

TRAGIC BATTLE BEHIND LOCKED DOORS

Italians Are Holding Against Strong Attacks

DRIVE ENEMY BACK ACROSS PIAVE WATER

Great Air Activity Makes Present Fighting Along French Front.

Home, Dec. 23.—Enemy forces which had crossed the Piave river at Piave Vecchia had been driven back over the river, the war office announces.

On the mountain front, the statement says, the Austro-Germans passed the Italian positions in the Piave sector in the region of Bove Monte Valbellina but stopped at the Italian rear positions from where the Italians are counter attacking with satisfactory results.

Paris, Dec. 23.—Intense aerial activity is reported by the war office. In the course of 100 combats in the air during the last few days the French brought down 18 German machines. The announcement follows:

On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdon front). The Germans made two raids against our small posts near Buzonvaux and Courrières wood. Their efforts were repulsed by our fire. The artillery fighting was rather vigorous on the left bank of the river, in the sector of Berthelourt. On the remainder of the front the night was calm.

Boche Airships in Flames.

On Dec. 21, 23 and 23 our pursuit squadrons were very active. Our pilots engaged in 100 combats, most of them over the German lines. Eighteen German machines were brought down. Of these seventeen fell in flames or crashed to the ground and were destroyed.

During this period our bombing squadrons dropped 13,500 kilograms (nearly twenty tons) of projectiles on railway stations, factories, encampments and other objectives behind the enemy's lines.

German Fall in Italy.

London, Dec. 24.—German troops yesterday afternoon attempted to raid the British positions southeast of Epehy on the Cambrai front but were driven off, the war office announced today. The statement reads:

Last night hostile raiding parties which attempted to approach our lines in the neighborhood of Monchy Le Preux and west of La Bassée were repulsed.

Washington Hears Story.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Official dispatches from Rome today give a detailed story of the fighting on Monte Asolone. They say:

"With the recapture of the positions of Monte Asolone the Italian soldiers have written a glorious page in the annals of this war. Their bravery has prevented the enemy from spreading his fingers to the south and completed the surrounding of Monte Grappa. Our soldiers fought for several days against fearful artillery fire and asphyxiating gas. The enemy suffered enormous losses. It is calculated that in the actions at Beretta and Monte Asolone the enemy has lost three divisions, which have already been substituted from the 26th of November to date. General Pfeffer, commander of the fourth enemy division, and the commanders of the seventh and eighth divisions have been seriously wounded.

Made Slaves of Germans.

The enemy command in the city of Udine has issued rules by which all women, women and children, are obliged to work in the fields from 4 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock in the evening, with half an hour of rest in the morning, one hour and a half at midday and half an hour in the afternoon. The transgressors of these rules will be accompanied to work and, at the termination of the harvest, they will be imprisoned for six months and every three days they will receive only bread and water. Slow or lazy women will be castrated and lazy children will be fogged. If necessary, the commander will inflict corporal punishment on the workmen.

Australian Politics.

Sydney, Australia, Dec. 24.—Further returns from the referendum have increased the vote against compulsory military service and the defeat of the plan is now beyond doubt. The political situation is very uncertain. Premier Hughes has made no statement this evening, but in certain quarters there is evidence of opposition to his continued leadership of the nationalists, the dominant party.

It is not improbable that Frank G. Tudor, a former cabinet member, will be permitted by the nationalists to form a government from the labor party giving this party an opportunity to put into effect its plans for raising troops without conscription.

Sees Her Daddy for First Time in Cedar Rapids

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dec. 24.—When the daddy of Elizabeth Leigh clasped her in his arms at the union station here today it was the first time the little miss ever had seen him, and to be with him and her mother she braved the terrors of the submarine zone and traveled alone from Lancashire, England, to Cedar Rapids.

She smiled bravely when she told of her trip and said never once was she afraid of the U-boats.

Mr. Leigh, who is employed by a local concern, left England a few weeks before Elizabeth was born. Her mother came over a few years later, leaving Elizabeth with her grandmother. A few weeks ago she was sent for and arrived today.

HOLIDAY CHEER IS UPON HUGE SCALE

New York's War Christmas Will Bring Happiness to Soldiers and Sailors—Poor Are Remembered.

New York, Dec. 24.—New York's "war Christmas" promises to be as bounteous as usual and preparations went forward today for Christmas eve celebrations on an elaborate scale.

