

ITALIANS OPEN BIG OFFENSIVE

Violent Fighting Is Taking Place Among Rugged Peaks on the Asiago Plateau.

MAKE SLIGHT GAINS

Austrian Trenches Are Taken at Several Points and Italians Are Compelling Enemy to Fight Hard to Retain Ground.

Paris, May 17.—Seventeen German machines were brought down by French pilots yesterday. Another was bagged by a French anti-aircraft gun and four enemy captive balloons were downed, the official night communique states.

Berlin, via London, May 17.—Thirty-three hostile planes were brought down by the Germans in the west yesterday, the war office states. Fourteen of these were shot down by the famous "Circus," formerly led by Baron von Richt-hofen.

London, May 17.—The Italian front has again flamed into violent action. Fighting rages among the rugged peaks of the Asiago plateau, east of the Brenta river.

The aggressive has been taken by the Italians, however, and the Austro-German forces, instead of launching their long expected assault on the Italian lines have been compelled to fight hard to maintain the positions they have held since last November.

The fighting seems to have centered on the comparatively short section of the battle line between Monte Asolene and Monte Pertica. These two heights, about three miles apart, rise to an altitude of about 5,000 feet, while between them there is a sort of "saddle" on which the Teutonic forces have taken up strong positions.

Fighting Described as Bitter.

Both the Vienna and Rome official statements tell of bitter fighting on this particular front, the latter stating that the Italian soldiers have out-eped Austrian trenches on Mont Asolene in two places.

The fact that the Italian armies have taken the initiative in the fighting would seem to indicate they have sought to carry the fight to the enemy in such a way as to break up any arrangement for the launching of a strong Teutonic assault. This has many precedents in the present war, a strong offensive at a threatened point being considered at best defense under certain circumstances.

Italian Lines Nowhere Reached

While the fighting has been very fierce east of the Brenta, the whole Italian line from Lake Garda to the Piave and thus to the sea has been marked by patrol engagements, which appear to be isolated actions, but which may be component parts of a plan of campaign in that theater of the war. Nowhere have the Italian lines been reached by attacking parties of Austrians.

In Flanders and Picardy only heavy artillery fire has marked the fighting during the last day. American gunners have been at work in the general bombardment that has been going on and again have set buildings in Montdidier in flames. Here and there there have been patrol engagements, but these fights have not approached the magnitude of a battle at any point.

BRITAIN SEALS NORTH SEA

Takes Further Steps to Deal With Submarine Menace.

London, May 17.—The British admiralty restrictions on navigation in the northern part of the North Sea, in consequence of the laying of a great mine field for the purpose of foiling submarines, is now operative and hereafter all shipping in that area must comply with stringent regulations or ignore them at their own peril.

After dark no ship will be allowed within the prescribed area, which lies between the coasts of Norway and Scotland, and any vessel finding itself there half an hour after sunset must anchor in accordance with the admiralty's direction.

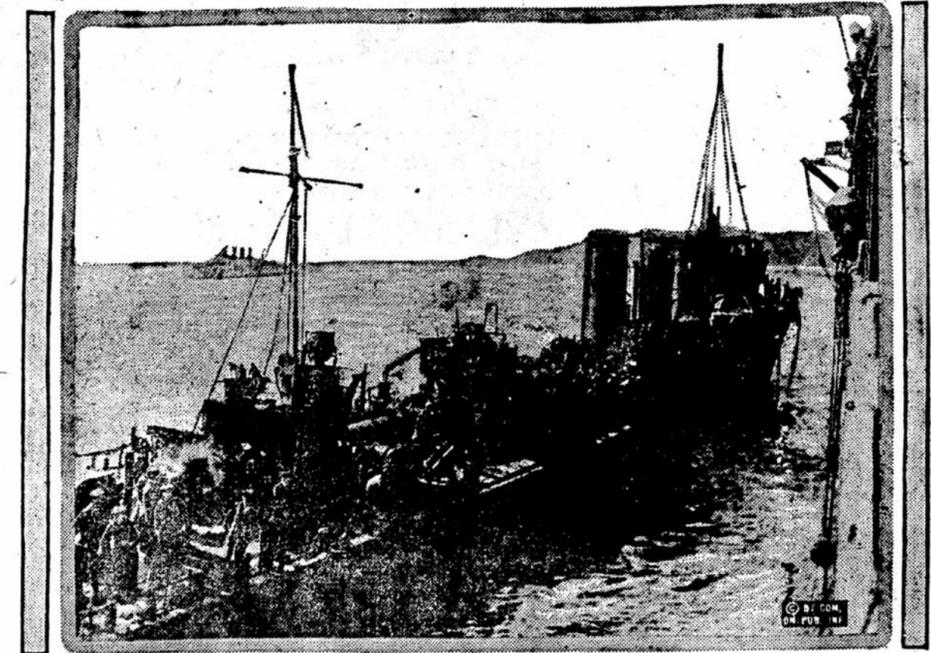
Death Penalty for Treason.

