

**ITALY TO REMAIN NEUTRAL, OFFICIAL IN ROME INSISTS**

**Change in Situation Reported to Have Developed Following Conference of Foreign Minister Sonnino With Von Buelow.**

ROME, April 25. "Italy will not participate in the war. By remaining neutral, she will win a greater victory than would be possible were she to enter either one of the hostile camps."

This statement was made today by an official of the Italian Government, who requested that his name should not be used.

A kaleidoscopic change in the situation has developed in the last 24 hours. No stronger evidence of this fact than the foregoing statement could be had. It came from an official who is in close touch with Italian and foreign diplomats. Important code dispatches were sent to Berlin and Vienna early today by the German and Austrian Ambassadors. These are believed to have an important bearing upon Italy's foreign relations, as their transmission followed a conference between Foreign Minister Sonnino and Prince von Buelow, the German Ambassador. This meeting took place at the Foreign Office last night, and its conclusion Prince von Buelow hurried to the Austrian Embassy, where Baron von Macho, the Austrian envoy, was awaiting him.

The official who stated that Italy would not enter the war said that a full statement of the international situation as involves Italy would be made by Signor Sonnino to Parliament when it convened on May 12.

"This statement is expected to prove most satisfactory to Italy," he added. "In view of what is now known it is almost inconceivable that Parliament should take any stand in opposition to that which would be recommended by the Government."

It is reported that the Austrians are crying for war with Italy on the assumption that Germany's aid will insure success. Meantime it is known that the Austrian Ambassador was received in audience three times by the Pope yesterday. Cardinal Gasparri, the Papal Secretary of State, was present on each occasion.

It is understood now that the Pope, in a final attempt to avert war between Italy and Austria, is secretly urging certain territorial concessions upon Austria, but does not, even in the present circumstances, and it is possible to become an open mediator between the two countries.

LONDON, April 25.—The conclusion of an agreement between Triple Entente and Italy is momentarily expected here. This will cover Italy's entrance into the war and provide for her armed intervention at certain points, which will previously have been agreed on.

Special dispatches say that it is accepted in diplomatic circles in Rome that the Italian Government has reached its final decision to enter the war, and is simply awaiting the opportune moment to announce its decision. The Italian police, it is stated, are constantly arresting German spies. Several disguised officers have been reported as arrested while attempting to mine a bridge across the River Po. Steamships are reported bringing many refugees from Trieste.

**GERMANS GAIN MORE GROUND IN YPRES FIGHT**

Continued from Page One

River are being greatly strengthened and a new Austro-German drive is looked for at those points.

**GERMANS HAMMER BRITISH THREE MILES FROM YPRES**

French and Belgians Retake Lizerne. Kaiser Wins St. Julien.

LONDON, April 25.

Only three miles from Ypres, according to the official claims made in Berlin, the German troops are continuing their tremendous attacks upon the allied forces. By capturing the village of St. Julien and a little strip of woodland between Pilkem and St. Julien they have straightened out their front between the two towns. Here they are opposed by the British troops, who have apparently withstood the first fury of the German attacks, the Canadian troops having inflicted severe losses upon the Kaiser's soldiers.

Northwest of Ypres, on the Ypres Canal, the Germans are reported to have suffered a severe reverse at the hands of combined French and Belgian forces, the latter having captured the town of Lizerne by a night attack and driven the Germans back to the canal, most of them having been forced to retire to the east bank.

The French artillery is pouring a rain of shells upon the canal in an effort to destroy the ponton bridges thrown across it between Steenstraete and Het Sas.

Fighting is in progress along the 6-mile front extending from the North Sea to the south line of Lille. The Germans are also making determined attacks in the region of La Bassée, but there their assaults failed to gain the success that marked their first drive against Ypres.

**BRITISH REPULSE ATTACKS NORTHEAST OF YPRES LINE**

Paris Officially Reports Check of Germans Near Passchendaele.

PARIS, April 25.

Repulse of two German attacks by British troops northwest of Ypres is announced in today's official communiques from the War Office. The Germans were debouching from Passchendaele and Brodeside when they came into collision with the English forces.

The Germans have renewed their bombardment of Ypres, which has been almost completely destroyed by previous shell fire.

