

AL FRONTE MONTUOSO LA LOTTA E' ACCANTATA

Gli Austro-Tedeschi Invano Tentano Appirirsi la Via delle Pianure

DUELLI DI ARTIGLIERIA

ROMA, 24 Dicembre.

Da un comunicato ufficiale pubblicato ieri dal Ministero della Guerra, in Roma, si rileva che una disperata battaglia e' stata combattuta negli ultimi tre giorni nel settore di Monte Asolone.

Nonostante le condizioni atmosferiche sfavorevoli gli eroici reparti degli "Arabi" compirono prodigi di valore attaccando le forze austro-tedesche, in numero preponderante, tentarono invano riconquistare le posizioni ricoperte dagli italiani.

I primi tentativi gli austro-tedeschi, in unione a rinforzi ricevuti, tentarono un poderoso contrattacco sul Monte Asolone, ma furono respinti con grande gravitosa.

I duelli dell'artiglieria continuano violenti e senza tregua sulla linea tra il Brenta ed il Piave.

La zona di combattimento al quartier generale italiano, relativamente ai combattimenti che si svolsero durante le giornate di giovedì e venerdì, si rileva che le truppe italiane operarono una serie di brillanti attacchi con i quali riuscirono a sloggiare il nemico dalle posizioni di Monte Asolone.

L'occupazione di detto monte da parte delle forze austro-tedesche rappresentava un serio pericolo, poiché da quelle posizioni si domina la vallata di San Lorenzo che mena a Bassano e da addio alla nostra Venezia.

Il primo attacco da parte delle truppe italiane si effettuò verso l'alba di giovedì mattina, con contingenti del settimo reggimento fanteria. Ma l'attacco principale venne operato il giorno 23, antimeridiana da reparti di Alpini in unione ad altri del settimo fanteria.

Mentre l'ala sinistra ed il centro delle forze attaccanti procedevano in linea diretta, l'ala destra compiva un movimento aggirante verso le posizioni nemiche di Monte Asolone. Il combattimento fu accanissimo e durò tutto il giorno e la notte susseguente, fino a che gli italiani riuscirono a costringere il nemico a ritirarsi, dopo avergli inflitto perdite assai rilevanti.

Tanto le truppe austriache verso il corso del Brenta, e più precisamente verso la foce del fiume, tentarono la traversata delle acque con barconi armati di cannoni di piccolo calibro e trasportanti distaccamenti di truppe austro-ungheresi. La vigile sorveglianza dei soldati italiani frustrò i tentativi nemici, ed i concorsi di contingenti ed artiglierie della Regia Marina che valsero a costringere il nemico a ritirarsi, dopo che un dei barconi fu affondato unitamente alle truppe che trasportava.

Gli altri comandi tedesco ed austriaco sono allarmati dal pericolo che le loro truppe debbano passare l'Inferno, il monte montagne e col' spiega i disperati tentativi per occupare le sommità del le quali che dominano le vallate, le quali danno addio alla pianura. Anche la concentrazione di truppe nemiche verso l'altipiano di Asiago e lungo il basso corso della Piave, per quanto minore di quelle nella regione di Monte Grappa, intrinseco allo stesso scopo.

Gli austro-tedeschi a qualunque costo e con qualsiasi sacrificio intendono di aprirsi un via e costringere le truppe italiane ad una generale ritirata, per poter così stabilire le linee nella pianura.

Tutti i prigionieri, senza eccezione, irredono una furiosa battaglia per la fine dell'anno. Essi assicurano che le condizioni delle truppe austro-ungheresi sono terribili ed assolutamente necessitano che conquistino le linee della pianura ed abbiano il controllo delle vallate del Brenta e della Piave.

Alla Camera dei Deputati in Roma, ha avuto luogo una movimentata seduta durante la quale il deputato socialista, onorevole Morgari, ha pronunciato un discorso antiaustriaco, durato per tre ore, sollevando la generale indignazione. L'on. Morgari durante il suo discorso, spesso interrotto dalle invettive dei colleghi, svolse un ordine del giorno invitando il Governo a rivolgere agli alleati ed ai nemici proposte per una pace generale. Il presidente del Consiglio, On. Orlando, tra gli applausi ed il clamore, fece rilevare al deputato socialista che, mentre riconosceva il diritto di libertà per la tribuna parlamentare, non poteva riconoscere che tutti i diritti politici risultino in merito a local successi, che non possono avere alcun influenza sul finale outcome of the war.

