

REVIEW OF THE WORLD WAR AND OTHER HISTORY MAKING EVENTS OF YEAR 1917

Entrance of United States Into Conflict Outstanding Development of Past Twelve Months—Political Upheaval in Russia Affects Struggle—British and French Smash Teuton Lines on West Front—Austro-Germans Launch Drive Against Italy.

By DONALD F. BIGGS.

THE WORLD WAR.

After three and a half years of the most sanguinary fighting in history, the great nations of the world, together with many of the smaller ones, are still at death grips, with less prospect of an early peace than was thought to exist a year ago.

Undoubtedly the greatest development of the year was the entrance of the United States of America into the conflict. The throwing of the tremendous resources and man power of the American republic into the balance on the side of the entente allies, in the opinion of military experts, has more than off-set the advantages gained by Germany and her allies during the past twelve months and has made possible the continuance of the conflict until a time when a definite military decision can be obtained.

There have been a half dozen or more outstanding events in the past year. Some of these have been of purely military significance and others have been occurrences of a political nature which have had a far-reaching effect upon the titanic conflict.

Chief among the political upheavals of the year was the Russian revolution which resulted in the overthrow of Czar Nicholas and culminated during the closing months of the year in a counter-revolution which practically eliminated Russia from the ranks of the nations opposed to the central powers. From a military standpoint the chief events of the year have been the launching of the German ruthless submarine campaign, which was directly responsible for the entry of the United States into the war; the British offensives on the west front, first in the Arras sector, later in Flanders and still later on the 35-mile front between Arras and St. Quentin; the Italian offensive against Austria from Tolmino to the Adriatic and the subsequent offensive of the Germans and Austrians against Italy, which resulted in the overrunning of northern Italy by the Teutonic allies.

The entry of China, Cuba, Brazil, Slam and other countries into the war on the side of the entente allies, the overthrow of King Constantine of Greece on the demand of France and her allies and other events important in themselves were overshadowed by the greater developments of the year.

American Peace Effort Fails.
As the year opened the only military movements of importance in progress were those aimed by Germany and her allies to complete the annihilation of Roumania and attention was centered upon the request that had been made by President Wilson that the various belligerent nations state the terms upon which peace might be discussed. The replies seemed to preclude any further action by the United States as a peacemaker, but on January 22 President Wilson in an address before the senate laid down the principles which he declared should guide the United States in participating in a league to enforce peace at the close of the present war.

On January 31, Germany announced the inauguration of ruthless submarine warfare.

President Wilson acted promptly, severing diplomatic relations with Germany on February 3.

The Cunard liner Laconia was sunk without warning off the Irish coast February 25 with the loss of 13 lives, including those of two American women.

On February 28, it was announced that the United States government was in possession of a communication addressed by the German foreign minister to the German minister at Mexico City, instructing him to propose an alliance between Germany and Mexico, and to suggest that as soon as war with the United States was certain, the president of Mexico communicate with Japan, offering to mediate between Japan and Germany. As a reward Mexico was promised general financial support from Germany and the reconquest of lost territory in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

The United States department of state announced, March 12, that it had determined to place armed guards upon all American merchant vessels sailing through the German war zone. March 14, it was learned that the American steamship Algonquin had been sunk without warning by a German submarine. On the same day China severed diplomatic relations with Germany and seized German merchant ships in the harbor at Shanghai.

Czar Nicholas Dethroned.
On March 15, the Russian revolu-

tionary movement, which had begun with food riots and strikes, culminated in the abdication of Czar Nicholas both for himself and his son. Pending the meeting of a constituent assembly the government was vested in the executive committee of the Duma and a newly chosen council of ministers with Prince Lvoff as premier.

The German forces on the west front, on March 17, began a general retirement on a front of 85 miles from south of Arras to Soissons, falling back to new lines which had been prepared.

The relations between Germany and the United States were further strained March 18 by the receipt of reports of the sinking of three American steamers, the City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilant, fifteen of the latter's crew being lost.

On March 21, President Wilson issued a proclamation calling congress in special session on April 2.

The American steamer Healdton was torpedoed without warning, March 22, 21 men including seven Americans, being lost.

United States Declares War.

