

AUSTRALIANS IN NEW DRIVE

Advance 400 Yards on Front
of Over One
Mile

GREAT WORK BY TANKS

Land Armor Ships Go About
in Search of Machine
Gun Nests

(By PHILIP GIBBS.)

(Copyright in Canada, 1918. Special
Cable to The Globe and The New
York Times.)

War Correspondents' Headquarters, July 7.—Early yesterday morning the Australians made a push forward beyond the line attained by their advance south of the Somme on July 4, increasing the depth of the gain by about 400 yards on a front of over a mile. Most of this was in the nature of a No Man's Land, in which the enemy had established a few outposts.

Elsewhere an English soldier went out alone to one of the enemy's outposts, after it had been under the fire of our rifle grenades, and tried to observe what effect had been done. Suddenly a German officer and twelve men came out of the dugout and surrendered to him, and this one man marched back with his baker's dozen of prisoners.

It is certain that the three German divisions who lost so heavily in the battle on July 4, when the American companies fought with Australians, are utterly incapable of making a serious counter-attack and doubtless have been relieved by other troops.

Huns Down With Disease.

I have already hinted that Spanish influenza has been spreading among them. We now know that many of their companies were down to low strength on account of this epidemic, which seems rife in the German ranks. Some cases of typhoid are also reported among them. It would still be rash to assume that the delay in the next phase of the German offensive is due primarily to this sickness; as I have said, there must be other more potent reasons; but one is almost forced to the conclusion, based on a good deal of evidence, that this widespread outbreak of influenza is really affecting the enemy's striking power, and may hinder his plans for immediate operations.

As for the three divisions from which the Australians and their American comrades captured 1,500 prisoners here nothing more can be heard for some time to come, until they are refitted with new drafts. Their losses were very heavy. They were at the mercy of our tanks and infantry, who broke down their de-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2.)

AUSTRIANS ARE BEYOND PIAVE

(Continued from Page 1, Column 1.)

pletely driven on to the left bank of the new Piave Saturday afternoon.

"The recapture of all the coastal zone between Capo Sile and the Piave, which the enemy had occupied and held since November, brilliantly crowns the victory gained by us in the first great battle of our recovery and enlarges the zone of protection for Venice.

24,000 Prisoners Taken.

"Altogether, since June 15, 523 officers and 23,911 other ranks have been made prisoner. We also captured 63 guns, 65 trench mortars, 1,234 machine-guns, 3,700 rifles, two airplanes, 5,000,000 rifle cartridges, many thousands of shells of all kinds and a large quantity of telephone instruments, and recovered our artilleries and material, which, in the advanced zone, had to be abandoned during the first phase of the struggle."

Italian Troops' Valor.

The text of the Sunday statement reads:

"Between the Sile and the Piave our troops, having reached with perfect manoeuvring and irresistible elan the right bank of the new Piave and driven the enemy to the other side of the river, are now fortifying themselves on the vast tract of ground recaptured, every yard of which shows traces of the epic struggle, and furnishes proof that the enemy's losses were much higher than he had foreseen.

"The Twenty-third Army Corps, having carried out the difficult operation victoriously, has added new laurels to its glory. The Fourth Infantry Division particularly distinguished itself. The bearing of the troops was splendid. The infantry, among whom were a marine regiment and parties of the Royal Customs Guards, fought with ardor. The artillery of the Army Corps and the Royal Navy group contributed notably to the success with its very effective fire.

Daring of Airmen.

"Our own and the allied airplanes and those of the Italian Royal Navy participated with unusual daring. Special honor for the great valor shown is due to the Thirty-third Sapper Battalion of Engineers.

"On the Asiago Plateau a French party carried out a brilliant raid in the enemy lines at Zocchi, overcoming the garrisons in a lively struggle and capturing two officers, 64 of other ranks and two machine guns.

"Between the Frenzela Valley and the Brenta the enemy three times attempted to attack our position on the Gorone. He was sanguinarily repulsed."

400 Prisoners Taken.

An earlier Saturday statement reads:

"On the lower Piave our pressure is continuing firmly. In the course of yesterday, having broken up most of the stubborn enemy defense at every yard, we gained more ground, reaching the right bank of the new Piave from Grisolera to the river mouth. More than four hundred prisoners, including six officers, remained in our hands.

"A violent counter-offensive attempted by the enemy more to the north in the direction of Chiesa Nuova was arrested after a lively struggle.

"Renewed violent attacks on our positions on Porte di Salton and attempts to assault our patrols on Monte Gorone failed.

"Our aviators were very active, in bombarding enemy troop centers beyond the lower Piave. Two enemy airplanes were brought down."

Vienna Admits Withdrawal.

Vienna, July 7.—To avoid heavy sacrifices, the Austrian troops in the Piave delta have been withdrawn to the eastern bank of the main stream, the War Office announced to-day. The Italians, according to the statement, cautiously followed as far as the westerly bank of the river. The text of the statement reads:

"As the delta of the Piave could not have been held without heavy sacrifice, we have withdrawn our troops which were stationed there to the dike positions on the eastern bank of the main branch. This operation was carried out during the night of July 5-6. The enemy felt his way at midday yesterday as far as the river.

"East of Monte Pertica we drove back strong Italian attacks in sanguinary hand-to-hand fighting.

"In Albania, French and Italian troops attacked our mountain positions between Devolin and Osum. In the course of the fighting the enemy succeeded in obtaining advantages at two points, which, however, again were immediately wrested from him by a counter-attack."

Main Body Pressed Back.

The text of the Saturday statement reads:

"At the mouth of the Piave the fighting continued yesterday. On the southern wing of our positions the enemy succeeded in pressing us back towards our main body.

"On the Venetian mountain front yesterday the fighting activity was limited to the artillery fire of both sides.

"Early to-day the Italians launched renewed violent thrusts in the Solarolo region and near Asiago. The attempts were repulsed."