Special efforts have been made to provide holiday cheer for thousands of soldiers and sailors here on furlough by the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and many other organizations will give dinners and entertainments to the men in the service.

Some American sailors will reverse the program, however, and have elected to be hosts rather than guests. They will entertain 100 poor boys at dinner tomorrow on board a battleship in the harbor. Fraternal societies and many neighborhood organizations will look after the needs of the poor as in the past years. The Salvation army will feed hundreds of needy families, and the Elks have arranged for a Christmas tree for 2,500 children and will distribute dinners to 500 families.

ARMY OF MECHANICS WAITING U. S. AIRMEN

With the American army in France, Dec. 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—When the American air fighters begin arriving in France in large numbers they will find a corps of several thousand American air mechanics trained on this side of the Atlantic waiting to assemble, repair and care for their machines.

The Associated Press is able to announce that arrangements have been completed for training a large number of mechanics this winter in England and that many repair units already have been sent there. They will recross the English channel as needed when trained.

Arrangements also have been made for the establishment in the United States of flying schools for Italian aviators.

GERMAN SOCIALIST PAPER SUSPENDED

Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—The Berlin Socialist newspaper Voerwaerts has been obliged by the government to suspend publication for three days.

Vorwaerts, in a recent article, attacked the system of the German food controller, Von Waldow, declaring that great masses of German people were not only hungry but were literally starving. It also accused the "war profiteers and millionaires" of hoarding great supplies of food.

LEFT CAMP WITHOUT LEAVE; SEE TROUBLE

Macon, Ga., Dec. 24.—Four hundred enlisted men at Camp Wheeler have overridden orders and left for home to spend Christmas without permission. Many of them have been apprehended and will be returned to camp. Nearly two hundred were absent from the One Hundred Twenty-second Infantry. Being absent without permission will mean a sentence from 30 to 90 days, depending on circumstances, court officers say.

WILL EXAMINE SHIPS.

Washington, Dec. 24.—As a result of the Halifax disaster which crippled the port facilities there, the British government has temporarily agreed that neutral vessels bound from this side of the Atlantic for Europe shall be examined at American ports by American customs collectors and given certificates which will entitle them to unimpeded passage through the war zones.

AVERTED BIG STRIKE.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 24.—A threatened strike of 10,000 metal trades unionists, engaged in industries other than shipbuilding was averted here today according to officials of the iron workers' council, when 14 of the 25 foundries that would have been effected by the walkout granted decrease for a 10 per cent additional wage increase over the 31 per cent advance that had been allowed some time ago by the federal shipbuilding labor adjustment board.

CHINA SENDS AWAY PRO-GERMAN EDITOR

Peking, Dec. 24.—Dr. Gilbert Reid, an American accused of being a pro-German propagandist and sympathizer, has been deported to Manila at the request of the Chinese government.

Dr. Gilbert Reid, editor of the Peking Post, was released from prison at Shanghai on July 23, 1917, when he promised to refrain from criticism of the American government or its officials.

TEUTONS PLY TRADES WITH RUSS PEOPLE

Petrograd is in Disturbed State of Mind Over Many Stories.

Petrograd, Dec. 23. (Sunday).—A Caucasian army of 100,000 is advancing on the rear of the troops of General Kaledines, the Cossack leader, according to an announcement made today by the Bolshevik press bureau.

London, Dec. 24.—Petrograd dispatches report that attempts are being made by the Bolshevik commissars to negotiate with the Ukrainians for a settlement of the differences which have arisen and it is also reported that the authorities of the new Ukrainian government are ready to accept proposals looking toward a peaceful arrangement.

The movement for harmony is attributed by the correspondent of the Times to the fact that the growing dangers of the situation are being recognized to an increasing extent by the Bolsheviks. For the same reason, he says, they are believed to be inclined to modify their attitude of hostility toward the constituent assembly, which is likely to meet within a week.

Concurrently with these statements come numerous further reports of military activities on the part of the Ukrainians and Cossacks, and of the sending of more Bolshevik troops southward to oppose the Ukrainians. There are disconnected rumors of further fighting, but apparently there have been no hostilities on a large scale or of such a nature as to indicate important developments.

Look for Germans.

Many news dispatches from Petrograd speak of the supposed impending arrival of the Germans there, which is said to be the universal topic of discussion in the city, but everyone seems to have a different version. Many of these stories center around the reported concentration near the capital of a large force of released German war prisoners, to whom arms are being handed over, according to some of the reports.