On April 2, President Wilson appeared before a joint session of congress and called for a declaration of a state of war with Germany. On April 4, the senate passed a resolution declaring the existence of a state of war. The resolution was adopted by the house of representatives April 6 and was signed by the president the same day. At the same time 91 German-owned vessels in American ports were seized by the government. Cuba declared war on Germany on April 7. The following day, Austria-Hungary severed diplomatic relations with the United States.

The British forces on the west front began the first great offensive of 1917 on April 9, penetrating the enemy positions north and south of Arras to a depth of from two to three miles.

The French forces launched an offensive against the enemy on a 25-mile front between Soissons and Reims, April 16, and after three days' fighting reported the capture of more than 17,000 prisoners.

The first American casualties in the war were reported April 28, when the armed American tank steamer Vacuum was sunk by a submarine and several American gunners were lost.

American Fleet in Action.

It was learned on May 16, that a squadron of American destroyers under Rear Admiral Simms had safely crossed the Atlantic and had been patrolling the seas in war service since May 4.

The United States army draft bill became a law May 18 when President Wilson affixed his signature to the measure and issued a proclamation fixing June 5 as registration day.

During the early part of June growing unrest in Russia began to attract the attention of the allies. On June 1, workmen and soldiers seized Kronstadt, the Russian fortress defending Petrograd, and repudiated the provisional government. On June 3, the American commission to Russia, headed by Elihu Root, and the American railroad commission, headed by John F. Stevens, arrived safely at Russian ports. On June 7, the Russians in possession of Kronstadt yielded to negotiations and recognized the provisional government.

In the meantime the American preparations for the war were proceeding rapidly. On June 5, nearly 10,000,000 men of military age registered for military service under the selective draft law. On June 8, Major General John J. Pershing, who had been selected to head the American expeditionary forces in France, arrived with his staff in London. On the same day Washington reported the safe arrival in France of 100 American aviators, the first American fighting forces to reach that country.

King Constantine Dethroned.

A solution of the Greek situation, which had endangered the operations of the allies in the Balkans, was reached June 12 when on the demand of France, Great Britain and Russia, King Constantine abdicated in favor of his second son, Prince Alexander, who was known to be favorably inclined toward the allies. London reported another big raid by Zeppelins on June 13, in which 157 persons were killed and many injured.

The subscriptions to the first American Liberty loan closed June 15, the loan being oversubscribed by \$750,000,000.

On June 26, it was announced that the first contingent of American troops,

under command of Major General Sibert, had arrived safely in France.

The new Greek cabinet, headed by Eleutherios Venizelos, went into office on June 27 and two days later the new government severed diplomatic relations with Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

On the first of July, the Russian forces, under the personal leadership of War Minister Kerensky, electrified the allies by launching a powerful offensive on an 18-mile front in Galicia, capturing many strongly fortified towns and taking thousands of prisoners. For two weeks the Russians continued to advance along a front that widened to 100 miles, but on July 19 the Russian offensive collapsed and turned into a rout, when many Russian regiments mutinied and fled. Kerensky succeeded Prince Lvoff as premier of Russia on July 20.

The first political crisis in the German cabinet during the war resulted on July 14 in the resignation of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and the appointment as his successor of Dr. Georg Michaelis. On July 22, Slam declared war against Germany, and Austria-Hungary, bringing the number of the allied nations to sixteen.

British Launch Great Offensive.

The British launched their second great offensive of the year on the Flanders front on July 31, attacking on a 20-mile front from Dixmude to Warneton, after three weeks of intense artillery preparation. The British forced their way into the German lines to a depth of two to two and a half miles, taking ten villages and more than 5,000 prisoners.

Pope Benedict, on August 14, transmitted peace proposals to all belligerent and neutral governments.

The Italian forces opened a grand offensive on August 19, attacking on a front 40 miles long from Tolmino to the Adriatic sea. On August 25, the Italians captured Monte Santo, an Austrian stronghold on the Isonzo front. Two more nations entered the war on the side of the allies in August. Liberia declaring war on Germany August 7, and China declaring war on both Germany and Austria-Hungary August 14. On August 28, President Wilson's reply to the peace proposals of Pope Benedict was made public. It declared that "we cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting." Other allied governments later adopted President Wilson's note as their own reply to the pope.

Early in September the Italians continued to make progress in their drive on the Isonzo front, announcing on September 1 the capture of 14 strongly fortified mountains, causing an 11-mile breach in the Austrian lines and resulting in the capture of 27,000 prisoners.

