

AUSTRIA STRIKES THE FIRST BLOW

NEW THEATRE OF WAR RINGS UP ITS CURTAIN

Italy's Entrance into the European Struggle Overshadows Everything Else in the International Line Today.

IT WILL DELAY MANY NEGOTIATIONS

United States Makes Extension of Neutrality Proclamation to Include Italy and is Interested in Developments.

New Phases of the European War as They Affect the United States.

Italy's entrance into the war brings a new proclamation of neutrality from President Wilson.

Labor famine impending if all Italians here eligible to service are recalled to the colors.

Great western packing interests to combine with southern cotton growers and fight British interference with American commerce.

No further unofficial negotiations to be carried on with Great Britain until the new cabinet accepts the American opposition to her order in council.

Reply to Germany to this government's demand that the submarine war on merchant ships be discontinued, likely to be delayed by Italy's war declaration.

American ambassadors at Berlin, Vienna and Constantinople to act for Italy during the duration of the war.

[By John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Italy's entrance into the war overshadows everything else in the international line today.

It was accepted here that the latest development greatly complicated the German situation completely blocking, as it did one of the last two remaining highways for the entrance of supplies into the teutonic empire.

It was also expected further to delay the German reply to the Wilson note.

The United States was prepared to extend its neutrality to include Italy. A proclamation, similar in every respect to those already issued, was on President Wilson's desk, awaiting his signature.

The American ambassadors in Berlin, Constantinople and Vienna were understood to be acting already for Italy in Germany, Austria and Turkey, although in Berlin and Constantinople they were said to be doing so only unofficially until the governments

handed their passports to the Italian envoys.

One of the things which most interested officials here was the question whether the thousands of Italians in this country who are liable to military service are to be summoned home at once. It is believed most of them would respond readily and it was stated this would affect the United States more from a labor standpoint than has any other development since war began. No other belligerent, said officials, has recalled any great number of its subjects to the colors. The Italians, however, in the last few years, it was declared, have a monopoly of construction work and if those in the country return to fight a famine was predicted in the so-called "common labor" market. This will be aggravated, it was added, if the Balkan countries enter the war also.

Business Men's Protest.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—President Wilson will be asked to take steps to secure the British order in council's suspension, so far as it affects American exports to neutral countries contiguous to Germany. The country's great packing industries are effecting a combination with the southern cotton interests. The aim is to secure concerted action, thus impressing the administration with an idea of the damage that is being done to American trade by the attempt of England and her allies to starve Germany out.

In order to do so, it is complained, that England has practically stopped American shipments to the neutral Scandinavian countries, practically every vessel carrying either meat products or cotton to Scandinavia or Holland having been held up on the high seas by British or French warships and taken into port. The owners of vessels and cargoes have been compelled to fight for their rights in the British prize courts and there have

(Continued on page 2.)

What the War Moves Mean

By J. W. T. Mason, Former European Manager of the United Press.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

NEW YORK, May 24. (11 a. m.)—How soon after her declaration of war, Italy will be ready to begin her main offensive, depends upon the rapidity of her mobilization. During the past months, only Italy's first line troops have been maintained on a war footing. To concentrate most of these corps as a single operating army, and move them forward in a selected direction, before mobilization has been completed, would perilously guard important frontier points.

Unless the Italian general staff hopes to duplicate the initiative of the Germans last August and risk everything on the success of a sudden blow, there will be considerable delay before Italy's offensive is uncovered.

Italy, in fact, is not in the military position which Germany occupied at the outbreak of hostilities last year. Germany knew at that time she could mobilize more quickly than could France and so was able to move forward without waiting for the full hour of her troops. But Germany and Austrian troops are now guarding all the possible lines of march which the Italian armies can follow. A quick surprise rush, therefore while possible, is extremely dangerous and might lead to an initial defeat, seriously affecting the Italian morale.

To risk the consequences of an early reverse, with the possibility of the enemy securing a strong foothold on Italian territory, would seem to be too daring a policy for the military

strategists at Rome to countenance. They will probably decide to hold strictly to the defensive at least until mobilization is so far advanced as to ensure proper support for the first line troops.

