Italian Army Fails to Hold Austro-German Forces in Huge Drive on Northern Italy Defenses



HARRISBURG





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# HUNDREDS KILLED WHEN CITY IS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED IN BLAST OF U.S. MUNITIONS

## FEAR SAFETY OF TRANSPORTS; CITY MASS OF WRECKAGE

American Ammunition Ship Collides With Companion Vessel in Rockingham Harbor During Severe Storm; Explosion Which Follows Kills Crews; Wrecks Hundreds of Homes, Destroys Communication With Outside World; City of Halifax Reported to Be Burning; Immediate Steps Taken to Aid Heavily Afflicted People

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6. - Scores of people have been killed, hundreds of buildings destroyed and a portion of Halifax set on fire by an explosion which occurred after the collision of an American ammunition ship and another vessel at Rockingham, according to telephone messages reaching here this morning. The explosion was so terrific that it destroyed the installation in the telegraph and telephone offices for thirty miles around Halifax, and it was heard at Truro, sixty-one miles distant.

It is reported that the American munition steamer was moving out from her pier, and was rammed broadside by another vessel. Instantly there was a tremendous explosion, which destroyed the two ships and killed their crew.

The concussio nresulting caused the roof of the railway depot at North street to collapse, while all the warehouses on the water front for a mile and a half were damaged. The premises affected in many places caught fire.

The force of the concussion was so great that freight cars were blown off railway tracks along a stretch of nearly two miles.

Messages asking for fire engines and fire fighting apparatus, doctors and nurses, hospital supplies, etc., were received from Halifax by a number of localities in Nova Scotia. Special trains were made up with everything required that could be secured.

### Rush Aid to Scene of Accident

At Truro, Windsor and here the city councils met this morning and decided to take immediate steps to render aid to the afflicted people at Halifax. It is understood large quantities of food were destroyed and that citizens of Halifax may soon be in danger of starving. It was decided carloads of food must be dispatched at once.

The damage to the Western Union and Canadian Pacific Telegraph Companies and Nova Scotia Telephone Company is so complete it is likely to be days before wire communication with points outside Halifax can be restored.

Rockingham is located well within Halifax harbor, at the mouth of Bedford basin. It is at the northwest portion of the harbor and since the war has been used as an examining station for Amherst. It was at this portion of the harbor that ex-Ambassador Bernstorff and party were held and examined on their way from the United States to Germany.

whole northern section of a mass of wreckage and brooken out in a dozen parts of the city, according to re-

aarts of the city, according to re-sorts received shortly after noon. The area of destruction covers sev-ral miles. The Canadian govern-ment depot used by the Canadian Pacific railway is described as hav-ing entirely collapsed while a big government repair plant at Willow Park in the northwestern section of the city is wrecked. The vessels collided soon after 8.30

on after

rument of communication and this ource was being worked to the limit Hundreds Killed; Thousands Injured

source was being worked to the hand this forenoon. The last word received by wire from Halifax regarding the explo-sion said the military had taken charge of the Canadian Pacific Tele-graph Company and had ordered all the telearaph operators out of the Halifax, N. S., Dec. 6. — Via Havana — Hundreds of persons were killed and a thousand others injured and hall of the city of Halifax is in ruins as the result of the explosion on a munition telegraph operators out of the building. Only two operators in the office escaped injury. Scores of persons on the docks were killed. The fire start-ed in the northern end of the city which bore the brunt of the damage. of the explosion on a munition ship in the harbor to-day. It is estimated that the property loss will run into the millions. The north end of the city is in flames.