Chaos Threatens in Russia.

Conditions in Russia grew more chaotic during the month of September. General Korniloff, commander in chief of the Russian armies, on September 10 demanded that all civil and military powers be placed in his hands. Premier Kerensky immediately deposed General Korniloff and civil war threatened as Korniloff, at the head of a large force of troops, marched on Petrograd. The rebellion collapsed, however, on September 13 when General Korniloff agreed to surrender to General Alexieff, chief of staff of the Russian army.

The first American casualties in France were announced on September 4, when four Americans were killed in a German raid on American hospitals in France. America's war preparations were continued rapidly, the first contingent of five per cent of the new National army arriving at their cantonments September 5.

The replies of Germany and Austria-Hungary to Pope Benedict's peace proposals were made public September 21. They accepted the pope's offer as a basis for the beginning of negotiations, but made no definite concessions.

Italians Driven Back.

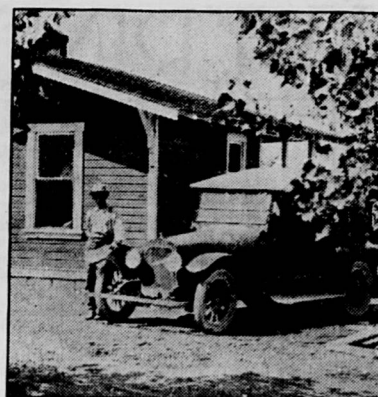
The great Austro-German offensive against the Italians was launched along the Isonzo front October 24, and within ten days the Teuton forces had retaken all the territory won by the Italians in two months' fighting and had overrun all of northern Italy.

The United States began to take a more active part in the fighting during October, the first American troops going into the first line trenches in France on October 23. On October 17 the American transport Antilles, returning from France, was torpedoed and sunk, with a loss of 67 lives. The second American Liberty loan of \$3,000,000,000 closed October 27 with an oversubscription of nearly \$2,000,000,000. Several more South American nations took a decided stand in favor of the allies in October. Peru broke off diplomatic relations with Germany October 6 and Uruguay took similar action the following day. On October 26 Brazil declared the existence of a state of war with Germany.

There were evidences of internal disturbances in Germany during the month, a mutiny of German sailors at Ostend being reported October 18. On October 30 Count George von Hertling

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was made imperial chancellor of Germany. Chancellor Michaelis having resigned.

On the sea the chief event of the month was the sinking by two German raiders of two British destroyers and 12 Scandinavian merchantmen they were conveying in the North sea on October 17. On October 31 the American transport Finland, returning from France, was struck by a torpedo and eight men were killed.

Italians Stop Invaders.

Big events crowded fast upon each other during the month of November. The Italians, after reforming their lines back of the Tagliamento river, were forced to execute a further retreat, falling back to the Piave river. The Italians, re-enforced by British and French armies, which reached the Italian front November 25, withstood repeated attacks launched by the Austro-German armies, holding their lines at all points along the Piave.

On November 20 the British opened the greatest offensive of the year on the west front between St. Quentin and the Scarpe. In a surprise attack, begun without the usual artillery preparation, the British Infantry under General Byng, headed by a large force of tanks, smashed through the Hindenburg line toward Cambrai, taking many towns and thousands of prisoners.

Russia was thrown into civil war during the month by a counter-revolution by means of which the bolsheviks, under the leadership of M. Lenine, seized the government at Petrograd on

November 8. Premier Kerensky fled from Petrograd, and other members of the cabinet of the provisional government were arrested. On November 10 the rebel government made Lenine premier. Kerensky, at the head of a body of loyal Cossack troops, attacked Petrograd November 12, but was badly defeated. The bolsheviks were apparently in full control of Russia by November 15.

(Continued on Page 6)

NOTICE

Lamar, Colo., Dec. 31st, 1917. TO ALL DOG OWNERS IN THE CITY OF LAMAR, COLO.: You are requested to call at the City Clerk's Office of the City of Lamar, and procure a license for your dogs for the year 1918, as the same is now due and payable. All dogs must have a license and wear a tag. This ordinance will be rigidly enforced.

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Mayor.

C. F. DANIEL,

Chief of Police.

S. E. COOK,

City Clerk.

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