How many days must pass before mobilization approaches completion, cannot be known in advance. The German plans for mobilizing, drawn up during peace times, were the only ones that stood the strain of last August's concentrations. Whether Italy can do better, for instance, than France was able to do, is not plain. France was thought theoretically to be almost as perfect as Germany in mobilizing, but actual experience proved otherwise.

If Italy has her mobilization so far advanced as to support her main offensive within a fortnight, she will have displayed marvelous ability for organization and transportation. Train service in Italy is very slow. The fastest running time between Rome and Genoa, 309 miles, is 9½ hours, less than thirty-three miles an hour. But one train a day makes the journey at that speed and a supplementary fare is charged on this, above the regular rate. This circumstance alone raises serious doubts about the ability of Italy's railway system to bear the strain of mobilization without many breakdowns. Every delay will further postpone the forward movement of the army, and of course will increase the possibility that the first blow may not be delivered by the Italians at all, but by the teutonic allies.

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERLIN, (via wireless to London), May 24.—Germany today officially declared that "a state of war now exists between this country and Italy." Immediately after the announcement was issued, telegraphic instructions were sent to the German ambassador at Rome to leave immediately. Similar messages were sent to German consular representatives in Italy.

AIR FLEET SENT SOUTH.

GENEVA, May 24.—A German air fleet, made up of Zeppelins of the latest type, and a large number of taubes, has joined a large body of German troops concentrated in the Adige valley, near the Italian frontier. The Zeppelins were sent directly from the dirigible factory at Friedrichshafen. The Germans, according to advices received here today, are equipped with heavy artillery for the bombardment of Italian forts guarding the Tyrolean passes.

KAISER'S FAREWELL.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), May 24. From the Galician battle front, Kaiser Wilhelm today wired a personal message of farewell to Signor Bolatti, the Italian ambassador, expressing regret that the friendly relations between Germany and Italy must be severed. The Kaiser's message concluded with the request that Bolatti inform King Victor Emmanuel of "the general feeling of indignation in Germany over Italy's step."

JANE ADDAMS LEAVES BERLIN.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

BERLIN (via The Hague), May 24.—Miss Jane Addams, American emissary of peace, is today in the very vortex of war. She left Berlin Sunday for Vienna, a few hours before Italy's declaration of war was flashed here, and was due to arrive in the Austrian capital before night.

Berlin treated her conference here with Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg and Foreign Secretary Jagow, when she presented The Hague Women's peace conference resolutions, as a notable event. While Germany still regards an early peace as out of the question, the gifted American woman impressed everyone with the seriousness of her mission.

Upon her arrival in Vienna, Miss Addams will present a copy of the peace resolutions to Baron Burián, the Austrian foreign minister. Arrangements for her reception have been made at the Austrian capital.

Business was suspended in Berlin today in observance of Whit Sunday. The whole German empire joined in demonstrations of thanksgiving. Thousands of soldiers from the train-

(Continued on page 2.)

TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Amsterdam), May 24.—The Turkish torpedo gunboat Pelonki-Deria was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine last night. It was announced officially today. All of the crew of 111 but two were saved.

The first announcement from the war office did not state where the torpedo gunboat went down. It is presumed it was torpedoed inside the Dardanelles by one of the submarines attached to the Anglo-French fleet.

The Pelonki-Deria was built in 1890 at the German naval base, Kiel and had a displacement of 886 tons. She was 229.6 feet long and 31.2 feet at the beam. She carried two 4-inch guns and three torpedo tubes.

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 24.—An official statement issued here today, said that the Anglo-French troops at the Dardanelles have been reinforced by the arrival of several transports of the entrance to the straits. It is estimated that the allied expeditionary forces now number 90,000.

BALKANS

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

ATHENS, May 24.—An official bulletin issued today said that the condition of King Constantine, seriously ill with pleurisy, is "somewhat improved."