Referring to these rumors, the Petrograd correspondent of the Post says that unquestionably thousands of German war prisoners are flocking toward Petrograd from all parts of Russia, but he believes that at present a more important phase of the situation is the active and thorough manner in which the Germans have been pushing trade with Russia since the frontier was opened. He reports they are making the most of a commercial opportunity such as the world has never seen before, inasmuch as Russian industries are nearly dead and the Germans have no competition.

The Germans have refused to admit M. Zimovlev, a close associate of Nikolai Lenin and other Bolsheviks, who the soldiers and workmen's delegates wished to send into spread their doctrines in the German army. They also declined to admit Trotsky's newspaper, printed in German, for army propaganda.

Bolshevik Start Trials.

The trial of persons who have been arrested by the Bolshevik authorities was to have begun yesterday before a military revolutionary court, according to delayed dispatches from Petrograd. The first person tried, reports said, would be Countess Panin, former minister of education, who was arrested for refusing to turn over to the Bolsheviks the funds of her department. The council of Petrograd university on Friday elected the countess an honorary member in recognition of her educational work.

A dispatch from Tashkent, capital of Turkestan, describes the lynching under horrible circumstances of General Korovitchenko, who was Kerensky's military commander in the province.

The Italian embassy has made a formal protest against the pillaging by armed men of the apartment of the embassy's first secretary.

It is reported that the Germans are moving troops from the Russian northern and western fronts to the southwestern and Rumanian fronts.

"O, Little Town of Bethlehem, How Still We See Thee Lie!"

London, Dec. 23.—The Christian people of the world today received a Christmas greeting from the soldiers of General Allenby. It was the first detailed account of how the British troops wrested from the dominion of the Turks the city of Bethlehem, where 1,900 years ago was born the Saviour.

The news comes in a dispatch from Reuter's correspondent at Jerusalem. It says: "One of the most brilliant pieces of work during the recent operations was the capture of Bethlehem. The Turks had strong fortifications here with numerous field guns on the outskirts of the town. The troops which had been ordered to take the town deployed by night far to the left, threatening the Turkish line of retreat and compelling the Turks to withdraw. Welsh troops then entered Bethlehem at daybreak."

General Allenby's troops in Palestine continue their advance on the plain of Sharon, north of Jaffa and have occupied four more towns. The official statement on the operations issued tonight reads: "On Saturday morning, with naval cooperation, our left continued the advance north of the Nahr El Auja, reaching the line of Sheikh El Ballutah-el-Jelil, about four miles north of the river. Pushing eastward and south of the river we occupied Fejja and Mulebbis. This was followed by the capture of Khelbireh, four miles southeast of Rantieh. Effective aerial work was carried out on enemy transports and infantry."

U. S. DUTY IS TO PUT WAR PLAN AHEAD

Rumors of German Peace Offer Must Not Lull Nation's Activity.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Germany's newest propaganda, viewed as a forerunner to an offensive in the west unless a German made peace is accepted by the allies and the United States, "should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war," says Secretary Baker in his weekly review of the military situation.

"The Germans realize," continues the statement, "that within a short time our armies will form the principal body of fresh strategic reserves remaining available on the battlefields of Europe."

"Our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

The review points out that the fighting morale of Italy may be relied upon no matter how intensive the German peace campaign becomes and says:

"The Italian theatre once again is the scene of important military activity. The enemy, impatient of the delays which have occurred in bringing about the successful penetration of the Italian plain and the overthrow of the Italian armies, has dispatched further forces to the Italian front, view a view to achieving a decisive result. It would appear that they are anxious to conclude their Italian adventure similar to the previous campaigns in Russia, Serbia and Rumania, where as a result of the strategic envelopment gained at relatively small cost, vast tracts of territory were conquered."

"Enemy pressure continues intense along the entire front."

"Before proceeding with any operations in the west the Germans hope to drive the Italians back to the Adige, anticipating that such a reverse would have a very disintegrating influence throughout Italy."

"No matter how intensive this new subversive propaganda may be, nevertheless, we can confidently rely on the fighting morale of the Italian people."

"Along the western front the enemy has continued his harassing raids with a view to keeping the allied forces on the alert. However, none of the engagements recorded in the west was more than local importance."

Intensive Peace Move.

"It would appear that as a forerunner to the German offensive heralded to be launched in the west, an intensive peace propaganda is to be initiated. Careful examination of the situation reveals that the enemy is again preparing for peace before victory."