The French troops have made progress on the right bank of the Yser Canal, the communiques state, and have also repulsed the Germans at Norte Dame de Lorette. Other German attacks against the French positions have also failed.

**TWO GERMAN ASSAULTS CHECKED BY BRITISH**

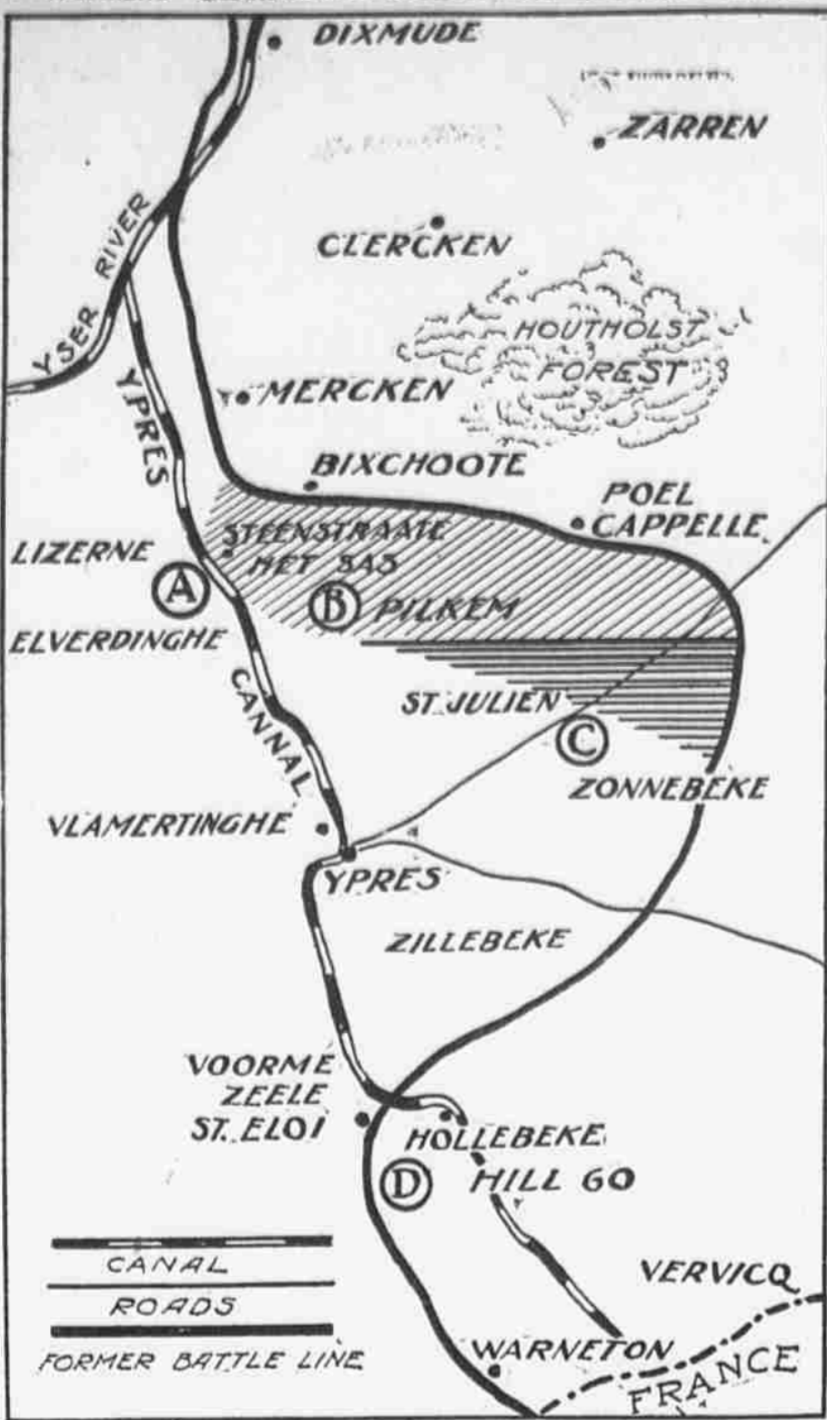
Desperate Battle Rages Along Ypres Line, But Allies Hold Fast.

LONDON, April 25.

The Press Bureau, in an official statement today, says that the British troops have stopped two determined German assaults directed from Passchendaele (five miles southeast of Langemarck) and seven northeast of Ypres toward the allied line at Brodeside. The fighting is declared to be continuing with the utmost desperation, but with the allied lines holding everywhere.