Despite the reassuring bulletin, the king's condition, following an operation yesterday, aroused apprehension in official circles today. Prof. Kriedrich Kraus, the German specialist, who attended the king at a previous illness is enroute to Athens.

RUSSIAN SHIP SUNK

MAN OF WAR WITH 1,400 MEN REPORTED LOST.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LIN (via wireless to Sayville), May 24.—The Russian man of war Winteleimen sank in the Black sea with a loss of 1,400 lives, according to dispatches received here today from Bucharest.

[The latest naval records show no Russian vessel named the Winteleimen. It is possible that the Bucharest dispatch meant the Russian battleship Pantelimon, one of the largest of the Russian warships in the Black sea. The Pantelimon is a 12,800 ton vessel, completed in 1903 and with a complement of 751 men. She is 366 feet in length and 74 feet at the beam. She carries four twelve inch guns and four eight inch guns. In addition to smaller armament.]

RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LONDON, May 24.—Russian troops have entered the Armenian mission center of Van, where 6,000 Armenians are reported to have been massacred by the Turks, according to Petrograd advices today.

SMASHING THE LINE.

PETROGRAD, May 24.—Beaten back in their attempt to descend upon Przemyel from the north, the Austro-Germans are smashing vigorously against the Russian lines to the south.

An official statement from the war office today admitted that General Mackensen's right wing drove back the Russian line, twenty-two miles south of Przemyel near Chyrov, in a bloody engagement. The Russians hurried reinforcements into the count-

(Continued on page 5.)

AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

VIENNA, May 25. (via Amsterdam.)—Emperor Franz Josef today issued a manifesto, declaring Italy's declaration of war on Austria "the greatest act of perfidy the world has ever known." He called the Austrian army to a victory "over the treacherous army south of you."

The aged Franz Josef, at first, grief-stricken over the news that Italy actually had mobilized her troops, became enraged when the actual declaration of war reached here. Not since the assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne at Sarajevo has the emperor shown such strong emotion.

He called in secretaries and some of his advisers and personally supervised the drafting of the imperial manifesto. He wanted Italy held up to the scorn of the world, he said, as the vulture that hovered over the European battlefield for sheer greed.

"Italy abandoned us in the hour of danger and went, with colors flying, to the camp of our enemies," said the manifesto.

"Her declaration of war on me was an act of perfidy whose like, history does not know. After an alliance of thirty years, Italy turned and smote her friends simply for material gain."

"We did not menace Italy. We did not curtail her authority or attack her honor. We have always responded loyally to the duties of our alliance and have afforded her our protection when she took the field herself."

"I salute my battle-tried troops. The treacherous army to the south is no new enemy to you. I rely upon you and your leaders. I pray the Almighty that He bless you and our colors and that He take under His gracious protection our just cause."

MOB DRIVEN OFF.

VIENNA, May 24. (via Amsterdam.)—An Austrian mob today attacked the Italian consulate at Trieste, but was driven off by the police. Trieste was decked with flags and a series of street demonstrations followed word that Italy had declared war.

ITALY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

ROME, May 24.—Eighty Austrian and German vessels in Italian ports, valued at \$20,000,000, were ordered seized today. Among them are several of the finest vessels in the German merchant marine, interned at Genoa since the beginning of the European war.

ATTACKED BY AVIATORS.

ROME, May 24.—Austrian aviators have bombed the Italian arsenal at Venice and have attacked four other Italian cities, according to Venice dispatches today. They were driven off without doing serious damage, the dispatches said.

BOMBARDMENT OF PORTS.

ROME, May 24.—Austria's naval and air forces have struck the first blow in the Austro-Italian war. Official announcement this afternoon detailed a bombardment by the Austrian fleet of Ancona and several Adriatic coast towns. About the same hour Austrian aviators bombed the Italian arsenal at Venice and the aeroplane hangars at Jesi.

Destroyers and torpedo boats participated in the naval raid on the east coast towns. The warships attempted to destroy the railway from Ancona to Porto Cossinia, but official reports said this afternoon only slight damage was done. The bombardment began at 4 a. m. and lasted two hours. The warships then passed south.