**Chief Military Station** years Halifax ha TWO TORCHES



## **BROWN CALLS ON 25 HUN PLANES COURTS TO FREE INVADE ENGLAND;** THE ATTORNEYS 2 BROUGHT DOWN Asks That Court Sessions Be Six Airplanes of the Enemy Curtailed to Let Lawyers Fleet Force Way to City Help the Drafted Men of London OF PRIME IMPORTANCE RAIDERS ARE CAPTURED

Adjutant General Beary Asks Crews of Both Machines Are Held Prisoner by For Complete Data About All Police Forces in State British

Attorney General Francis Shunk Brown to-day sent a letter to all judges in the state asking if they would not shorten court sessions and grant continuances of cases for the next thirty days to enable the attor-neys of Pennsylvania to give aid to registrants under the draft law. The Attorney General wrote his letter after e learning from Provost Marshal General Crowder of the action of the District of Columbia judges and law-yers at a meeting held vesterday when it was determined to so dispose of legal matters so that lawyers would have as much freedom as poo-sible to help men under the draft law answer questions and ascertain their rights. "Thave sent a letter to the judges of the courts in Pennsylvania com-mending to their attention the action [Continued on Page 16.] Attorney General Francis Shunk London, Dec. 6. - About

 In the courts in Pennsylvania commending to their attention the action
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 Image: Continued on Page 16.]
 Image: Continued on Page 16.]

 New Increase Not Permitted on Coal Now in Local Yards
 Carlisle, Dec. 6.—Riley Probst, of Harrisburg, and Bert Smith, cf Cumberland county, have been find dusting turkey rafiles near Worm, or content of the men wise season. The arrest of the men wise season and reatilers will not be permitted to charge the authorized 35 cents a tor advance on anthracite, effective De-cember 1, for stocks in their posses-sion on that date, the fuel adminis-tration announced. The increase with be permitted only on coal shipped from the mines after 7 a. m. Decem-ber 1. The fuel administration hopes to check any effort by dealers to se-cure the higher price on coal white left mines before the increase was
 The aftermath of a recent raid on the space with soldiers from the set or the single of the mer girts for add in the space with soldiers for mer fuel e. ch s25 and costs.

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WAR RESOLUTION TO PASS TOMORROW Washington, Dec. 5 .- With a formal report from the reign Affairs Committee the resolution to declare war Austria-Hungary was to-day brought into the House There were no dissenting votes in and at the request of Chairman Flood the louse gave its unanimous consent to take up the resolurrow at the beginning of the session and pass

## U. S. TROOPS FOR ITALY

Washington, Dec. 6 .- The House Foreign Affairs mmittee's report on the war resolution declares the Inited States probably soon will send troops to Italy.

BRITISH ADVANCE LINES

London, Dec. 6 .- The British have advanced slightly eir line southwest of La Vacquerie on the Cambra



For Harrisburg and vicinity: Gen-erally cloudy to-night and Fri-day; not much change in tem-perature, lowest to-night about 28 degrees. For Esstern Pennsylvania: Cloudy to-night and Friday, not much change in temperature; moder-ate northeast winds.

River The Susquehanna river and all its branches will fall slowly or re-main nearly stationary. A stage of about 4.0 feet is idicated for Harrisburg Friday morning.

Harrisburg Friday morning. General Conditions Cloudy and unsettled weather pre-valls over the greater part of the United States this morning. A slight disturbance, central along the South Atlantic coast, has been attended by light to moderate rains in the East Gulf States and in Georgia and Florida. Light snows have fal-len locally in the Lake Region and in the Missouri and Upper Missiasippi valleys and rain and snow have continued in the Wostern Canadian provinces.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 32. Sun: Rises, 7:20 a. m.; sets, 4:33 p. m. Moon: Last quarter, 11:50 a. m. to-day. River Stage: 4 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 42. Lowest temperature, 30. Mean temperature, 36. Normal temperature, 35.

By Associated Press

lacking at the capital up to to-day. The authorities are u to get into direct telegraphic munication with Halifax. Offic the naval department were try

Dead in Halifax 300;

get into touch by wireless

Report From Truro, N. S.

Ottawa, Dec. 6.—Authentic advices as to the loss of life and extent of damage done at Halifax were still lacking at the capital up to 12.30 Danger Increased as Victim

left for men between the ages of 21 and 31 years to calist in the war against the Hun. After tha time all registered men must take their chances in being placed in whatever branch of the service the government decides.