Paris, May 17.—M. Duval, who was director of the suppressed Germanophile newspaper Bonnet Rouge, was condemned to death by court-martial for treason. The six other defendants were sentenced to imprisonment for terms ranging from two to ten years.

Three Alleged Plotters Held.

New York, May 17.—The arrest of three alleged Russian anarchists, charged with being involved in a nationwide conspiracy to "overthrow" the American government by the distribution of anarchistic propaganda, has been announced by Lieutenant George Busby, head of the bomb and neutrality squad of the police department. The prisoners, who gave their names as Alexander Derkash, Leon Bobkin and Ivan Novikoff, were arrested following an attempt to ship boxes containing alleged propaganda.

SURVIVORS FROM VESSEL SUNK BY A U-BOAT BEING TAKEN TO PORT BY BRITISH DESTROYER



The destroyers of the American and British navies are noted for their constant and courageous work in rescuing passengers and crews of torpedoed vessels. Here the survivors from a ship sunk by a U-boat are shown arriving in port on a British destroyer.

AIR RAID ON GERMANY

British Bombing Planes Attack City in Rhenish Prussia.

Twenty-four Bombs Are Dropped on Railway Station and Factories at Saarbrueck.

LONDON, May 17.—Saarbruecken, (Saarbrueck) Rhenish Prussia, has been bombed by a squadron of British bombing planes. Saarbrueck is over 200 miles from the British air bases in Belgium and more than thirty miles inside the Franco-German border.

Every mile of the way the British raiders fought a running battle with German battle planes trying desperately to "bag" or rout them. As the battle line was crossed, 10 German machines took up the pursuit. By the time Saarbruecken was reached there were 25.

The British planes not only got unharmed to their destination, but having got there calmly carried out their scheduled work of destruction, dropping 24 big bombs on the railway station and factories.

Their task done, they turned upon the German machines and sent five of them crashing earthward. They returned to their base, minus only one machine, which was shot down over Saarbruecken. It was the most effective and most spectacular raiding expedition carried out by the British fliers in this war. In all, 43 German planes were shot down during the day.

HEAVY LOSSES FOR BRITISH

Past Week Brings More Casualties Than Any of War.

London, May 15.—The total of British casualties reported in the week just ending is 41,612, divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds: Officers 501, men 5,065. Wounded or missing: Officers 2,123, men 33,923.

Reports of British casualties usually are not available for some time after the actions in which they are sustained. The large total in the last week evidently represents losses suffered when the fighting in Flanders and Picardy has at its height. Complete records have not been given out, but it is probable that the casualties reported in the last week are the heaviest British losses of any week of the war. The total for the previous week was 38,691.

PROTESTS ARE POURING IN

Shippers Protest Increase in Passenger and Freight Rates.

Washington, May 17.—Many protests against the railroad administration's contemplated increase of freight and passenger rates, without first giving opportunity for review have come from shippers.