Baker Sees Danger in Peace Scheming

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Form the principal body of fresh strategical reserves remaining available for action on the battlefields of Europe. Thus, no matter what superiority in men and guns the enemy may for the time being be able to bring to bear in the West, and even admitting an eventual modification of the Allied line in his favor, nevertheless he knows that in so far as it is humanly possible to foresee, his effort will inevitably result in merely a local success, which can have no determining influence on the final outcome of the war.

DUTY OF AMERICA

Pointing out that France and England have done a mighty task, Baker added: "It is our duty in looking to the future to realize that if we are to fulfill the pledge we made on entering the war, if we are to fight this war to a successful conclusion, we must assume the full responsibility that rests upon us. We are the freshest and the strongest; we have the reserve man power and the reserve mechanical power. Our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

Noting the addition of fresh Teuton forces in Italy, the Secretary said the Hun was trying to get Italy out of the way and is seeking to accomplish an enveloping movement to effect the destruction of the Italian and Allied forces, while at the same time carrying on a "subversive propaganda" within Italy.

New German Drive Checked by Italy

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to recapture Monte Asolone have ended in failure. Monte Asolone is one of the chief barriers standing in the way of an Austro-German flanking move west of Monte Grappa, and by reason of its dominating height over the hills surrounding it is a position of great strategic importance. The Austro-German guns between the Brenta and Piave Rivers are still hammering the Italian, French and British positions, but the Teutonic infantry apparently have fought to exhaustion. The Italians look for another powerful drive against their positions in the north, but are fully prepared to meet it.

Newspapers are loud in their praise of British and French troops sent into northern Italy. The British are described as the veterans who defeated the Germans in savage battles around Vimy and the Passchendaele ridges.

War Shadow Over Spirit of Holidays

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George W. Urquhart, will take presents to the sick bluejackets. A Christmas dinner will be served to 250 sailors and marines at the Hotel Adelphi at noon tomorrow.

One hundred orphans from the Northern Home and St. Joseph's and the Presbyterian orphanages will be the guests of the officers and men of a dreadnought at League Island Christmas afternoon. The sea fighter has been transformed into a Christmas ship for the children, with Santa Claus in command.

Sailors and soldiers, home on furloughs or stationed in this city, will be guests in thousands of homes. Haddonfield will honor its 600 men in the nation's service this evening at a celebration around a great community Christmas tree at Sixty-fifth and Girard avenue. All the members of the Drexel Biddle Bible classes in the service were remembered by Christmas boxes.

The poor will be remembered bountifully. The churches, the Society for Organizing the Christmas tree at organizations, including the Volunteers of America, the Salvation Army and the American Rescue Workers, will see that the needy are not forgotten.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR POOR The Volunteers of America have issued 1000 cards to needy families and hundreds of needy persons who are without families. To the families to whom cards have been sent the volunteers will give baskets containing full Christmas dinners, cooked and ready to eat. These will be issued at 258 North Ninth street.

The volunteers have also rented a restaurant at 267 North Ninth street, where from 11 a. m. until 5 p. m. dinners will be served to all to whom cards have been sent. After 5 o'clock cards will not be required. Every one who is hungry will be served so long as any food remains.

Three hundred children in the neighborhood of Ninth and Arch streets will be guests tonight at a party given by the American Rescue Workers. Each will receive candy and oranges and each will receive shoes, a coat or some other warm article of clothing.

The Salvation Army, in the biggest holiday celebration in its history, will give 600 hundred dinners for 2000 persons at headquarters of the Army, Broad street and Fairmount avenue, at three p. m. today. Tomorrow, at 6.30 p. m., in the same hall, there will be a Christmas party for 1000 poor children.

Two enormous trees will be filled with lights and trinkets and each child will be given a box of candy, nuts and fruits, with articles of clothing and toys. There will be a moving picture show and a musical entertainment.

A big Christmas party for the children will be held tonight at the Starr Garden Recreation Center under the auspices of Mrs. E. T. Strohbecher.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will distribute more than 800 baskets throughout the parishes. Dinner and presents will be provided for mothers and babies at the Salvation Home and Hospital and the Ivy Home. Separate Christmas parties will be staged in the cottages of the Baptist Orphanage.

