

SEAVS IN PERSIA START MARCH TO BAGDAD GOAL

Large Army in Advance to Teuton Railway Terminus Captures Kirind

TO BRING AID TO BRITISH

Progress of Czar's Troops in Co-operation With Aylmer's Relief of Kut

PETROGRAD, March 13.—The Russians, who have been operating in Persia, have apparently begun a march upon Bagdad. The official army headquarters report says: "We have occupied the town of Kirind, Persia, in the direction of Bagdad. Kirind is 40 miles west of Kermanshah, which the Russians captured some time ago, and only 40 miles from the Turkish-Persian frontier, almost on a direct line to Bagdad, which is 120 miles distant from Kirind. An advance of 60 miles further west would bring the Czar's troops into the Valley of the Diyala, an eastern tributary of the Tigris, which would give them an easy approach to the city of the Caliphs."

Military experts here have believed for some time that the relief of the British forces isolated by the Turks at Kut-el-Amara was likely to be effected by the Russians as well as by the British troops under General Aylmer up the Tigris. It was generally supposed, however, that the big army which captured Erzerum and then spread rapidly north, west and south, would detach a sufficient force for an expedition to Bagdad, as it was not believed that the Russian army in Persia was of sufficient size to undertake such work. Apparently the Czar's forces in Persia are stronger than was supposed or have recently been augmented. The brief official announcement made is taken here to mean the British would detach a relief of the beleaguered British below Bagdad.

BRITISH LOSE 5000 IN VAIN EFFORT TO RELIEVE KUT

Unsuccessful in Fight at Felahie, Turks Win Near Aden

BERLIN, March 13.—The British lost 5000 men in an unsuccessful attempt to relieve the Kut-el-Amara garrison, according to an official statement from the Turkish War Office, telegraphed here today. The report covered the battle at Felahie, southeast of Kut. The Turkish War Office also announced the defeat of a British expedition in Arabia, near Aden.

"On the Yemen front an English detachment of 6000 infantry and 600 cavalry, with 12-centimetre guns, started from Sheikh Osman, north of Aden, and occupied the town of Adfeh and the heights two and one-half miles southwest of it," said the official statement.

"They then attacked Turkish vanguards with superior forces, but were stopped by a Turkish counter-attack from Elvahlita. After three hours the enemy withdrew, only the protection of his long-range artillery preventing a panic. "The enemy then tried to make a new stand in Elmelehah, two and one-half miles south of Adfeh, in positions previously prepared, but was forced by Turkish Mudlahids to retreat into the fortified camp of Sheikh Osman, under the protection of the guns of warships anchored in the Gulf of Aden. The Turks destroyed the town and fortifications of Elmelehah and captured all pioneer material there."

SILIUS MAY HAVE HIT MINE IS NEW BELIEF

Norwegian Ship With Americans Aboard First Reported Submarine Victim

PARIS, March 12.—Press dispatches from Havre today cast some doubt on the first reports that the Norwegian bark Silius, aboard which were seven Americans, was torpedoed without warning. No submarine was sighted, the dispatches said, though the majority of the crew believed a submersible attacked the Silius. Others expressed the opinion that the Silius struck one of the mines the Germans are known to have been sowing off the French coast.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The State Department today had no new facts as to the sinking of the bark Silius. The Consul General at Havre has been asked for details. His first report said the Silius had been torpedoed. Secretary Lansing was to leave tonight for a week at Pinehurst, N. C. In his absence Counselor Polk and the President will handle the Silius case.

ESTATE OF HETTY B. KING IS VALUED AT \$745,807

Two Nephews the Only Heirs—Other Wills Probated

The personal property of the estate of Hetty B. King, who died at the Aldine Hotel on December 18, is valued at \$745,807.13 in an inventory filed with Register Sheehan by S. S. Garwood and Frank P. Harrod. Letters of administration were granted to Clarence F. Fogel, 431 Dickinson street, by her will, probated today, bequeaths the residue of her estate, amounting in the aggregate to \$16,500, to the Presbyterian Home for Aged Couples and Aged Men. After leaving \$1100 in private bequests, the will of Julia Burke, who died recently in St. Joseph's Hospital, leaves the remainder of her \$4800 estate to be divided in equal shares between St. John's Male Orphan Asylum; Home for the Aged, under the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Germantown; N. Mary's Institute, and Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, attached to the Church of the Visitation. Other wills probated were those of Henry A. Neale, 2507 Market street, who left an estate valued at \$2400; Benjamin G. Trone, 188 East Taylor road, \$3500; Hannah Sweeney, 2432 Federal street, \$2800; and James Sullivan, 727 State street, \$1100.