unabl

Instantly flames were seen to pour from her. The crew appeart to pour from her. The crew appeart is to work when the explosion and before this morning. Two vessels, one of the most spacious in the harbor this morning. Two vessels, one of the most spacious in the harbor including high explosives, collided.
 The Queens Hotel on Hollis street marks approximately the southern limit of the devastated area, it is reported.
 The berth of the Canadian cruiser Niobe was near the area affected but is no reports have reached here as to whether the ship or her crew were torn to pieces and many part of Halifax, N. S., is in flames
 It supports thave reached here as to whether the ship or her crew were torn to pieces and the charbor suffer devastated area, it is reported.
 St. John, N. B., Dec. 6.—A large part of Halifax, N. S., is in flames
 Wire communication between this city and Halifax was interrupted soon after the explosion and before more trace. The munitions ship blown up was said to have been an Amerian. At the moment of the explosion and before more free was said to have been an Amerian fragmentary reports had been after the explosion and before more transported from up was said to have been an Amerian. At the moment of the explosion and before more fraily cloudy to-might and Fritis upposed that the collision

At the moment of the explosion a ferce storm was sweeping the harbor and it is supposed that the collision of the vessels was due to this. It was reported that a transport

Authentic Advices Lacking in Canadian Capital as in the harbor at the tme, but othing definite concerning this could

acting definite concerning this could be learned. Men Work Frantically One of the buildings that suffered severely was occupied by the Western Union Telegraph Company, and was the terminus of the cable lines to the United States. One report says that two telegraph operators were killed and another that several employes lost their lives.

st their lives. It is possible the censorship at Hal-It is possible the censorship at Hal-fax may prevent details of the dis-ster becoming known immediately when wire communication is restored. deantime frantic efforts are being nade by the telegraph companies here o restore their lines to some point, n the vicinity of Halifax and within asy reach by couler.

Transports in Harbor

By Associated Press Truro, N. S., Dec. 6.-(2.30 p. m.)Atlantic Time).— Three hundred dead and many hundreds injured was the estimate this afternoon of the casualties resulting when a large

easy reach by couler. Transports in Harbor Later it was stated positively here that there were several transports in the harbor when the explosion occur-red. Nothing as to the fate of these was obtainable. Neither is it known whether the transports were alled with troops or occupied only by their crews. Attempts to communicate with Halifax by telephone failed as none of the wires which went down cur-ing a storm Sunday had been re-stored. Efforts to raise some point on the peninsula were continued. The radio is the most likely in-

Berlin, Dec. 6.-Eleven thousand Italians have been captured by the Austro-Germans in their new offensive on the mountainous

PRISONERS IN ITALY

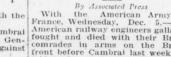
Large Forces of Reserves Hurried to Cambrai Area Con-

vince British That New Effort Will Be Made

To Wipe Out Salient

front of Northern Italy, it was officially announced by the German Casualties Among Americans war office. Strong Italian positions in the Meletta region of the Relatively Small, Says war office.. Strong Italian positions in the Meletta region of the Northern front were taken and held by the Teutonic forces who

CLAIM OF BERLIN BEFORE CAMBRAI



**DIED GALLANTLY** 

Two and a Half Companies of

Railway Men Cut Off by

Enemy Fire

FIND REFUGE IN DUGOUTS

Unofficial Report

Profest

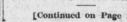
stripped of the concrete forms, and stripped of the concrete forms, and ite work has been begun. Plans for installation of tem-porary steam heating facilities have materialized, and the finished parties of the building will be heated in a few days. This move has been taken, in order that the cold winter weather will not hinder building operations. Richard D. Baker, York, and Lillie G. Mower, Wormleysburg; Charles S. Jolly, Geitysburg, and Mary E. Sears, Harrisburg; Ray Franklin and Viola Madden, Harrbsburg.

ront, it is announced officially. On Tuesday night, the official statement says, the British troops withdrew to the outhwest of Noyelles-sur-L'Escaut and Bourion wood.

Ward office. Strong Italian positions in the Meletta region of the capture more than styre takes and held by the l'entonic forces who in the Meletta region of the capture more than styre takes and held by the l'entonic forces who in the Grand Board Bo

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The Secretary of the Treasury has

[Continued on Page 14.]

which sell at \$4.12. In other large cities, merchants, generally have come forward and es-tablished booths in their stores at which the certificates and 25-cent thrift stamps are sold. Mr. Sites made public the following instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury: