

AUSTRIANS WERE SLAUGHTERED BY THE THOUSANDS AS BRITISH MAINTAIN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

And Elsewhere on the 90-Mile Front the Invaders Have Secured Little Advantage Though They Have a Million Men in Offensive

GREATEST GAIN OF THE ENEMY DOES NOT EXCEED THREE MILES

Although They Have Crossed Piave River at Places They Have Been Unable to Spread Out and Extend That Crossing

Holding their lines intact along virtually all the 90 miles of battlefront from the Adriatic to the Asiago plateau, the Italian and allied armies appear to have given the Austrian armies a setback.

Losses described as frightful have been inflicted upon the Austrians. In the mountainous country where the British have been holding their positions solidly, thousands of the enemy have perished, while they have paid heavily for every foot they have advanced along the Piave river front.

In the Montello area, on the upper Piave, the Austrians seem to have gained a foothold on the west bank of the river. North of Zenson Loop and at Capo Sile, lower down, they have also moved westward, but their greatest gain does not exceed two or three miles.

The vital mountain sector, along the upper reaches of the Brenta, has not been broken. On the contrary, the British claim to have defeated the foe. As long as this front holds firmly, according to military experts, the stability of the Italian line is assured unless a serious breach should be made along the Piave river east of Treviso and Montebelluna.

There are hints of a counter offensive in progress along the Piave river. The Austrians have gained the most ground at Capo Sile, a village west of the Piave river and surrounded by low, marshy land, which in itself does not lend itself readily to rapid advance.

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While the gigantic Austrian attempt to break through to the plains of Italy has occupied the center of the stage, events of importance may be taking shape on the Somme battlefield.

Heavy firing by the German artillery in the Ancre valley and northward to Cerre, is reported by the British. It is in this part of the front that a German attack has been expected by the allies, and the German bombardment may be the prelude of a resumption of the enemy's offensive in France.

The statement reads: "A hostile raiding party was repulsed by us last night south east of Villers-Bretonneux. We secured a few prisoners. Other prisoners and a machine gun were taken by us in successful raids southwest of Albert, in the neighborhood of Moyenneville (on the northern side of the Somme salient), and in patrol encounters east of the Nieppe forest (on the western side of the Flanders battle area). The hostile artillery was more active than usual last night in Ancre valley and south of Albert. It also showed some activity west of Cerre."

The "hunger offensive," as the Austrians describe it, is being carried on with the greatest severity on the Piave front, where it is apparent the Austrians have massed large bodies of troops. In the mountain regions to the north the fighting for the present is limited to local attacks and counter attacks.

The enemy is making desperate efforts to retain the positions he obtained during the initial stage of the offensive on the western bank of the Piave, at the points where he still has a footing across the river. These operations are costing him heavily. Fierce fighting is taking place in the Nervosa zone, where the river emerges from the Alps to the plain, and in the region of Fagnano midway between the Alps and the sea.

There is no question that the spirit of the Italian troops is excellent. Nevertheless the general situation is regarded as serious, in view of the fact that the river emerges from the Alps to the plain, and in the region of Fagnano midway between the Alps and the sea.

GERMANS DOUBT ABILITY TO WIN MILLIONS MAY BE INVOLVED

Realize, and Virtually Admit, That Americans Will Turn Tide

DEJECTION FOLLOWS FIRST ENTHUSIASM

"Have We Entered Paris?" Was the Question Which Showed Expectation

Geneva, June 18.—The enthusiasm created by the first German offensive has faded and a feeling of prolonged dejection reigns among the German people, according to a neutral diplomat reaching here from Berlin.

The allied troops have taken several hundred additional prisoners and some machine guns.

The economic situation in the interior of Germany, the diplomat declared, is becoming more and more serious. Germans, both military and civilians, now realize and virtually admit that the constant arrival of American troops will turn the tide of the war.

The diplomat concluded his interview with a statement that during a recent secret sitting of the Reichstag the question of autonomy for Alsace Lorraine was discussed officially for the first time.

Montpelier Epworth League Institute Is Being Held at Seminary.

The annual session of the Vermont state Epworth league institute is taking place at Montpelier institute this week. The officers of the institute are: Rev. V. L. Smith of Waterbury, dean; Rev. C. W. Kelley of Irasburg, registrar; Rev. S. C. Sutor of Randolph, purser.