"Information from various sources confirms the reports that the Germans would have the world believe that the military situation is such that they are able to dictate terms of peace. They, therefore, threaten that unless this dictated peace is accepted by the allied powers and ourselves the German forces now being concentrated on the western front will break through the allied line into the west."

"The various reports of immediate

Trotsky in Hint for Anarchy If His Plans Fail

Paris, Dec. 23 (Sunday).—Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, according to a note issued by the Havas agency, called on Joseph Noulens, the French ambassador to Russia, and explained that the Bolsheviks wished to keep to the principle of a "democratic peace," leaving to the peoples the right to dispose of themselves. The ambassador having asked him what he would do if Germany refused such a peace, Trotsky answered that the Maximalists might be led to "wage a revolutionary war."

Trotsky added that "if public opinion was opposed to such a war, the question would then be carried before the constituent assembly." He concluded by saying that if the Bolsheviks succumbed to the resistance they are meeting within Russia, the country would be given over to anarchy.

The Havas note concludes: "This conversation, which is correct throughout, must be considered as creating new relations between the Maximalists government and us."

peace proposals by the Germans on seemingly favorable terms should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparation for war."

"The Germans realize that within a short time our armies will form the principal body of fresh strategic reserves remaining available for action on the battlefields of Europe. Thus, no matter what superiority in men and guns the enemy may for the time bring to bear on the west, and even admitting an eventual modification of the allied line in his favor, nevertheless he knows that insofar as it is humanly possible to foresee, his effort will inevitably result in merely a local success which can have no determining outcome of the war."

"Italy has gone to the limit of her resources, and has held. France and England are today aiding the Italian armies."

Responsibility of America.

"It is our duty, therefore, in looking to the future to realize that if we are to fulfill the pledge we made on entering the war, if we are to fight this war to successful conclusion, we must assume the full responsibility which rests upon us. We are the fresh reserve man power and the reserve mechanical power."

"Our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

"In Russia the armistice negotiations have been concluded and peace negotiations are being made."

"Reports of the dissatisfaction of a large element of the Russian population, especially in southern and central Russia, with the terms of the armistice has led to the formation of an active opposition which it is believed, will endeavor to resist all attempts to enforce the proposals agreed to by the Lenin government."

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Generally fair and colder tonight with a cold wave. Tuesday fair and colder. Temperature on Tuesday morning will be slightly below zero.

Highest temperature yesterday, 49; lowest last night, 40; temperature at 7 a. m., 40.

Precipitation none. Wind velocity, 12 miles per hour. Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 86; at 7 a. m., 83; at 1 p. m., 79.

River stage three feet, a rise of 3 in the last 48 hours. J. M. SHERIER, Meteorologist.

SEIZE CARGO OF ARMS ON RUSSIA SHIP

Pacific Coast Officials in Timely Capture of Guns Under Hides.

A Pacific Port, Dec. 24.—Federal officials today found packages of ammunition, several hundred rifles and a number of bags filled with revolvers buried under the cargo of hides in the Shilka, a Russian freighter which arrived here Friday night under control of its Bolshevik crew.

Officials said the cartridges found in the ammunition packages contained slugs such as are used by the Germans on the eastern front.

The consignment was probably intended, officials said, for I. W. W. or for use of a raider in the Pacific.

Holy Father Has Christmas Wish for U. S. Peoples

Rome, Dec. 24.—Pope Benedict has given to the Associated Press this Christmas message for the American people:

"The holy father sends to the people of America his cordial greetings and prays that they may take to heart, in this time of strife and suffering the true lesson of Christmastide—the lesson of God's unceasing love for mankind, the lesson of unflinching courage and sacrifice of self."

"More especially he calls upon the little children, to whom this day belongs, to pray with all their hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem that He may protect their loved ones and give back to the world that peace which He came to bring upon earth."

ASKS FEDERAL LOANS.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 24.—Unless congress extends credit to the government to the amount of \$200,000,000 to the federal land banks, the farmers of the country face absolute need, according to a statement issued today by E. G. Quamme, president of the federal land bank of St. Paul.

Difficulty in disposing of bonds based on the farm mortgages has resulted in a lack of money in the banks, Mr. Quamme said, stating that \$100,000,000 is needed at once to pay approved loans and the other \$100,000,000 to provide a revolving fund to handle loans during the war.