Some reports claim that the Germans have been driven entirely from the west bank of the Yser Canal, but the official version is that such statements are not based upon reliable information.

**WHERE GERMANS SEEK TO BREAK LINE**



From Dixmude to a point several miles south of Ypres the Germans are putting forth Herculean efforts to break the Allies' line and push on with their drive toward Calais. The present German attack was apparently anticipated by the unexpected British assault on Hill No. 60, further south (D). The real German attack came on the north side of the salient shown by a black line. This onslaught, preceded by the use of gas bombs, carried them in some places two miles into the Allies' lines, and across the Yser Canal, as shown by the lightly shaded area (B). They then pushed further across the canal, taking Lizerne, but this has been retaken and the Germans pushed back out of the solid black area (A). Further gains, however, northeast of Ypres have brought the Germans to St. Julien and the heavily shaded area (C). The Germans have reduced the area of the Allies' salient by fully a third, and they are now in a position to cover the entire remainder by artillery fire.

**CZAR'S FLEET SHELLS BOSPHORUS DEFENSES**

Warships Again Bombard Outer Forts at Long Range, Constantinople Reports.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 25. Russia's Black Sea fleet bombarded the outer forts of the Bosphorus for a second time Sunday, shelling at long range the fortifications of the eastern gateway to Constantinople. The attacking fleet showed extreme caution, however, at no time coming within range of the guns of the forts.

While the long-range bombardment was proceeding three Russian aeroplanes flew over the forts on one side, making a reconnaissance. They retired when fired upon by the Turkish artillery.

The following official statement was issued today by the Turkish War Office: "Yesterday afternoon the Russian fleet carried out a demonstration, firing for half an hour outside the range of fire of the Bosphorus forts. The Turkish gunners made no reply. The Russian bombardment was ineffectual, none of the forts being damaged."

Manely-Tucker Memorial Charter Application will be made in Common Pleas Court tomorrow for the appointment of a master to hear arguments for the granting of a charter to the Manely-Tucker Memorial Association for the relief of widows and orphans of municipal employes killed in the discharge of their duties. A charter has been drawn for the association by John H. Fow, Signers include Superintendent of Police Robinson, Chief of Detectives Cameron, Police Captains Davis and Tempest and Police Lieutenant Hamilton.

**HOT WATER GET A RUUD**  
BARTLETT & CO., INC. 1938 Market St.

**KURDS MASSACRE 7000 CHRISTIANS**

Reports From Russia Show Turks Permitted Tribesmen to Slay Women and Children.

International News Service Staff Correspondent  
PETROGRAD, April 25.

Seven thousand Christian Armenians killed, 2000 wounded, more than 15,000 fugitives or prisoners, 12 towns destroyed, more than 500 square miles of territory laid waste.

This briefly summarizes another bloody page of Turkish history as revealed in reports transmitted to Petrograd from Tiflis, Tabriz and Teheran. The reports as received here were necessarily fragmentary in character, but they have been checked over carefully. They were furnished by an official of the Government, and cover a period from early in January to late in March.

Kurd tribesmen now fighting with the Turkish army were responsible for the massacres in large part, but the Turks permitted the slaughter of men, women and children, and in some instances took an active part in the butchery.

Horrible tortures were inflicted upon thousands of the Kurds' victims. Mothers begging for the lives of their children were crucified before the eyes of the little ones. Oil was poured over men and women and then set afire. Turkish troops and Turkish officials are declared to have looked on while the Kurds worked their will. At the end of Bazarji, between the Fershan frontier and Lake Van, 200 fugitives were rounded up in a large building. The Kurds surrounded the building and fired into it for three hours. Finally they rushed from the door they were shot down.

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Germany Sends Food to Ally  
AMSTERDAM, April 25.—The Van Dries News Agency states that Germany is sending food to Austria. Several trainloads of supplies have been already dispatched to Trieste and Cattaro in consequence of the food riots there.

**Boys Who Like Style**

Will find that we have studied their wants with the same care that we give to clothes for their fathers and older brothers. Our boys' clothes are identified by their distinctive smartness—a live sparkle of style. And that is only one of their attractions; father, who pays the bill, will appreciate the moderate prices of our boys' clothes and their quality, which means long wear.

