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Ammunition Explosion Sends British Warship And Crew to Bottom

Band Was Playing on the Battleship Bulwark, When the Ammunition Being Placed in Her Magazine Exploded and Over Seven Hundred Men Were Instantly Killed

London, November 26.—It was officially announced here to-day that the British battleship Bulwark had been blown up off Sheerness.

The Bulwark was 15,000 tons displacement and was completed in 1902. She had a complement of 750 men. Sheerness is on the Thames at the mouth of the Estuary of the Medway, 36 miles down the river from London.

Only twelve men out of the 700 or 800 on board were saved.

According to the Admiralty the explosion which resulted in the destruction of the Bulwark was believed to have originated in her own magazine.

MAGAZINE EXPLOSION.

London, Nov. 26.—The explosion which destroyed the Bulwark, occurred at 7.50 a.m. A Vice-Admiral and Rear-Admiral who were at Sheerness, reported that they were convinced the disaster was caused by a magazine explosion. When the smoke cleared away the ship had disappeared. An enquiry will be held to-morrow, and the Admiralty believe it may throw light on the occurrence.

Winston Churchill, speaking in the Commons, concerning the disaster, said "the loss of the ship does not sensibly affect our military position, but I regret the loss of life which was very heavy, only twelve men being saved. All the officers and the rest of the crew which I suppose amounted to between 700 and 800, perished."

Ammunition Explosion.

The loss of the Bulwark, according to a Central News despatch, received this evening from Chatham, was due to an accidental explosion while ammunition was being loaded on the warship.

The force of the explosion aboard the ship was so great that houses in Sheerness and even in Southend, seven miles away, were violently shaken. People fled into the streets in alarm. When the great ship blew up, dense clouds of smoke and flame shot into the air. The vessel disappeared beneath the waves in three minutes. So terrible was the Bulwark rent that it was impossible to render any assistance.

After the explosion the vessel was blotted out by smoke and as the veil slowly lifted, a handful of men were seen struggling in the water. Small craft rushed to their aid and picked them up. Some of the crew were badly mutilated.

Band was Playing.

A touch of the dramatic was added to the catastrophe by the fact that the band of the Bulwark was playing when the explosion came.

The disaster occurred while she was lying at anchor off the naval port of Sheerness near the mouth of the Thames, but the officers of the port scout the public impression that the vessel was the victim of the German submarine. This seems to be supported by the absence of any upheaval in the water.

As the First Lord of the Admiralty explained, although 15 years old, and no longer on the first fighting line, the Bulwark was still a useful unit. The loss of the ship was nothing compared to the loss in trained officers and men, with whose relatives Churchill expressed in the Commons his deep sympathy and sorrow. For a long time she was Admiral Charles Beresford's flagship in the Mediterranean.

German's Suffered Disaster

Paris, Nov. 26.—All the newspapers of Petrograd affirm that the Germans suffered a terrible catastrophe in attempting an offensive movement with five army corps against the Russians, between the Vistula and Wartha rivers.

The German turning movement against the left wing of the Russians in the region of Willium, is also said to have met with disaster.

Eleven German Army corps are reported to have suffered enormously, the division being captured.

Splendid Patriotic Rally Hears Eloquent Addresses

Messrs. A. B. Morine and W. J. Higgins Chief Speakers At Big Meeting Held Under the Auspices of the S. U. F. With the Governor, Lady Davidson and Many Leading Citizens Present

GREAT GATHERING HAD GOOD TIME LISTENING TO MUSIC AND SPEECHES

The Chairman, J. A. Cliff, M.H.A., Has Two Sons in the Training Camp—Premier Absent Attending a Similar Rally at Petty Harbor

The first of a series of Patriotic gatherings under the auspices of the Society of United Fishermen was held in the British Hall last night, Mr. A. B. Morine, M.H.A., and Mr. W. J. Higgins, M.H.A., being the two chief speakers. The meeting was well attended and the addresses evoked a great deal of patriotic sentiment.

Mr. J. A. Cliff, M.H.A., presided, and amongst the many present were His Excellency the Governor and Lady Davidson, Mr. J. M. Kent, M.H.A., Pres Coaker and many other prominent citizens.

During the evening patriotic songs were rendered by Mr. F. Cornick and J. L. Slattery.

Mr. Morine's Address. Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Lady Davidson, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We are gathered to discuss and consider the causes and progress of the greatest war the World has ever seen, and especially, I take it, to consider how it affects us, and what is our duty in the crisis.