Children will sing carols from the Betty of the Lutheran Orphan's Home. Gifts will be distributed and entertainments held by the Western Home for Poor Children, the Catholic Home for Deaf Children, St. John's Orphan Asylum, Edinboro orphanage for girls and home for widows and children, Northern Home for Friendless Children, Odd Fellows' Home for girls, Episcopal City Mission, Methodist Episcopal Orphanage, Home for Communists, Edwin Forrest Home for Actors, Old Ladies' Home, Wisconsin; Penn. Widows' Asylum, Ganassa Memorial Orphan's Home, Germantown Poorhouse, Germantown Flower, Fruit and Ice Mission; Little Sisters of the Poor, Home of the Good Shepherd and Happy Hollow Playgrounds Association. In every hospital gifts will bring cheer

THIRTY STAMPS AS GIFTS

The stamps were presented as Christmas gifts to the girls employed in the Philadelphia supply department of the Addressograph Company, 839 Market street. Each girl receiving this useful gift was encouraged to continue the little savings account which will aid Uncle Sam in conducting the war.

The messenger boys of the Western Union Telegraph Company and their supervisors will be the guests of the company at a big dinner Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock at Kugler's.

A "Punch-and-Judy show, dancing music, a Christmas tree, presents and a dinner is the treat that will be spread before 1500 children by the Manufacturers' Club tomorrow morning.

For the fourth Christmas the Rotary Club played Santa Claus, distributing \$1800 worth of "good cheer" baskets to 3000 poor children.

Three classes at St. Matthew's Methodist Sunday school, Fifty-third and Chestnut streets, took up a collection which provided a Christmas treat for 100 poor children.

More than 1000 families are happy today through the efforts of the boys and girls of the Public Ledger Santa Claus Club, which also distributed toys to 400 children in the Municipal Hospital and 200 children of the northeast section, besides furnishing for a 1200 "Cross ambulances" for service in France.

Thursday—Health Center No. 1, Twelfth and Carpenter streets; University Settlement, Twenty-sixth and Lombard streets; Friends' Neighborhood Guild, Fourth and Green streets; College Settlement, 401 South Front street; Health District No. 2, 224 Kensington avenue; Shiloh Baptist Church, Eleventh and Lombard streets, and Health Center No. 6, 4409 Germantown avenue.

Friday—Health District No. 1, Twelfth and Carpenter streets, and St. Rita's Hall, Federal Trust Building, Broad and Federal streets.

More gifts than ever have been distributed by the individual benefactors in the various sections of the city. Mrs. Birchall Hammer, formerly Miss Olive May Wilson, "the Santa Claus girl" has collected and distributed gifts for nearly 75,000 kiddies. It is estimated Mrs. W. (Mother) Ketchum will entertain the poor children of her neighborhood at 2068 Frankford avenue. Her work is duplicated in Kensington by "Mother" Minero. In South Philadelphia Mrs. Millie Cliff is the "Santa Claus lady" to scores of poor children at her home, 2211 St. Albans' place, and in West Philadelphia Mrs. W. B. Keene's generosity has made her house, 5004 Hazel avenue, a haven of delight for the poor folk of the neighborhood.

With the end of the campaign in sight, extra efforts were made today by the Red Cross volunteer solicitors. Heavy sales of membership ligands were reported by Nell Bonner, president of the Pennsylvania General Laborers' Association, in 1909 saloons in the city. Here, he said, "drinks" were being sold.

Christmas good wishes and thanks for loyal service were sent to all the city policemen and firemen by Director of Public Safety Wilson. The message was read in all station houses and fire houses today and will be repeated tomorrow morning.

POLICE COLLECT FOR POOR Contributions of the merchants for the poor families of the Twenty-seventh Ward, collected by the policemen of the Thirty-second street and Woodland avenue station under instructions from Lieutenant George F. Boston, who instituted this annual affair, today converted the station into a grocery store. Coal, flour, apples, potatoes, bread and other food—enough for 100 families—were distributed.