Norfolk Suits are priced \$5 to \$20  
Blouse and Russian Blouse Suits, \$5 to \$11  
Spring-weight Overcoats, \$9 to \$15

**JACOB REED'S SONS**  
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**Clafin, 1107 Chestnut**  
Fifteen Distinct Styles of Rubber-Sole Shoes, \$3.75 to \$8

**\$6**

Long Vamp and Tip, Flat Toe and Ball with ample room. Three-quarter inch Square Heel. Soles unobuffed and fair-stitched. Square Shanks.

A model picked for its personality—distinctive and virile. This, added to comfort and wear, gives a big six dollars of satisfaction.

**Heppe Golden Anniversary**

1865—1915

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**A Piano Proposition Worth Attention**

Not one person in a hundred selects their piano from a close knowledge of the vital points that constitute piano value. Selection is made purely on confidence—and hope; confidence in the merchant and instrument—and hope that the purchase will prove satisfactory.

To you, as one of the ninety-nine out of the hundred, we present a few facts for your consideration.

**This Proposition is offered at a dependable PIANO Store**

C. J. Heppe & Son is Philadelphia's oldest and largest specialty shop for pianos, player-pianos and victrolas. It is now celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary. This house was started by a musician, and it has always been strictly a musical store, directed by a musical family. It has been honored by the patronage of three generations of Philadelphia's most critical buyers. Nothing but complete satisfaction would merit such continued patronage. *It is at this store that this proposition is offered.*

**The Instruments are of Fixed Standard Value**

Every instrument at Heppe's is marked at a reasonable price that is fixed and irrevocable. It is the same to everybody. The instruments displayed at Heppe's have more than local fame. They enjoy an international reputation. In player-pianos Heppe's have a complete line of the great Aeolian instruments, including the greatest of all player-pianos—the genuine Pianola in such pianos as the Steinway, Weber, Wheelock and Stroud. In pianos they have a large variety of the Heppe patented three-sounding board pianos, also the Weber, H. C. Schomacker, Marcellus, Edouard Jules and Francesca styles. *It is on these instruments that this proposition is now offered.*



**Aeolian Player-Piano**  
Anniversary Price **\$395**  
Delivered on first payment of \$10

**Genuine Savings and Advantages Are Offered**

Savings when offered on the Heppe "one-priced" lines are genuine. The savings now offered are in price and terms on every piano and player-piano. In addition to the saving there are also many advantages, such as: lower down payments, lower monthly

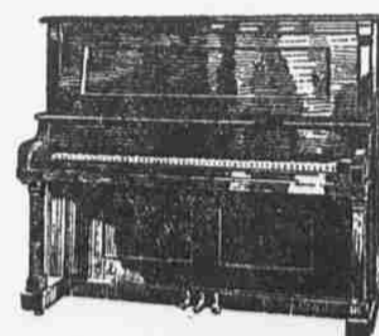
**\$395**  
for a genuine Aeolian Player-Piano  
**\$10** down  
**\$2.50** weekly no interest

**\$247.50**  
for a fully guaranteed Francesca Piano  
**\$5** down  
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Any of these famous pianos and player-pianos may be had at genuine savings.

Steinway Pianola-Pianos  
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payments (all allowed without the usual interest charges), a special 30-day refund if you are not thoroughly satisfied, a special six months' free exchange if your fancy changes as to the style, a special 10-year guarantee, life insurance to protect your family if you die while paying, relief insurance to protect you while paying, and many other advantages, such as a free stool, instruction book and free delivery within 10 miles of City Hall. *It is these genuine savings and advantages that are now offered in this proposition.*



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The reason for this proposition is this: April is the golden anniversary month of C. J. Heppe & Son; fifty years of substantial growth, due to faithful patronage is a most fitting tribute, for which real appreciation and gratitude should be shown; it is to give to our friends a genuine advantageous opportunity that we now make this proposition. No more genuine opportunity was ever offered.

**To secure these Golden Advantages write for Golden Anniversary Coin**

To our friends we are distributing golden anniversary coins which, when presented at either of our stores, will entitle the bearer to every anniversary golden advantage.

If you are a reader of this paper you can secure a coin by mailing the attached coupon properly filled out.

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