(Continued on page 2.)

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PARIS, May 24.—An unnamed crest in the Lorette hills, north of Arras, was today designated "The Hill of Death" in an "eye witness" statement given out at the war office.

Three thousand German bodies lay scattered about the slopes, when the French, by a bayonet charge that will go down in history, captured the heights. Fragments of bodies, blood-spattered rocks and mangled corpses greeted the victorious French troops when they swept to the top of the hill after an almost ceaseless three months attack.

Capture of this crest, though accomplished at a great loss to the French arms, removed a German menace against Arras. The hill command ed the roads leading to Arras.

"Every day we have been finding arms and all sorts of guns buried in the trenches on the heights," said the "eye witness" statement.

POISONOUS GAS.

PARIS, May 24.—German poisonous gas attacks between Steenstrate and Ypres have been repulsed by the British troops who inflicted severe punishment upon the enemy.

Favored by a strong wind, the Germans sent a yellow cloud of chlorine gas rolling down upon the British trenches. The new respirators provided the English forces enabled them to remain in their entrenchments without great discomfort. A body of German troops that ran forward in a charge, expecting to find piles of dead bodies, was partly cut to pieces and retired in great disorder.

The Germans are making desperate efforts to advance near Arras. Everywhere they have been repulsed. North of Neuville St. Vaast, the French took 120 prisoners.

BELGIUM

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.), May 24.—Charges that Belgian civilians threw boiling water on German troops, maimed their wounded and assassinated German officers quartered in their homes during the night, were made in an official White book issued by the German government today.

The white book declared that in justification of the measures of repression adopted by the Germans at Louvain and other Belgian cities.

The government declared that all classes of Belgian civilians participated in these attacks upon German troops, clergymen, women and children were guilty, the white book declared, and the signal for shooting at the German soldiers was often given by ringing a church bell.

The white book declared that the Belgian official report on so-called German atrocities is untrustworthy because the Belgian government was unable to examine the evidence, nearly all Belgian territory being in German hands. The white book supplied names of numerous witnesses in support of these statements.

HAS ENTERED THE WAR ON SIDE OF THE ALLIES

Italy, the Boot of the Map of Europe, Kicks Hard at Austria and Germany After Keeping on Outskirts For Many Months.

YOUTHS FIGHT TO BE ENLISTED

Actual Clashes Have Occurred on the Border Where Soldiers of Two Nations Are Being Rushed For the Slaughter.

How and When Belligerents Entered European War.

1914.

JULY 28.—Austria declared war against Serbia, because of Serbia's refusal to accept Austrian international control following assassination by a Serb of the Archduke Charles Ferdinand.

JULY 30.—Germany gave Russia twenty-four hours in which to explain Russian army mobilization.

AUGUST 1.—Germany declared war against Russia.

AUGUST 2.—Germany invaded Luxembourg and violated Belgian neutrality.

AUGUST 3.—Germany offered Belgium entente if Belgium will facilitate movement of German troops across her borders.

AUGUST 4.—Germany declared war against France.

AUGUST 5.—Germany declared war against Belgium.

AUGUST 6.—England declared war against Germany. Latter retaliated by similar declaration.

AUGUST 8.—Austria declared war against Russia; Russia declared war on Austria.

AUGUST 7.—Montenegro declared war against Austria.

AUGUST 9.—Austria declared war against Montenegro.

AUGUST 10.—France declared war against Austria.

AUGUST 12.—Montenegro declared war against Germany.

AUGUST 13.—(Midnight)—England declared war against Austria.

AUGUST 23.—Japan declared war against Germany.

AUGUST 25.—Austria declared war against Japan.

NOVEMBER 5.—England declared war against Turkey.

1915.

MAY 23.—Italy declared war against Austria.