Nurses impersonated Santa Claus this morning at the annual Christmas celebrations held at the two Philadelphia hospitals, the dispensary maintained by the State Department of Health, at 1630 Poplar street and 1400 South Twenty-fourth street. After an entertainment for the children houses of food and clothing, with gifts, were distributed. The Girard Trust Company this morning presented to each of its 200 employees a ten per cent bonus on their year's salary and, in addition, many received

Full Quota City's Gift to Red Cross

Continued from Page One It is no doubt that the end of the campaign will show overwhelming success. Though the campaign started at first was believed to have been the result of anti-American German propaganda, many workers in the Kensington district were recruited from becoming members of the Red Cross, according to an explanation given today by J. W. Lucas, chairman of the industrial group of the campaign committee.

At several houses, he said, the campaigners encountered hesitancy to join the Red Cross because of the mention of the word "army" in the Red Cross posters, which caused some persons to believe membership in the Red Cross entailed field work in Europe. He instructed the chairman of the campaign groups under him to paste a notice in the posters reading, "No field work required."

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FORD INJECTS "PEP" INTO SHIP METHODS

Plans to Establish New Yards in South Near Supply of Material

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.

Henry Ford has taken firm grip on the task of the United States Shipping Board to build ships faster than the German U-boats can sink them and in numbers sufficient to solve the transportation problem between America and Europe.

After several days spent in consultation with Chairman Hurley and his staff, Mr. Ford has concluded that improved methods must be adopted to build ships faster, new reservoirs of labor and material must be tapped and the present congested section of the country avoided.

Mr. Ford purposes to establish on the southern coast in smooth shipyards of an entirely new kind, where ships can be turned out as automobiles are made, ships of a standardized pattern and assembled from parts made in every manufacturing section of the land.

Mr. Ford himself will shortly leave for the South to look over the iron and coal mines of Alabama and determine upon a site somewhere on the South Atlantic seaboard, within 200 miles of the supplies of raw materials, where ships can be turned out within six months after the plant has been established at the rate of several a day.

It took the Shipping Board a long time to call Mr. Ford in, but he has shaken it up at last. His criticisms of the board are drastic and his suggestions regarded by many as revolutionary, but he has Hurley's support and confidence and his enthusiasm has inspired everybody.

Mr. Ford told the shipping board officials that if a single standardized type of ship had been adopted in the first place, the new fleets would be going into the water now at the rate of several a day.

One ship, one design, great speed of construction, low cost—this is Ford's plan for winning the war on the seas.

Berlin Chiefs O. K. Hertling's Plans

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been invited to admire, which they find impossible to even consider." Huysmans is secretary of the International Socialist Bureau and one of the world leaders in liberal movements.

Our Johnny Comes Marching Home

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Suggestions for Christmas Gifts

We have replenished our stock many times, that we may offer, even at this late date, a wide and satisfying variety from which to make selections.

For Mother

Bar Pins ..... \$ .50 to \$1.50. Cloth Brushes ..... \$3.25 to \$5.00. Thimbles ..... .50 to 26. Gear Cutters ..... 1.50 to 45. Mesh Bags ..... 8.00 to 360. Pocket Knives ..... 2.50 to 50. Lorgnettes ..... 2.50 to 340. Drinking Cups ..... .75 to 15. Picture Frames 1.50 to 50. Eyeglass Cases ..... 2.75 to 80. Opera Glasses ..... 6.50 to 31. Cigarette Cases ..... 3.50 to 200.

For Father

Brooches ..... \$ .50 to \$17.00. Chains ..... \$2.00 to \$25.00. La Vallieres ..... 1.00 to 2700. Watches ..... 5.50 to 300. Dorine Boxes ..... 2.75 to 45. Tie Clasps ..... .50 to 32. Vanity Cases ..... 6.00 to 180. Scarf Pins ..... .50 to 1300. Wrist Watches ..... 12.00 to 750. Link Buttons ..... 1.00 to 330. Lingerie Clasps ..... .50 to 50. Military Brushes ..... 6.00 to 23.

For Sister

For Brother

HOLLAND RUSK advertisement featuring an image of a rusk and text describing its quality and availability.

RESINOL advertisement for skin relief, featuring the product name in large letters and a list of ailments it treats.

Greetings! WE EXTEND THE GREETINGS OF THE SEASON TO ALL OUR Customers, Business Friends and Faithful Employees. MAY THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ACTUATE EVERY HEART DESPITE WORLD CONDITIONS.

S. Kind & Sons, 1110 Chestnut St. advertisement for Liberty Bond Contest, featuring the Statue of Liberty and details of prizes.