FRENCH STORM FOES' TRENCH AT LE PRETRE

Continued from Page One The following is the text of the official report: "The weather being favorable, the activity of the artillery on the south sides over a great part of the front is lively. "There is increased activity (of the artillery) on both sides of the Meuse. East of the river this increased activity extends as far as the Moselle River. "Apart from patrol fighting near the Somme River and the failure of a small attack in Priestwald (Le Pretre forest), there have been no events of importance. "Our airmen attacked railway stations, and encampments on the Clermont-Verdun railway with successful results. "Three more enemy airships have been destroyed in Champagne and one in the Meuse region."

SHIFTING SANDS BLOCK DESIGNS UPON SUEZ

Teuton and Turk March Across Desert to Canal Not Practicable at This Season

By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD

ROME, March 13.—Egypt and the Suez Canal are absolutely safe from a Turco-German attack for at least another year. While in Athens I obtained this information direct from a reliable source in Constantinople. The Greek censorship here is impracticable to cable this fact from Athens. The enemy was the last month when the shifting desert sands east of the Suez Canal were firm enough to sustain marching columns. Movement of artillery or heavy supply wagons across the desert was possible. All stories about the Germans building railways and supply roads across the desert are mere fabrications. They create a lot of amusement in Constantinople, where the character of the soft sandy region east of the canal is well known. German staff experts in Berlin estimated that camels, traveling from the end of the Damascus railroad to the Suez Canal, could carry only five pounds each of ammunition or supplies in addition to their own forage for the long trip. This tended to dissolve the Arabian Nights dream picture of long trains of camels moving enormous quantities of army supplies to the Suez. It can be stated definitely that Egypt and the Suez Canal have been left out of German and Turkish plans for a year at least.

EUROPEAN WAR HOLDING UP U. S. MEXICAN PLANS

Thousands of Cars Loaded With Munitions Interfere With Expedition

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The European war is holding up the American military expedition into Mexico to get Francisco Villa.

With the United States on the verge of activities which may require the immediate shipment of huge quantities of supplies to the border, tens of thousands of railroad cars are effectively tied up in Eastern terminals loaded with supplies for the warring nations of Europe.

The Interstate Commerce Commission admitted today that the situation was serious. The plans worked out some time ago by railroad and War Department officials for the quick moving of supplies are set at naught by the unprecedented congestion of the Atlantic seaboard terminal. The commission is working on new plans to relieve this congestion and send back to the West its quota of rolling stock. The American Railway Association is co-operating.

LA TESTA DI PONTE DI GORIZIA BOMBARDATA DAL GENER. CADORNA

Ricomincia Forse, Se il Tempo lo Permettera', l'Offensiva Contro la Linea Austriaca dell'Isonzo

GLI ALLEATI A CONSIGLIO

ROMA, 13 Marzo.

Il generale Cadorna ha iniziato un nuovo movimento offensivo sulla fronte dell'Isonzo, la sola del teatro italiano della guerra dove operazioni di guerra sono possibili ora. Sembra che questa nuova offensiva sia il primo risultato della conferenza degli alleati. Lungo la fronte dell'Isonzo gli italiani stanno bombardando violentemente il settore di Gorizia con grandi masse di artiglieria di ogni calibro, e si sono avute anche piccole azioni di fanteria, ma è evidente che siamo ancora alla primitiva fase dell'offensiva. Nel tempo medesimo anche nei settori di montagna, dove è possibile, nonostante il tempo inelmente e la neve alta, la fanteria italiana attacca le posizioni austriache in molti punti. Eppure in molti punti della fronte alpina si sono avute valanghe che hanno persino seppellito accampamenti di truppe.

Nelle vicinanze di Oslavia l'attacco italiano è stato così violento che gli austriaci dovettero inviare rinforzi in tutta fretta per salvare le trincee di prima linea.

Come abbiamo detto l'offensiva italiana è ancora alla primitiva fase, ma si crede che essa sia parte di un piano di offensiva simultanea degli alleati contro gli imperi centrali nei principali teatri della guerra. Sembra che i tedeschi, avendo appreso di questi piani degli alleati abbiano cercato di frustrarli attaccando Verdun prima che venisse la primavera e quindi un tempo più favorevole.

Il Ministero della Guerra pubblica ieri sera il seguente comunicato ufficiale in base al rapporto del generale Cadorna: "Nella parte alta della zona di guerra, cioè nelle montagne, le nostre operazioni sono ancora continuamente ostacolate dal persistente cattivo tempo, ed in alcuni punti della nostra montagna la neve è alta fino a 32 piedi.

"La nostra artiglieria è stata in intensa ed efficace azione lungo tutta la fronte del medio Isonzo e di lì al mare. Una parte delle trincee nemiche sono state danneggiate e le truppe che le occupavano ne sono state cacciate e sono state sconfitte, mentre le batterie nemiche venivano ridotte al silenzio.

"Durante la temporanea cessazione del fuoco la nostra fanteria, passando sulla neve abbastanza alta e sul fango che copre i fianchi delle alture attese, le posizioni nemiche bombardando con granate a mano. Distaccamenti nemici che correvano in aiuto delle forze attaccate furono fatte bersaglio ad un ben diretto fuoco della nostra artiglieria e delle nostre mitragliatrici."

Il comunicato ufficiale austriaco pubblicato ieri sera dice che gli italiani ricominciarono sabato a bombardare violentemente la testa di ponte di Gorizia e la parte meridionale della città e le alture di Dobner. Come afferma lo Stato Maggiore nemico il bombardamento duro per tutta la notte.

Nulla di preciso si sa qui, ma non è improbabile che il generale Cadorna prepari la nuova offensiva contro le teste di ponte dell'Isonzo con l'intenzione di forzarle. Nel distretto di Agordo è precipitata una enorme valanga che ha seppellito parecchie case. Da quanto si sa finora pare che vi siano venticinque vittime. Telegrammi da Parigi dicono che si è riunito il consiglio degli alleati sotto la presidenza del generale Joffre, al quar-

tiere generale Francesco. L'Inghilterra vi è rappresentata dal generale Haig, comandante in capo delle forze inglesi in Francia; la Russia dal generale Gillysy, aiutante di campo dello czar; l'Italia dal generale Porro, sottocapo di Stato Maggiore; e la Serbia dal colonnello Pasic. Un telegramma da Odessa dice che si è avuto un conflitto di frontiera tra rumeni e bulgari ad austriaci. Un vapore rumeno che caricava una barca pure rumena sul Danubio, nelle vicinanze di Rahovo, ed in alcuni rumeni fu attaccato da soldati bulgari i quali segnalavano ad una cannoneiera austriaca di avvicinarsi. La cannoneiera ordinò al piroscafo di entrare nel porto bulgario, ma avendone avuto per risposta un rifiuto, la cannoneiera fece fuoco sul piroscafo con mitragliatrici e con fucili. I soldati rumeni risposero al fuoco e si ebbero parecchi morti e feriti da ambe le parti.

Tanto a Sofia quanto a Berlino si attende che fra non molto la Rumania si dichiari in favore degli alleati dell'Intesa.

L'ACCORDO PER LA RUMANIA.

Un telegramma da Bucarest dice che un accordo definitivo è stato firmato tra i governi di Russia e di Rumania. In base a questo accordo la Russia accetta di permettere il passaggio di munizioni di guerra per la Rumania attraverso il territorio bulgario, ma avendone avuto per risposta un rifiuto, la cannoneiera fece fuoco sul piroscafo con mitragliatrici e con fucili. I soldati rumeni risposero al fuoco e si ebbero parecchi morti e feriti da ambe le parti.

