

# THE PATRIOT

Published Weekly By  
THE PATRIOT PUBLISHING COMPANY,

Office: No. 15 Carpenter Avenue  
Marshall Building, INDIANA, PENNA  
Local Phone 250-Z

F. BIAMONTE, Editor and Manager

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1914,  
at the postoffice at Indiana, Pennsylvania, under the  
Act of March 3, 1879.

## SUBSCRIPTION

ONE YEAR . . \$1.50 | SIX MONTHS . . \$1.00

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### A TECHNICAL WAR DECLARED

There is sufficient comment upon the "peace" that has raged between Italy and Germany in the fact that a declaration of war makes little difference to soldiers in the field.

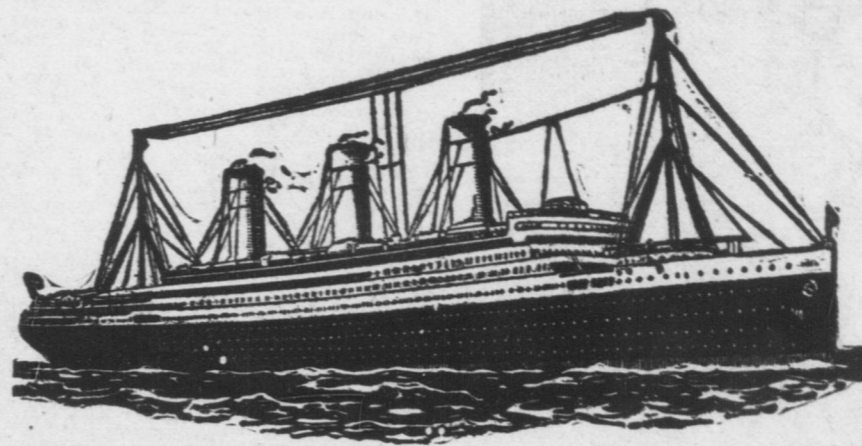
Since German officers command Bulgarian troops and German soldiers are fighting by their side, the landing of Italians at Salonica compelled a declaration. But German experts had long advised, if not directed, the Austrian campaign against Italy. They have been consulted in the further defense of Trieste. In any case, Italy could not engage many divisions of Germany's ally without indirectly fighting Germany. She is now free to send troops into France to emphasize the harmony of the allies.

The absurd situation has lasted so long chiefly because of the presence in Italy of a powerful party representing the Berlin court and vast investments of German capital. Yet the sham could not have been kept up but for the fact that the very Italians who hated Austria with a bitter hatred had no quarrel with Germany herself.

The declaration of war will gravely affect German business interests in Italy and cause the seizure of harbor-hugging ships. It will heighten the hardships of Italians still in Germany. It cannot lessen the bitterness of the conflict in arms, but it has a very important bearing upon the terms of peace when the war is over.—New York World.

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