Between the Ourcq and the Marne They Also Gained Prisoners in Patrol Encounters.

Paris, June 18.—In a local operation south of the Aisne last night the French took 100 prisoners, it is announced officially. Between the Ourcq and the Marne prisoners were taken in patrol encounters.

The statement follows: "South of the Aisne the French carried out successful local operations south of Ambleny and east of Montgobert, taking 100 prisoners, including two officers."

"Between the Ourcq and the Marne French patrols took prisoners. "Elsewhere the night was calm."

Was Kept Up by Royal Dutch Oil on New York Market.

New York, June 18.—Speculative issues were conspicuous features at the irregular opening of to-day's stock market. Royal Dutch oil resumed its spectacular advance, jumping seven points, and Wilson Packing gained 4 1/2. Tobacco and sugar rose one to two points, but equipments and specials of the war class made no gain.

The work of moving the Vermont free public library from the Dewey block into the rooms allotted to it in the new state building, is well nigh completed. The new room is but little larger than the one it formerly had.

WILSON PARDONS TWO SOLDIERS

Were Sentenced to Death for Having Slept on Post at the Front

OFFENSE NOT TO DUTY

Nor Through Conscious Disregard of Their Duty

Washington, D. C., June 18.—In granting unconditional pardon to two young soldiers sentenced to death for having slept on post at the front, President Wilson expected his action to act "as a challenge to devoted service for the future."

"In view of the youth of Private (Forrest) Bastian and (Jeff) Cook, and the fact that his offense seems to have been wholly free from disloyalty or conscious disregard of his duty, I hereby grant him a full and unconditional pardon and direct that he report to his company for further military duty."

"The needs of discipline in the army with propriety impose grave penalties upon those who imperil the safety of their fellows, and endanger their country's cause by lack of vigilance or by infractions of rules in which safety has been found to rest. I am persuaded, however, that this young man will take the restored opportunity of his forfeited life as a challenge to devoted service for the future and that the soldiers of the army of the United States in France will realize too keenly the high character of the cause for which they are fighting and the confidence which their country reposes in them to permit the possibility of further danger from any similar shortcomings."

Occupied Attention of Jury in Barre City Court Today.

A cow with a past was the subject of a post mortem inquiry which took the form of a jury trial in the presence of Judge H. W. Scott in municipal court today.

It was the case of Cano vs. street railway, in which the plaintiff, represented by Earle B. Davis, alleges negligence on the part of the motorman when a street car caused a boy's killing near Jones Bros' plant on the night of Nov. 13, 1917.

F. E. Gleason appeared for the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power Co., and during the morning session five witnesses were introduced by the plaintiff. Much of the evidence concerned the action and conduct of the cow before it went down to its death on the track. Jose Cano, plaintiff, Ismael Marchesi and Joaquin Cano, employes, and Deputy Sheriff G. L. Morris had testified when the plaintiff rested at noon.

William Persons, a conductor, was also called by counsel for Cano. The deputy sheriff, qualifying as an expert witness by reason of his experience as a passenger on street cars, told how far he thought the headlight of a car would penetrate into the darkness.

Witnesses for the defense were sworn when court reconvened at 1:30 p. m. The jurors are: James Moruzzi, C. S. Andrews, Patrick H. Brown, Alvin J. Young, George H. Burroughs, A. H. Folsom, Kenneth Nicholson, H. C. Patterson, W. A. Lane, Nicholas Veale, W. A. Perry and James Gresson. Damages of \$100 were sought by the plaintiff.

ONLY 20 CLASS 1 MEN. Left in Washington County After Latest Calls are Filled.

The local board of exemption sent a call to-day to 17 men to go to Camp Devens to take the place of those men who were rejected out of the 161 who were sent from this county some two weeks ago. It was announced this morning that the official list will be printed to-morrow. This was deferred to-day so that those who have claims under new regulations might consult them.

The clerk of the board has selected from those in general service in class 1 all those registrants who have grammar school education, a total of 42, and has sent them notice of the new call which was made Sunday for 365 men from Vermont to go to Burlington. The adjutant general on Monday afternoon decided to make no county allotments this time, because it is expected there are not enough in class 1 in all the counties of the state to get the 365 who will respond to the qualifications of the new call. This does not mean that it cleans up class 1. There will be some left who have not enjoyed grammar school education or for other reasons will not go into this call. The 17 called for Camp Devens to-day are not from that list.