Il Ministero russo della Guerra ha annunciato a Petrograd che le truppe russe operanti in Persia hanno occupato la città di Kirind, che è situata sulla strada da Hamadan a Bagdad ed è circa 150 miglia da quest'ultima città.

Un telegramma da Rio de Janeiro dice che in seguito alla dichiarazione di guerra tra il Portogallo e la Germania si sono avute grandi dimostrazioni nella capitale brasiliana in favore degli alleati dell'Intesa.

KAISER'S PEACE TERMS KNOWN TO WILSON

Continued from Page One continue the struggle was the belief that Germany would keep Belgium and would demand indemnities. But Germany will demand neither if peace can be brought about at the present time.

Regarding this, a high German official said that both sides "ought to pretty thoroughly understand by now that there could be no demands for indemnities" and as for Germany retaining Belgium, he added, "there is no longer any thought of it by the German Government."

Regarding other terms of peace, it is the belief of the German Government, according to reports said to have been made to President Wilson, that the only way to establish order in the Balkans is to distribute the land inhabited by the Albanians, Montenegrins and Serbians between Austria, Bulgaria and Greece. That Greece would be given a share of the conquered territory is regarded as significant in its possible bearing upon that country's refusal to enter the war on the side of the Allies.

Three things are pointed out by Washington officials in support of forecasts of an early peace being sought by Germany: The Kaiser has the upper hand in the war to date and could suggest peace without appearing to cry "enough." The Turkish situation is becoming somewhat ticklish and Russia has a great new army, well equipped, for activity in the spring.

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The War Today

French troops stormed and captured more than 200 yards of German trenches in the Le Pre Forest, taking 20 prisoners, the French War Office announced today.

Paris reported intense German bombardment in the regions of Douaumont, Bethincourt, the Woivre and Le Pretre Woods, but no infantry attacks north of Verdun last night.

The German War Office asserted that French attacks at Le Pretre were repulsed.

The Russian march on Bagdad has begun. The forces moving through Persia have captured the city of Kirind, several leagues beyond the strategic centre of Kermanshah, which already is in the Czar's possession. The Persian campaign has a supplementary objective in a junction with the army of General Aylmer, moving through Mesopotamia to the relief of General Townshend's forces pent up in Kut-al-Amara, about 100 miles from Bagdad.

In this some the British have suffered a heavy defeat, according to an official communication from Constantinople. Aylmer's column left 5000 dead in a desperate battle at Felahie, it is reported. The Turks have also won a victory in southern Arabia, near Aden, the Moslem official bulletin says.

Entrance of Rumania is forecast in dispatches which intimate a pact between Bucharest and Petrograd. The Czar agrees to give part of Bessarabia to Rumania and will arm and supply the Rumanian forces, it is said.

Bulgars and Austrians are reported to have attacked Rumanian ships in the Danube and the garrison on the Rumanian shore shelled the hostile outposts. This has added width to the breach between Bulgaria and Rumania.

Express Company Employee Accused

Henry Costin, 50 years old, a negro employee of the Adams Express Company, was arrested at the 18th and Market streets station of the company, today, and held in \$500 bail for court to explain how \$500 worth of merchandise stolen from the company came into his possession.

ITALIANS OPEN NEW OFFENSIVE ON BIG LINE

Attacks Result of Conference With Allied Chiefs. Shell Gorizia

ROME, March 13.

A new offensive movement by the Italians—the first decisive result of the Allies' recent military conference—has been opened over the greater part of the front in the Austro-Italian theatre of war.

On the Isonzo front the Italians are bombarding Gorizia with massed artillery. In spite of inclement weather and numerous avalanches in the mountains, Italian infantry is attacking the Austrian positions at many points, the War Office states. In some localities the snow slides have been so great that communications were buried, causing heavy loss of life, and roads were blocked.

Near Oslavia the Italian attacks were so violent that the Austro-Hungarians had to rush reinforcements to the front to save their first-line trenches.

The Italian offensive, which as yet is in its initial stages, is believed in some quarters to be part of a grand scheme on the part of the Allies for a concentrated attack on the German allies in the western, eastern and southwestern theatres of war. However, the Germans evidently learned of the plan and tried to forestall it by attacking on the west front before the rigors of winter gave way to more favorable weather.

