

The Great War—1418th Day

THE FIGHTING ON THE PIAVE



The map shows the gains of the Italians in their counter offensive along the Piave River. Unofficial reports from London say an Allied thrust on the eastern edge of the Montello, in the direction of arrow (A), recaptured the town of Nervesa. On the lower Piave front the Italians pressed forward along the sea coast, regaining area (2). Area (1) had been recaptured previously.

captured was covered with the bodies of their dead. Attacks follow one another methodically, but slowly, on account of the difficult terrain and the continually changing lines, which prevent both sides from using their artillery to the full effect. The line weather is favorable to aviation operations, and the Italian aviators continue to destroy bridges and to direct their machine guns at a low altitude on the enemy troops.

Shattered Austrian Divisions Cut Off By New Piave Flood

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, June 21.—Fresh rains have turned the Piave River into a swirling yellow flood, which moves silently but swiftly, doing a fearful blow to the Austrians on its western bank, tearing up the communication lines and preventing succor being given to the shattered divisions cut off under the eastern edge of the Montello plateau by the Duke of Aosta's third army.

Austrians Expected To Renew Attack by Single Grand Drive

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Thursday, June 20.—It is considered only a question of a brief time before the Austrians will begin another offensive. It is said that this time they probably will concentrate their efforts, instead of scattering them as they did a week ago, when they followed the German plan of attempting to make a general offensive over a long line before revealing their point of attack.

Austro-Hungarians Make Slight Gains At Exorbitant Cost

(Special Cable to The Tribune) LONDON, June 21.—The Austrian attack, which was stopped after the destruction of at least two bridges on Tuesday, was resumed yesterday by drives against Montello and the Italian positions along the Posetta Canal. A limited advance was made at the important points, but the gains are hardly justified by the cost.

French Gain at Two Points, Petain Reports

PARIS, June 21.—The official communications issued by the War Office to-day follow: NIGHT.—There is nothing to report from any of the battlefronts. DAY.—The French have improved their positions north of Favoroles and in the region south of Heutvesnes. A score of prisoners remained in the hands of the French.

Scottish Raid Enemy Lines on Scarpe, Says Haig

LONDON, June 21.—The British official communications issued to-day follow: NIGHT (West Front).—In last night's raids north of the Scarpe Scottish troops penetrated German trenches, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy's garrison, and captured a number of prisoners. A number of dugouts and several machine guns were blown up and destroyed.

Italians Fighting at Rheims, Berlin Reports

BERLIN, June 21.—The War Office to-day issued the following: DAY.—The enemy has kept up violent reconnoitering thrusts along the whole of the front. They have been repulsed everywhere.

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Heavy Cannonading Indicates an Early Attack on British

PARIS, June 21.—Gave events are impending on the British front, according to military experts, who see in the intensity of the German cannonade at various points the preliminary step of a new German attack. It is pointed out that the fourth army group, under Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, has had leisure for reorganization during the three weeks since it was engaged in battle and is now ready for a new effort along the front.

American Airmen Wreck Bridge in First Italian Flight

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 20.—The first American aviators to fly over the Italian front went to-day on a bombing expedition and succeeded in blowing two holes in a new Austrian bridge across the Piave River. The commander of the Italian aviation camp expressed satisfaction with the work of the Americans.

Italians, by Taking Capo Sile, Regain Control of River

Possession of the village of Capo Sile, taken by the Italians on Wednesday after being held for two days by the Austrians, means control of the Piave River locks, by which a stretch of 125 square miles can be flooded. The importance of the town is explained in a statement issued yesterday by the Italian Bureau of Information in this city.

Italian Troops Win Big Victory; Nervesa Captured

LONDON, June 21.—The Italians have gained a big victory at Nervesa, a town on the west bank of the Piave, and are fighting to complete their success. It was learned from an authoritative source this afternoon.

Austrian Attack Along the Brenta Is Expected Soon

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 20.—The second phase of the Austrian offensive, featured by attacks to the right and left of Valstagna, along the Brenta River and in the mountainous region, is believed to be now that the effort on the Piave has failed. It is felt that if the Austrians do not renew their efforts to penetrate the Italian line, they will attempt to break through the Brenta region and make a dash for the Venetian plain.

Austrian Loss in Italy Estimated at 120,000

PARIS, June 21.—The Austrian losses in their offensive on the Italian front exceed 120,000 men, according to a dispatch to "La Liberté" from Rome, quoting the correspondent of the "Corriere d'Italia."

Semenoff, Beaten, Retiring Into China

WASHINGTON, June 21.—General Semenoff's force of Cossacks in Siberia has been defeated by the Bolshevik troops and is retiring into Chinese territory, the State Department was advised to-day in a dispatch sent from Harbin last Wednesday.

German News Bureau Denies Rumor of Holloway's Illness

LONDON, June 21.—A Central News dispatch from Copenhagen, quoting the Wolff Bureau, the German semi-official news agency, says that Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, former Imperial German Chancellor, is quite well. The report that Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg had suffered a stroke of apoplexy, the agency declares, is unfounded.

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Hilaire Belloc's View of the Battle

By Hilaire Belloc (Special Cable to The Tribune) (Copyright, 1918, by The Tribune Association) LONDON, June 21.—The position on the Piave River during the course of Thursday remained very much what it was the day before. The only difference was in the Allies' favor. The river was reached in two or more places by the Italians, who pushed back to the bank or compelled to retire over the remaining bridges. The Austrian forces which had reached the southern shore.

Kaiser's Speech Attacked For Its Warlike Tenor

GENEVA, June 21.—Several German newspapers openly attack the speech made by Emperor William at German Great Headquarters on the occasion of his anniversary.

Prussian Deputy Urges Overthrow of Government

AMSTERDAM, June 21.—The "Rheinische Volkszeitung," of Essen, says that Herr Hofer, Independent Socialist, in the Prussian lower house Thursday, declared:

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Military Comment

By William L. McPherson THE situation of the Austro-Hungarian armies on the west side of the Piave River is becoming more and more precarious. They are being pushed back to the river bank and the connections between the various bridgehead groups are being severed. Many of the pontoon bridges to the east shore are under artillery fire, and are also being bombed by Allied airmen. Allied supremacy in the air is a factor of great importance along the Piave line. Air attacks can greatly harass defeated armies trying to recross a river barrier.

Austrian Cabinet Forced to Resign Over Food Crisis

A dispatch to the Paris "Temps" from Geneva says the Austrian government has decided to quit Vienna and other large cities on half the present bread ration in order to ameliorate the conditions in Galicia and Bohemia. The "Temps" quotes the Vienna "Neue Presse" as saying that railroad and other strikes can only be averted by such a measure. The Vienna news badly off, are still in worse condition than the country, where there is usually no bread.

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