FUN AT CAMP FUNSTON.

Camp Funston, Kan., Dec. 24.—Roping of wild steers, sliding events and other sports are scheduled for Camp Funston's Christmas celebration tomorrow. Thousands of pounds of turkey, many barrels of apples and other delicacies will feature the dinner and the afternoon will be given over to distribution of gifts from home.

WAS DANIEL BOONES KIN.

Setalia, Mo., Dec. 24.—Illinois Archibald Bryan, 86 years old, great grandson of Daniel Boone, died here yesterday. His mother, Elizabeth Callaway, a daughter of Pembina Boone, was once a captive of the Indians.

BANKER SHOT TO DEATH; IS PEORIA DEED

Sunday Tragedy is Staged Behind Locked Doors in Still City.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 24.—The State Trust and Savings bank, scene of yesterday's tragedy in which President F. A. Strause was shot and killed, Cashier George M. Mead, opened its doors as usual at 9 o'clock this morning.

Statements of the bank's directors that the shooting had no connection with the bank's affairs served to allay any public feeling and there was no indication of a run on the bank this morning.

A few women appeared to withdraw savings accounts, but nearly all went away leaving their deposits when assured of the bank's solvency. A detail of police was early on the scene, but at the request of bank officers was withdrawn shortly after the doors were opened. There was no need for the officers.

Slayer Peaceful Sleeper.

Strause, slayer of Mead, slept peacefully in the detention room at the central police station and did not arise until late. The usual prison breakfast was not served him, he having ordered breakfast sent in from a local hotel.

Coroner W. D. Elliott began preparations this morning for opening the inquest some time this afternoon. He planned to choose his jury early and to take them to the bank before opening the inquest.

Men Fought Alone.

Strause's version of the tragedy is as yet the only one available, as the men fought behind locked doors in a room at the bank.

The shooting occurred at noon Sunday when many people were passing. Loud talking within the building caused the curious to pause, and a moment later one shot was heard. After an interval there were two others.

While a detective, a physician and Strause were with Mead, who was mortally wounded, Mrs. Mead endeavored to gain admittance to the building, but did not succeed until her husband was dead.

In the statement issued on behalf of Strause, Attorney Well says:

"We have talked with Mr. Strause and also with others who seem to know about this terrible affair. We have not had time to investigate all the facts. We have every reason to know that the affairs of the bank are in no way affected by the homicide."

"The trouble between the men arose over the refusal of Mr. Strause to put a price on his bank stock, which Mr. Mead hoped to buy in order to elect himself as president."

Pleads Self-Defense.

"After some words over such refusal of Mr. Strause, Mr. Mead assaulted him and in the struggle was beaten. He suddenly fired a shot at Mr. Strause and missed him. To protect himself Mr. Strause fired two shots at the enraged man, who was grappling with him in an effort to put his revolver into a firing position. Which or how many people struck Mr. Mead, we do not know. We only know that Mr. Mead is dead and that Mr. Strause acted wholly in necessary self-defense."

"We understand that the directors of the bank—and they are in a position to know the facts—vouch for the solvency of the bank and its ability, if called upon to do so, to pay in cash as fast as it may be demanded any funds it holds on deposit."

Mead had been at the Creve Coeur club talking with Thomas Lovelace of the Corning distillery. He left a few minutes before noon, stating that he was going over to the bank, which is directly across the street.

Strause had spent most of the morning at the Jefferson hotel, also across the street from the bank building, on another corner, telling his associates that he was going to the bank and that he would return in 10 minutes.

It was shortly afterward that the shots were heard. Detective Clifford was the first police officer to respond to the call. He found the bank door locked. He hammered on the door, and soon Strause, blood spattered and his clothing torn to shreds, appeared and admitted the detective.

Finds Man Unconscious.

Strause led Detective Clifford down the lobby of the bank, back through the cases to the northeast corner of the room, where Mead was found, unconscious. He was lying face upward, arms stretched, and about a foot from his hand was a 38-calibre revolver, one chamber of which was empty. He fell about 20 feet from where he was shot, as shown by the trail of blood. Two chambers in the revolver Strause had were empty, it is said.

Clifford says that Mead was alive and bleeding from a wound in the forehead. After disarming Strause the detective ran to the door and called Dr. Albert Well, who was passing. The physician, however, could do nothing, and Mead died without regaining consciousness.

It was while Dr. Well was examining Mead that the door opened and

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