

FIERCE BATTLE DEVELOPS FOR ASTICO FORTS

Arsiero Violently Attacked by Austrians, Who Lose Two Generals

ASIAGO ALSO ATTACKED

Assault Column Put to Flight by Italian Batteries—Leaves Dead and Wounded Behind

ROME, June 2.—A violent Austrian offensive is in progress near Arsiero, with the apparent object of surrounding that town to permit a descent to the railway station of Schio. Attacks made yesterday, the War Office announced, were repulsed, included among the Austrian dead were two generals.

Works defending both the Italian cities of Asiago and Arsiero, in northern Vienna Province, are being vigorously attacked by Austro-Hungarian troops. So serious have been the Austrian losses, especially among the officers, that reinforcements had to be sent to the front.

Especially heavy losses were inflicted upon a column which advanced from the direction of Sarnonno, southeast of Arsiero. These troops were taken under the fire of many batteries of guns and died in disorder, leaving dead and wounded behind. It has been reported that much German ammunition is being used by the Austrian artillery.

TRAP SET FOR AUSTRIANS.

It is presumed that the next stern clash of arms will be directed against the Italian barriers at Arsiero hollow and the positions on the Seven Communes plateau, dominating Asiago hollow, and its communications with Sugana Valley.

The Italian official outlook nevertheless is cheerful. The Austrians will have a tough task to pour down into the plain, and military critics believe they may find to their discomfiture that the Italian General Staff has there prepared for them another Sedan.

The War Office communication issued today follows:

In the Lagarina Valley there have been artillery duels. The enemy again attempted during the afternoon a surprise attack at Duno Pass, which was repulsed with the bayonet. On the Fasubio sector there has been artillery activity. Repeated enemy attacks in the direction of the Fornal were brilliantly repulsed by our Alpine troops.

In the zone between the Posina and the Upper Astico the violent artillery action continued yesterday. In the afternoon an enemy column, having crossed the Posina torrent, attacked in the direction of Monte Spiri. Their attack was arrested on the extreme northern slopes of that mountain. Another column advanced toward Santo Albido, southeast of Arsiero, but was beaten and driven back in disorder beyond the Posina. On the Sette Comuni there is strong enemy pressure against our wing positions at Monte Cenjo and on the little valley of Campomula.

The situation in the Sugana Valley is unchanged. On the upper But there has been the customary enemy artillery fire.

Along the Isoneo front our detachments continue their bold incursions. In one instance capturing a bomb thrower. On Tuesday and Wednesday our air squadrons raided the Asa Valley, dropping bombs on camps and depots with effective results. The aviators returned safely.

GREEKS STILL FIGHTING BULGARS IN MACEDONIA

SALONICA, June 2.—Fighting between Bulgarian and Greek soldiers near Demir Hisar in Greek Macedonia and the bombardment of two Bulgarian cities by Allied aeroplanes was announced today by the military authorities. The cities shelled were Petrich and Porec Lages. In the latter city an ammunition depot was blown up. The Bulgarian line now extends from Radovon, Palievo and Loutra through Vetrina, Ramna and Hadjibelik.

Man, 78, to Wed Woman of 71. WILKES-BARRE, Pa., June 2.—Frederick E. Spry, 78 years old, of Kingston, and Frances A. Smith, 71, of this city, have been granted a marriage license here, both were married before. They will be married here today.

BULGAR-GREEK WAR BELIEVED IMMINENT

Premier Skouloudis' Refusal to Consider Sofia's Protest Results in Strained Situation

ROME, June 2.—A declaration of war between Bulgaria and Greece is believed imminent in Athens.

Dispatches from the Greek capital today declare that the Bulgarian Minister protested to King Constantine's Government against the firing upon Bulgarian troops by Greeks on the frontier. Premier Skouloudis refused to receive the protest. The curt refusal of the Greek Premier to entertain the Bulgarian protest has resulted in a tense situation.

Relations between the two countries have been strained almost to the breaking point by the occupation of three forts on Greek soil by Bulgarian troops. Dispatches received here today stated that the followers of M. Venizelos, the former Premier, are in the ascendancy and that their demands that Greece enter the war on the side of the Allies are becoming more and more insistent. Political conditions throughout the Greek Kingdom are turbulent and at some points are assuming revolutionary character.

PERSHING WARNS AWAY FROM U. S. LINES

Continued from Page One

Madero, 50 miles northwest of Pershing's line.