Most of them indicate that they will not object seriously to a material raising of rates, since they realize that the necessity of paying higher wages and higher prices for supplies and materials must be followed by augmented reviews from operations.

Old Ball Player Found Dead.

St. Louis, May 17.—Oliver "Pat" Tebeau, one time manager of the Cleveland Spiders, and later the St. Louis Cardinals, was found dead in his saloon here with a bullet wound in his temple. Tebeau's body was sitting upright, his head leaning against a safe. A revolver was found tied to his right wrist with a string. Police believe Tebeau ended his life. In a note Tebeau left, he directed that Miss Ruth Tebeau, Cleveland, Ohio, and George Tebeau, Chicago, be notified of his death.

SINK SHIPS TO FOIL GERMANS

Crews Destroy Seven British and Four Russian Submarines in Finnish Waters.

LONDON GIVES DETAILS

Admiralty Says Undersea Boats and Number of Merchant Vessels Were Sunk to Prevent Them Falling Into German Hands.

London, May 17.—The admiralty announces that four Russian submarines built in the United States and seven British submarines were blown up in Finnish waters to prevent their falling into the hands of the Germans. The submarines were destroyed at Hango, in southwestern Finland, when German naval forces approached that port.

The seven British submarines were destroyed during the five days from April 3 to April 8. The admiralty says the project of blocking the harbor by sinking ships in it had been rejected by the Russian commander-in-chief.

Other Ships Are Destroyed.

The effect of the destruction of the British submarines upon the crews of merchant vessels was excellent, however, the statement says, and indeed the destruction of many ships which would otherwise have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

"The guns at and near Hango," the admiralty announcement adds, "had already been dismantled and upon the appearance of the German forces the Russians retreated from the vicinity after blowing up their four American submarines.

Four British submarines of Class E were taken outside the harbor of Helsingfors on April 3 and blown up and sunk. Three C boats were demolished between that day and April 8. Their crews were removed to Petrograd."

All British submarines in the harbor of Helsingfors also were destroyed when the German naval forces approached the city, because it was impossible to get them away, owing to the fact that they were frozen fast, according to an admiralty statement this evening.

The submarines, which had been operating in the Baltic since the early part of the war, were blown up, together with their stocks of torpedoes, ammunition and other materials. Their crews have arrived in England, having traveled by way of Mourmansk.

EVACUATE ALL OF FINLAND

Russian Retreat Giving Up Important Railway Line.

Stockholm, May 17.—The Russians have evacuated all of Finland, with the exception of Fortress Ino, retreating as far as Kronstadt, according to a dispatch from Helsingfors. They have given up the railway line from Valkaasari to Petrograd.

Urges Early Coal Movement.

St. Louis, May 17.—Unless coal production and transportation facilities are speedily increased, last winter's fuel shortage will be duplicated, with its consequent suffering among the people and curtailment of war industry, United States Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri predicted before the Mississippi Valley Waterways convention. The output of coal mines this season, Senator Reed said, has been "actually less than for the corresponding season of 1917."

HUGHES WILL ASSIST

New Yorker Agrees to Take Part in Aircraft Situation Probe.

President Asks Former Supreme Court Justice to Aid the Attorney General.

Washington, May 17.—Charles E. Hughes has been asked by President Wilson to assist Attorney General Gregory in investigating the aircraft situation. Mr. Hughes has replied that he will be glad to aid.

In asking Mr. Hughes to help in the investigation the President said: "You have doubtless noticed that very serious charges of dishonesty have been made in connection with the production of aircraft."

"Because of the capital importance of this branch of the military service I feel that these charges should be thoroughly investigated and with as little delay as possible in order that the guilty, if there be any, such may be promptly and vigorously prosecuted and that the reputations of those whose actions have been attacked may be protected in case the charges are groundless.

"I requested the Department of Justice to use every instrumentality at its disposal to investigate those charges, and, with the approval of the attorney general, I am writing to beg that you will act with him in making this investigation. I feel that this is a matter of the very greatest importance and I sincerely hope that you will feel that it is possible to contribute your very valuable service in studying and passing upon the questions involved."