Advice was also sent those who have been called in the 18 over a week ago, who were to go to Camp Devens June 28, that they may self-induct before June 21 for service at Burlington. The call of 17 and the 42 in this county who are grammar school graduates, and who will probably go to Burlington, leave about 20 in general service in class 1 in this county. Of these some are exempt for agricultural and other reasons.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Specimens of several articles, made and embroidered by the members of the domestic science class at Goddard seminary are being displayed in the north window of the Homer Fitts store. Under the direction of the teacher, Miss Blake, the students have been taught the rudiments of the various phases of dress-making and the articles on display have caused a great deal of favorable comment, showing in a creditable manner the talent and ability of the members of the class.

Spaulding high school's commencement week activities begin this evening with the prize speaking contest in the opera house. Many tickets have been sold and a large crowd is expected. There are to be eight readings and music will be contributed by the school orchestra and the glee club. To-morrow evening at Hotel Barre the alumni dinner and exercises are to be held. The class day exercises will be held in the opera house Thursday afternoon and the graduation program is to be carried out Friday evening, with Prof. Frederick Tupper of Burlington as the speaker.

MILLIONS MAY BE INVOLVED

As Result, Thousands of Letters and Documents Were Seized

32D DIVISION OF U. S. TROOPS IS IN EUROPE

Disclosure of That Fact to the Germans Resulted in War Department Announcement in Washington.

Washington, D. C., June 18.—The war department authorized formally to-day the announcement of the fact that the 32d division, National Guard, is now fighting in Alsace on German territory.

Since the division has been in action its presence has been identified by the Germans, permitting the fact to be disclosed.

The 32d division is composed of Michigan and Wisconsin troops, commanded by Major General William G. Haan.

PRIZE SPEAKING TO-NIGHT.

Opening Event of the Spaulding High School Commencement.

The annual prize-speaking contest of Spaulding high school will be held at the Barre opera house this evening, beginning promptly at 8 o'clock, and it is earnestly requested that all the audience be in their seats at that time, so that the speakers will not be disturbed.

The judges are: Bennett C. Douglass and Clyde M. Hill of the state educational department at Montpelier, and Attorney Fred E. Gleason of Montpelier. The program is as follows:

"Whispering Willows".....Herbert Orchestra

"The Struggle Between Two Worlds".....Jonescu Oreste Emil Gianni

"Sunshine".....Johnson Evelyn Cecilia Bruya

"Address to Fighters of France".....France Frank Howland Wally

Music—"To Thee, O Country".....Eichberg Glee club

"The Fall of Pemberton Mill".....Anon. Katherine Claire Brown

"The Reply to the Pope".....Wilson Gordon Chilson Reardon

"Miss Boker".....Tarkington Mildred Lillian Lander

Music—"Roses from the South".....Strauss Glee club

"The Menace of Prussianism".....Kahn Aldo Charles Polett

"Jane".....Tarkington Doris Genevieve Burke

Music—"Triumphal March".....Verdi

UNIFORMED SENIORS

Marked Parade of the Harvard Class of 1918 To-day.

Cambridge, Mass., June 18.—The absence of many members of the graduating class on war service necessitated some modifications of the customary class day exercises at Harvard university to-day. No ode was read, as the class orator is in France. The class poem, written by Lieut. Thatcher Nelson of Chicago, was read in his absence by Ralph Brown of New York. Halliwell Davis of Brookline was class orator.

The usual procession through the yard had much of a military aspect because of the many uniformed men in the line. The exercises in Sanders' theatre were followed by the ivy with Sewell Denton of Circleville, O., as ivy orator.

F. N. JUDSON ACCEPTS POST.

Will Substitute with Ex-Pres. Taft on the War Labor Board.

St. Louis, June 18.—Frederick N. Judson, a prominent lawyer of this city, has accepted a commission to substitute for former President William H. Taft on the war labor board. Judson is on his way to New Haven, Conn., to confer with Mr. Taft following a telegram to the former president, notifying him he would serve on the board during the vacation period.

Mr. Taft and Frank P. Walsh of Kansas City, Mo., constitute the joint chairmanship of the committee, the expression representing the employer and Walsh representing labor.