U. S. TROOPS MASS ON BORDER TO FACE CARRANZA FORCES

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, June 2.—Three batteries of the 6th Field Artillery will be concentrated at Douglas, Ariz., the strategic point of a district opposite a region in Mexico where Mexican troops have been concentrated. General Funston has announced. One battery of the 6th is at Douglas. The two that will be sent there will be taken from Laredo and Eagle Pass, those batteries being relieved by batteries of the 3d which have been held here.

Reports from General Pershing failed to indicate any increased activity in the Mexican forces beyond his line. The gradual concentration of Carranza's troops in the north has been continued, but no friction of any consequence between them and American troops has occurred.

General Pershing's troops' dispositions have been so made that staff officers here believe he would have little difficulty in holding his own against any attack the Mexicans might make.

Steps have been taken by the War Department to hold the army to its present strength in view of the Mexican situation. Orders have been issued suspending the privilege enlisted men have had of passing from the active to the reserve list at the end of three years. They are being held for their full four years of service.

GERMANS BATTER FRENCH POSITIONS EAST OF MEUSE

50,000 Teutons Battle Fiercely for Ground North-east of Verdun

HALTED BY FIRE OF GUNS

PARIS, June 2.

Fifty thousand men, some of them fresh troops, were used by the Germans in their renewed assaults against the French line east of Verdun, it is stated in dispatches from the front today.

For four days and four nights the Germans have been attacking on the Verdun front, delivering sledge-hammer blows, now on one side of the Meuse River and then on the other, says the Echo de Paris. These massive attacks have invariably been preceded by an increased violence in the artillery fire, which never dies out entirely.

That the Crown Prince is anxious to reach a decision on the Verdun battlefield without any further delay is made evident by the increased pressure which the Teutons are exerting. With fresh troops, reinforcements of heavy guns and vast supplies of ammunition the Germans are pounding the French more vigorously now than at any other time since the first days of the battle in February.

FAIL AT CHATTANCOURT.

The sudden shift of the German assaults from the western bank of the Meuse to the eastern side followed the chief administrative by the French when the Germans tried to take Chattanooga by storm.

The failure of the Germans to break through the French line south of Camiers and occupy Chattanooga upset their plan of battle, and in addition it entailed losses which were seriously felt.

The Matin states that the German losses since the battle opened on February 21 must be at least 400,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. These losses have been heavier during the last fortnight of fighting than at any other time since the Teutons were attacking around Fort Douaumont in the first two weeks of the engagement.

French guns have taken a heavy toll, but the heaviest losses have been inflicted by the machine guns. Most of the casualties of the French side have resulted from the incessant shelling of the Germans.

GUNS BUSY 26 HOURS.

The cannonade of drum fire which preceded Thursday's attacks east of the Meuse

was uninterrupted for 24 hours. All the time the Germans kept not only the first but the second line trenches under fire, drenching the French positions with tons of steel. Pommernian troops were sent forward when the fire slackened, debouching from Chauffeur Woods, but were mowed down in great numbers by French guns masked behind Cote de Froid and Hill 234. Even harder was the hammer blow which was struck simultaneously against the French trenches in Callette Woods and South of Chaptre Woods. The object of these assaults was to give the Germans possession of Fleury, south of Thiaumont farm and less than a mile from Fort Souville, one of the works defending Verdun on the northeast. After a heroic combat the French retired to their supporting trenches along a front of 1500 yards where the struggle is in progress now. If the Germans had been successful in their first rushes they would have endangered the whole line of the French northeast of Verdun.

Following is the text of the communique:

In the Argonne there was a fight with hand grenades at Vauquois. At Courtes Chaussees and Le Pille Morte we exploded several mines which damaged the works of the enemy.

On the left bank of the Meuse our troops by a counter-attack penetrated 300 yards of the enemy's communication trenches. South of Chaptre Woods, between the wood and the village of Camiers, an enemy attack was checked by our counter-offensive and the enemy could make no debouch.

In the Thiaumont-Douaumont region, the enemy's attack was repulsed by our counter-attack and rifle fire. South of Douaumont the Germans succeeded in penetrating the southern part of Callette Woods and the border of Vaux Lake. On our right all the enemy's attacks against the Vaux-Damplois sector were checked by the resistance of our troops. The enemy suffered very heavy losses. During the course of these actions the artillery fighting was of exceptional violence and continued along the whole front.

BERLIN, June 2.—A desperate French counter-attack on the German positions southwest of Vaux failed, the War Office announced today. On the west bank of the Meuse repeated French attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to the aggressors. The text of the statement follows:

In the Callette woods our troops and the French alternated in the storming of trenches. In a final storming counter-attack here we captured 2074 prisoners, three cannons and 23 machine guns.

Southwest of Givency an English attack on German positions failed with heavy losses.

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