Mr. Hughes replied that he would arrange his affairs to enter upon the inquiry with as little delay as possible.

ARMY AGE LIMIT INCREASED

British Subjects Are Now Liable From 18 to 50 Years.

Boston, May 16.—The British army has raised its age limit for volunteers for infantry service from 45 to 50 years, Major Kenneth D. Marlett, head of the British and Canadian recruiting mission here, was notified that under the new regulations British subjects between the ages of 18 and 50 would be accepted, instead of from 18 to 45, as heretofore. Men from 40 to 50, other than those from the inland waterways and docks section of the Royal Engineers will be accepted for infantry duty only, and on arrival in England will be assigned to garrison or home service battalion duty.

U. S. AIR STATION FIRED ON

Three Austrians Seized at Middletown Caught in Act.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 16.—Three Austrians hid behind a screen of bushes and fired upon the United States aviation supply depot at Middletown. Soldiers made a detour and approaching from the rear, seized them.

Women Call on President.

Washington, May 17.—The president and Mrs. Wilson received the delegates to the national conference of the woman's committee of National Defense and attended the session held in Memorial Continental hall. The secretary of war, the Belgian minister and M. de Billy of the French high commission, representing the French ambassador, were speakers. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, national chairman, speaking for the woman's committee. Mrs. Newton D. Baker sang patriotic songs.

WILSON WOULD STOP WAR PROBE

Executive Demands Defeat of Senate Inquiry Resolution Offered by Chamberlain.

WOULD MEAN DISTRUST

Author of Resolution Declared Willing To Limit Scope of Investigation To Aircraft Branch of War Activities.

Washington, May 17.—President Wilson has sent a letter to Senator T. S. Martin of Virginia, Democratic leader in the Senate, declaring he would regard passage of the Chamberlain resolution calling for an investigation of aircraft and other war activities as a "direct vote of want of confidence in the administration" and an attempt by congress to take over conduct of the war.

"I deem it my duty to say," the president's letter said, "that I should regard the passage of this resolution as a direct vote of want of confidence in the administration. The purpose which it undoubtedly expresses has been expressed again and again in various forms during the present session and has always seemed to originate in a rooted distrust of the government.

Functions Clearly Defined.

"Those executive functions are very clearly understood. They have been defined both by the constitution and by long experience and no one can doubt where the responsibility for them lies or what the methods are by which those who are responsible can be held to their duty.

"Such activities on the part of a particular committee of the senate as this resolution would look forward to would constitute nothing less than an attempt to take over the conduct of the war, or at the least to superintend and direct and participate in the executive conduct of it as to interfere in the most serious way with the action of the constituted executive.

Calls for Support.

"I protest most earnestly against the adoption of any such action and shall hope that every senator who intends to support the present administration in the conduct of the war will vote against it. These are serious times and it is absolutely necessary that the lines should be clearly drawn between friends and opponents."

It was developed that the President's attitude was due to the form in which Senator G. E. Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the senate military committee, introduced the resolution. The resolution "authorized and directed" the committee "to inquire into and report to the senate the progress of aircraft production in the United States or into any other matters relating to the conduct of the war by or through the war department."

The expenditures committee has met to redraft the resolution. Senator Chamberlain and others of the military committee have declared there was no objection to limiting the scope of the resolution to army operations, and have disclaimed any intention of planning any general inquiry into "the conduct of the war."

RAILWAY EARNINGS DECLINE

Show Heavy Falling Off for First Three Months of Year.

Washington, May 17.—Railways in the first three months this year earned only \$71,705,000, as compared with \$179,431,000 in the same period last year, making a loss to the government under the system of common operation of about \$109,000,000.

This report by the Interstate Commerce commission covers all but five of the 196 railroads in the country.

EIGHT STEEL SHIPS IN WEEK

Completed at U. S. Ship Yards in Seven-Day Period.