Avalanche warfare, inaugurated by Italian Alpinists, is now being waged successfully by both sides along the Tyrolean Alpine front. By shelling the mountain sides, under which the troops are encamped, or by exploding mines, opposing forces send thousands of tons of rocks and snow rolling upon enemy soldiers. It is estimated that Austrian losses already total more than 1000.

A shell fired at an Austrian redoubt

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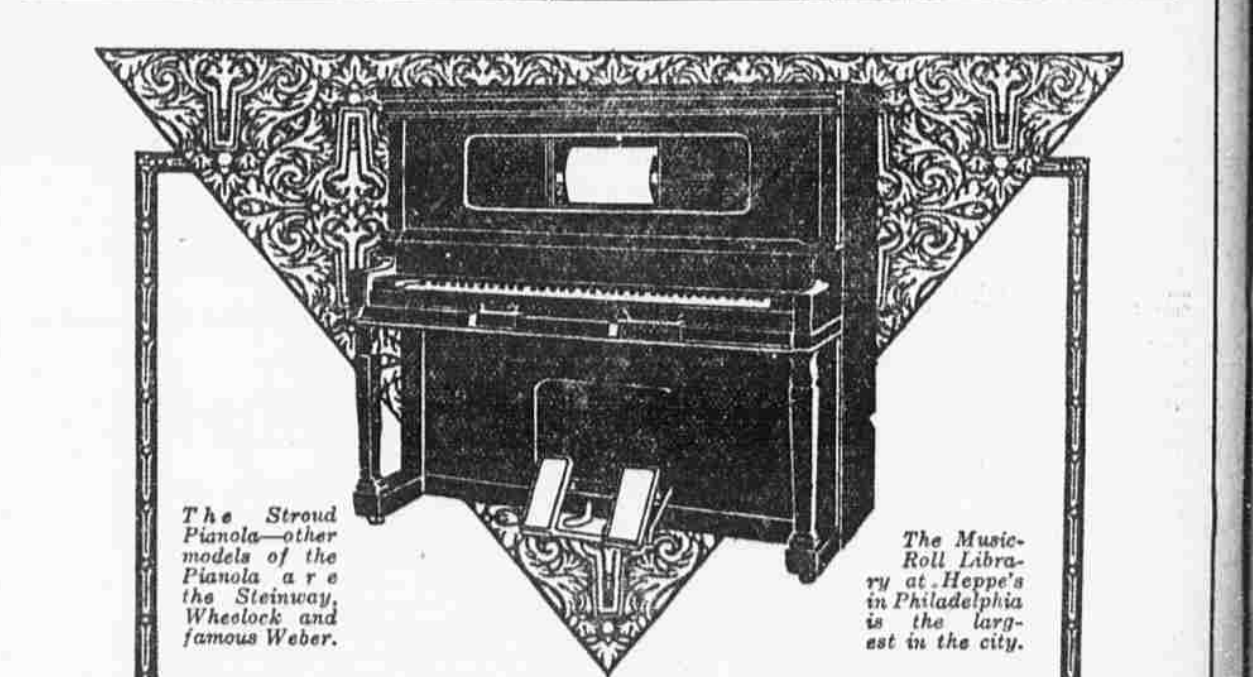
high in the mountains started a great slide of snow and earth that gave the Alpinists their first inspiration. The artificially created avalanche roared down the mountain side upon an Austrian column, making steep cliff and swept the Austrian soldiers into a gorge, 1000 feet below. Starting an avalanche by exploding a mine is a more dangerous feat. Italian rain above an enemy encampment and touch off the mine during the night if they succeed in escaping enemy sentries. Avalanche warfare has been found especially effective in blockading railroads and highways, preventing troop movements. Three such avalanches were reported in dispatches received here today.

Monitor Shells Dardanelles Port CONSTANTINOPLE, March 13.—The official communication issued by the War Office says: "Caution Front—On some sectors there have been skirmishes between our 'Bardanelles Front—An enemy mortar shelled Teke Burnu, but later withdrew. Two enemy aeroplanes unsuccessfully bombed two transports in Akbach Bay."

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