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THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Light winds, fine and a little warmer.

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ITALIAN TROOPS CAPTURE FOUR AUSTRIAN TOWNS; GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN THE EAST CHECKED BY THE RUSSIANS

ITALIANS DRIVE OFF AUSTRIAN WARSHIPS

Attacks on Adriatic Coast Repulsed--
French Made Great Gain in Capturing "White Way"--Artillery Combat in Flanders---Turkish Crack Corps Wiped Out at the Dardanelles.

Paris, May 24, 2.30--The following official statement has been received from Rome:

"It was foreseen that on the declaration of war offensive actions would occur against our Adriatic coast, with the purpose of obtaining a moral effect rather than attaining a military purpose. But we were able to prepare for these and render their duration short.

"Small naval units of the enemy, especially destroyers and torpedo boats, fired their guns upon our Adriatic coast, on May 24, between four and six o'clock in the morning. At the same time aeroplanes, attempted to attack the arsenal at Venice.

"The enemy's ships, after a very short cannonade, were forced by our torpedo boats to withdraw. The enemy's aeroplanes were fired upon by our anti-aircraft artillery and attacked by our aeroplanes and by a dirigible flying over the Adriatic.

"The aeroplanes attacked Porto Corsini, which replied immediately and obliged the enemy to retire quickly. At Ancona, where the attack was directed especially against the railway line, in the intention of interrupting communications, slight damage was inflicted, which can be repaired easily.

"At Barletta an attack was made by a scout steamer destroyer, which was put to flight by one of our ships, which was escorted by torpedo boats. Finally at Gela, the enemy's aeroplanes attempted to throw bombs upon the hangars, but without reaching the mark.

"All other news of operations last night has no foundation."

ROMANIA ON BRINK.

London, May 25, 2.55 a.m.--"The general belief that Rumania is on the brink of war for the fulfillment of her national ideals has been strengthened by Italy's declaration of war against Austria-Hungary," says The Times correspondent at Bucharest.

"Celebrations of the anniversary of the coronation of the late King Carol were held Sunday and were attended with unusual fervor. King Ferdinand and Queen Marie were present at a great military review. The troops wore their field service uniforms of grey khaki instead of the usual parade dress uniforms."

CAPTURE OF WHITE WAY.

Paris, May 24--"The capture by French troops of the German works at Blanche Voie (The White Way), the evening of May 21 marked the victorious conclusion of our offensive on the Massif De Lorette," is the opening sentence in the report of the French semi-official eye-witness of conditions at the front, as given out in Paris today.

"Loretteburg is a word which for the last six months has appeared often in the correspondence of the German soldiers," the eye-witness continues.

"The imperial general staff attached very great importance to the possession of these heights. To conquer, defend and retake them, the German soldiers have received a formal order which was so expressed as to make it operative until the last man was killed.

"In spite of the unusual difficulties of the ground and the desperate resistance of the enemy we triumphed. The battle of Lorette was a great battle and ended in complete victory. In this part of the front fighting has been going on uninterruptedly since October, 1914."

CANADIANS AGAIN COVER THEMSELVES WITH GLORY

Ottawa, May 22--The whole Canadian division has again been in action, along with the newly formed Fourth Brigade, commanded by General Seely.

Advices received by cable to the militia department this morning state that the latest battle occurred on Thursday night and Friday morning and was a fiercer hand-to-hand struggle.

The fighting took place in an orchard, the Canadians making a desperate attack on the Germans and distinguishing themselves with a brilliant charge in which large numbers of the enemy fell and several of their guns were captured.



GENERAL MERCER.

REPUTATION SUSTAINED.

The First Brigade, under General Mercer, the Second, under Colonel Currie of Victoria, the Third, commanded by General Turner, and the Fourth, commanded by General Seely, M.P., participated in the fighting. According to the reports here, the Canadian troops sustained their reputation at Langemarck and performed most valorous work.

The Fourth Brigade is composed of the Strathcona's Horse and R.C.D.'s mounted corps, which recently went over as infantry.

CASUALTIES NOT HEAVY.

Ottawa, May 24--Canadian losses in the recent engagement are smaller than first reported. A cable to the militia department today gives the killed at 30, wounded 152 and missing three.

WAR DESPATCHES

CROSSED AUSTRIAN BORDER.

(Special to The Mail.)
Rome, May 25--Italy's armies have crossed the Austrian border and occupied Carpoletta Heights, between Judrio and Ikonzo, and the towns of Cormons, Cervignano and Terzo, according to today's official statement by the war office. The points at which Italians have crossed the frontier are about twenty-five miles west of Trieste.

REICHSTAG TO MEET.

(Special to The Mail.)
Berlin, May 25--The Reichstag will meet Friday to make provisions for the war against Italy.

FORMAL PROTEST SENT IN.

(Special to The Mail.)
The Hague, May 25--A formal protest against the sinking of the steamer Lusitania by Germany has been sent to Berlin.

Rome, May 25--Italy, has invaded Austria. The official announcement was made by the war office today that the Italian forces had penetrated Austrian territory along a line running about forty miles north from Gulf of Trieste, capturing four towns within three miles of the frontier.

DR. DERNBURG MUST GO

Washington, D. C., May 25--If Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, the Kaiser's unofficial Ambassador extraordinary, accepts the adroit invitation of count Von Bernstorff, the Kaiser's official Ambassador, to leave the United States for his native heath, he will have to take his chances while on the high seas. At least resentment in Great Britain against Dr. Dernburg is so intense that the British government, it is reported here does not feel it could grant to him the favor of safe passage over the seas, no matter how much the American people desire to rid themselves of Dr. Dernburg's company. This anger is due to his charge that the British government was responsible for the massacre of men, woman and children on board the Lusitania. Although the British is sympathized with, this makes a pretty mess for the United States government.

OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT CHECKED

(SPECIAL CABLE THE MAIL.)

London, May 25--On the eastern frontier signs of a check to what at one time seemed an overwhelming Austro-German offensive movement are becoming more and more apparent. Even the flying wedge which was driven into the Russian center along the River San has been compelled to give some ground by energetic counter attacks of the Russians. In the West General French reports that the Germans by the use of the asphyxiating gases succeeded in penetrating the British lines at two points but claims some of the trenches lost as a result of these tactics were regained in subsequent fighting the contest is still raging.

TORPEDOED RESCUE SHIP

Newcastle, Eng., May 25--The Norwegian steamer Minerva was sunk by a German submarine Saturday night. The crew of the steamer was landed here this evening by the steamer Iris. The captain of the Iris reports that after he had rescued the crew of the Minerva the submarine sent a torpedo at the Iris, narrowly missing her.

The Minerva was bound from South Shields for Norway. She sailed from New York April 16 for Christiania. She arrived at Kirkwall May 4 and from there was taken to Shields, arriving in the latter port May 8. She was a vessel of 2,413 tons and was owned by Jacobson & Sons, of Christiania.