Washington, May 15.—Eight steel ships totalling 48,150 tons were completed during the seven days ending May 11. Fourteen vessels were launched with a total tonnage of 57,100, of which seven were steel with a total capacity of 32,100 tons.

HEAVY TROOP MOVEMENTS

Great Masses of Austrians Concentrating Against Italy.

Rome, May 16.—Great masses of Austrians are concentrating along the Alpine lines and the Friuli plains, it is announced here. Austrian aircraft are fighting desperately to prevent Italian aircraft from discerning these troop movements.

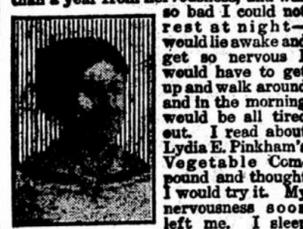
Army Supply System Changed.

Washington, May 17.—Decentralization of army supply purchasing and distribution through the establishment of 13 zones with depots in each was announced by Acting Quartermaster General Goethals. Each of the general supply posts will be charged with the duty of keeping in touch with the manufacturing facilities of its zone and so far as possible all food, clothing and equipment for the training camps will be bought within the zone in which a camp is located.

WOMAN'S NERVES MADE STRONG

By Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Winona, Minn.—"I suffered for more than a year from nervousness, and was



so bad I could not rest at night—would lie awake and get so nervous I would have to get up and walk around and in the morning would be all tired out. I read about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and thought I would try it. My nervousness soon left me. I sleep

well and feel fine in the morning and able to do my work. I gladly recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to make weak nerves strong."—Mrs. ALBERT SULTZ, 608 Olmstead St., Winona, Minn.

How often do we hear the expression among women, "I am so nervous, I cannot sleep," or "it seems as though I should fly." Such women should profit by Mrs. Sultz's experience and give this famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, a trial.

For forty years it has been overcoming such serious conditions as displacements, inflammation, ulceration, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, dizziness, and nervous prostration of women, and is now considered the standard remedy for such ailments.

Indian Warriors.

A company of soldiers recruited from the Mohawk tribe of Indians was sent to England for training several weeks ago and is now in action on the continent.

Cuticura Heals Eczema

And rashes that itch and burn. It there is a tendency to pimples, etc., prevent their return by making Cuticura your daily toilet preparation. For free samples address, "Cuticura, Dept X, Boston." At druggists and by mail, Soap 25, Ointment 25 and 50.—Adv.

Tree That Wouldn't Die.

One of the giant redwoods in Mendocino county, California, has shown that in spite of its combined foes, the wind and the forest fire, it has made up its mind to keep right on living in the same spot where it has stood for dozens of years. During a terrible storm on the mountain the top of this big tree was broken off, and later the trunk was nearly destroyed by a forest fire; yet enough vitality remained for a young tree to rise from the roots of the older one and to grow up within the wide trunk which serves as a protection against the wind. The original tree was a magnificent specimen more than 11 feet in diameter, towering high in the air, and its youthful successor should be of goodly size when the old stump is ready to fall away.—St. Nicholas.

Sounded Like That.

The nurse in a well-to-do family overheard the little son of the house telling his sister how he had hid behind the portiere and spied on big sister and her beau.

"Oh, tell me what they did," cried little sister.

"It was such fun," chuckled the boy. "The big chump flopped down on his knees and then he said: 'Answer me, Clara. I can stand this expense no longer.'"—Boston Transcript.

Reverse Effect.

"Why are you always warning me against loose methods?" "Because they generally end in tight places."

Paradoxical as it may seem, the cradle of the deep is on top of the ocean bed.

Good intentions would be worth more if a man could get them cashed.



ECONOMY TALK is all right—**ECONOMY PRACTICE** is better. **INSTANT POSTUM** is an economy drink—absolutely no waste. Besides, it is convenient, saves fuel and sugar, and leaves nothing to be desired in the way of flavor. **TRY A CUP!**