasses, northwards."

#### Eleven Men Picked up.

"The following survivors from the captain's boat are the only ones accounted for up to present. Eleven of them were picked up from the water: R. A. Silvester, captain; I. Chapman, second officer; D. C. Barton, fourth officer; H. M. Evans, purser; Lampy Trimmer Davies, Painter Scott, O. S. Hunt, Able-bodied seaman Murphy, Schroeder, Goodrich, Ward, Tredgan, Fireman P. McVey, Fireman Mounsey, Trimmer Heather Desk



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Stewart Savagel, Assistant Steward Abrahams, Ward, attendant of the Canadian army medical corps.

The boat also contained the following: Major P. T. Lyon, Sergeant Knight and Orderlies Taylor, Hickman, Pilot and Cooper.

Major Lyon was interrogated, after protesting as a medical officer, and ordered back into the boat. The captain also was allowed to go. The boat was cast off and pulled away from the submarine.

"The submarine began to circle around the wreckage at full speed. Several times it shaved the boat narrowly, once swirling past within two feet of it; once it stopped and again took the second and fourth officers aboard and questioned them."

Invents New Excuse.

"By this time the submarine commander invented a new excuse. He stated that there was a big explosion aft as the vessel sank, and that, therefore, she must have been carrying ammunition. The second officer explained patiently that this was the explosion of the boiler and the falling of the funnel. They were allowed to return to the boat, which then made a sail and proceeded."

"Again for a while the submarine circled and threatened her by sweeping close to her, then moved off and seemed to come to a stop. From this position, says the captain's official statement, she opened fire at an unseen target, firing about twelve shells."

"It is perhaps too early yet to guess what the unseen target may have been. Possibly the other boats when they are picked up can furnish evidence on this point."

"The captain's boat had been towed for some distance while alongside the submarine. Nothing was to be seen of the others. Since no wireless was sent out there was no hope of assistance arriving from the north. The captain, therefore, decided to make for the Irish coast, to send help."

"After sailing and pulling for about 70 miles they were picked up by the destroyer Lysander, which immediately sent a wireless that search should be made for the other survivors, and carried the occupants of the captain's boat into Queenstown."

## 600 NEBRASKANS WILL BE DRAFTED FOR FORT OMAHA

### More Land Will Be Purchased to Accommodate Additional Units; Will Be Replacement Camp.

Washington Bureau of The Omaha Bee, 1311 G Street.

Washington, July 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Six hundred men were stationed at Campe Greene, Charlotte, N. C., have been ordered to Fort Omaha to fill vacancies caused by signal corps troops being ordered elsewhere. Six hundred additional troops who will be inducted into the service of the United States will be stationed at Fort Omaha.

Army officials connected with the signal corps hope to secure the second 600 from the neighborhood of Omaha, Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, Cass and Otoe counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie county in Iowa, rather than have to call on Camp Dodge to fill up the requisite quota of troops assigned to the balloon school at the fort, which has been somewhat kept back because of a lack of balloons.

General Pershing has asked for additional balloon observers and troops trained to operate these balloons in conjunction with the artillery. Fort Omaha will become a permanent replacement school and negotiations for the purchase of some 35 acres adjacent to Florence field is now underway. The fort will be greatly increased in size to accommodate the new units.

Florence Extends Honor to President Wilson in City Vote

Florence, Italy, July 1.—President Wilson has been given the freedom of the country by the unanimous vote of the city council.

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