MAY 24.—Germany announced state of war with Italy.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

ROME, May 24.—Austria has struck the first blow since the formal declaration of hostilities. While Rome feverishly awaited news of the first land battle, Austrian aviators sped over the Adriatic from the Austrian naval base at Pola and bombarded several Italian coast cities.

Only meager details had been received here this afternoon. It was reported several bombs were hurled at the outer forts guarding Venice from the sea and that bombs fell in the lagoon. The enemy airmen are reported to have been driven off.

Shortly afterward, word reached Rome that a hostile aviator flew over the ancient city of Ravenna, further south along the sea coast. Ancona next reported an attack from the air, but said no damage had been inflicted. Later dispatches from Bari reported several towns along the coast, forty miles to the north, have been bombarded from the air, several aviators participating in the attack.

Further details are lacking, but it is assumed that the Austrians flew out of Pola early today, were driven off after the attack at Venice, and then sped south along the coast. Except at Venice, none of the bombs fell near military works. The object of the raid, apparently, was to terrorize the Italian population and to score "first blood" of the war.

News that Germany had proclaimed a state of war with respect to Italy was received here today from Switzerland and occasioned no surprise. Though no official statement was given out, it was presumed that the Italian ambassador already has left Berlin.

The government was in complete control of the telegraph system this afternoon. The wires were in use for official messages and little news filtered through from the frontier.

In official circles it was said this afternoon that the first big clash of armed forces of Italy may not occur for several days. All dispatches received here indicated that the Austrians had withdrawn several miles within their frontiers, behind wire entanglements and trenches and were awaiting the first rushes of the Italian army.

The cabinet was again in session today, drafting several proclamations to the people and taking the final steps before the Italian army hurled itself against the Austrian border. Automobiles were constantly arriving at the war office, but an air of utter calm prevailed there, in contrast to the scene in the street below, where cheering crowds continued to march in great demonstrations.

Heavy police guards were placed about German hotels and shops, but thus far there have been no disturbances. The Italian press has been unanimous in demanding that the people of Italy set an example to other European countries by refraining from demonstrations against enemy civilians. The injunction has had good effect.

Genoa dispatches today said that an American hospital unit had arrived there enroute to Budapest, but probably would change its plans and attach itself to the Italian Red Cross.

The Red Cross began mobilizing its forces yesterday and will send its first corps northward tomorrow. The offices of the society today were overwhelmed with offers of women, many of them of noble birth, who volunteered service in the field as nurses.

All the royal princes holding commands in the army joined their regiments today. The king, it is reported, will leave for the front within a few days and establish headquarters near the battle line, spending a large part of his time in the field.

Reports that Austrians and Germans are bringing up heavy guns and preparing to force mountain passes leading into northern Italy aroused no great apprehension here today. The Austro-German, it was pointed out, will encounter great natural fortresses, hewn out of solid rock, and believed to be impregnable, bristling with great guns. The difficulties experienced by the Russians in their attempts to pierce the Carpathians, military experts said today, will be incomparable to the tremendous obstacles to be faced by an Austro-German army of invasion.

No early clash of naval forces is expected here. It is the popular belief that the Austrian fleet will remain in its present position behind the mine fields near Pola, sending out submarines and destroyers to attack the Italian squadrons. Two German submarines of the latest type are reported to have been transported to Pola several weeks ago. It is expected they will be used to harass merchant shipping in the Adriatic in the same manner in which submarines have been employed around the British Isles.

Formally at War.

ROME, May 24.—With Italy formally at war with Austria, the government today issued a drastic decree, forbidding all civil and religious public meetings.

The decree suppresses the government parcel post and institutes a rigid censorship over the mails and telegraph. It fixes severe penalties for all violations.

General Cadorna, now enroute to the front, will assume direct charge of the operations of the entire army. It was officially announced. General Carlo Canova probably will be designated as second in command.

Baron Von Macchio, the Austrian ambassador, left Rome early today. The German ambassador, Prince Von Bulow, has received instructions from Berlin to leave Rome at once.

An official manifesto, calling upon every citizen to do his duty, was spread broadcast in circulars issued

(Continued on page 5.)