Perhaps we are here more to incite ourselves and others to do what we are already conscious our duty demands, for as to what that duty is there can now be little doubt. But as a people, we profess the belief that war is only justifiable in self defence or the defence of some right thing, and therefore it is spiritually profit-

German's Put To Rout By The Russians, Lose A Whole Army Corps

Paris, November 27.—Telegraphing from Petrograd regarding the fighting around Lodz in Russian Poland, a correspondent of The Matin says: "One German army corps which was surrounded by Russian troops surrendered in a body. This represents nearly 50,000 men."

Another corps which also had been cut off has now been completely put to rout.

The Russians are attacking along the Czenstochowa-Cracow line with redoubled intensity.

the people of Bosnia, and had long looked forward to Union within one nation. The murder of the Archduke, therefore, was the natural, even though the horrible, result of violated faith.

The Austrian Demand.

The next step in the events preceding the war was the demand by Austria on Serbia. It was presented on the 24th of August. Our Foreign Minister immediately pointed out to the Austrian Ambassador that the tone of the demand was objectionable and would be offensive to Russia as well as to Serbia. One of its conditions was that Serbia should acquiesce within forty-eight hours, and such a condition under such circumstances had never been known. It is clear that acquiescence to the demand was neither expected nor desired, and that the demand was made unreasonable and couched in peremptory language in order that it might lead to war. This demand was shown to the German Emperor before it was presented, and the draft shown to him was made more peremptory in order that it might more surely effect its real purpose.

Russian Military Preparations.

Russia, the only great Slavonic power, is the natural protector of the Slavonic people of Serbia, and the Russian Government did not dare permit the subjugation of Serbia. Russian national feeling would have swept away the Czar and his advisers, if they had not responded to the call of the blood.

Russia began to mobilise her armies, not for the purpose necessarily of declaring war, but as a precautionary measure. Germany chose to take offence at this step, which she had herself really been responsible for provoking, and she made a demand on Russia, which the Czar has declared to have been "insolent" in tone, that Russia should within twelve hours cancel her orders for mobilisation and cease to make ready for war. The demand was, of course, rejected, as Germany fully expected, doubtless, and Germany thereupon declared war upon Russia and upon France as her ally.

Germany Invades Neutral States. In spite of unmistakable warning by Britain the frontier of Belgium was crossed by German troops.

In 1839 Austria and Prussia had joined with England, France and Russia in agreeing that:

Article 7.—"Belgium shall form an independent and perpetually neutral state. It shall be bound to observe such neutrality towards all other States."

On the 29th of July, Germany was told that Great Britain would not bargain away the neutrality of Belgium for any promise made by Germany. On the 4th of August Great Britain asked Germany for a pledge within twelve hours that Belgium's neutrality would be respected. Speaking in the German Parliament, the German Chancellor said:

"We fight for Faith with Belgium. There can be no doubt that although Great Britain had other causes for war than the breach of treaty obligations regarding Belgium, this breach was a real effective cause for her participation. It might be that if Belgium had not been invaded our nation would have been drawn into this war by the need of protecting France, or what is the same thing, by the need of (Continued on page 2.)"

German's Have Sustained Record Losses In East States Earl Kitchener

British Minister of War Says the Germans Have Been Utterly Unable to Secure Any Permanent Advantage in the East—Has Word of Praise For Forces in the West

London, November 26.—That the Russians had defeated the Germans with the heaviest losses yet suffered; that the Germans had made no advance since he last addressed the House, and that the British were in touch with the Turkish forces thirty miles east of Suez Canal, were the salient points of the speech made by Field Marshal Earl Kitchener in the House of Lords this afternoon.

When the British Secretary for War summarized the military operations, he paid a tribute to the gallantry of the Belgian Army and to the King of the Belgians, who, he declared, had no intention of quitting Belgian territory.

CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS.

He said the losses of the Allies were great, but at the same time they were slight compared with those of the enemy; and the Allied troops were in excellent spirits, confident of success.

The Russians, he announced, have defeated the Germans with heavier losses than the latter ever suffered before.

Regarding recruiting, he said he still had room for men, and was confident men would answer their country's call, and see that the war was brought to a successful conclusion. About thirty thousand recruits, he said, were enlisting weekly. The time would come when we would require many more men, and he would then make it thoroughly well-known, adding that in the meantime, all gaps in the British forces on the Continent had been filled.

Couldn't Down the British. Referring to the German advance on Dunkirk and Calais, after the capture of Antwerp, Lord Kitchener mentioned that in spite of the overwhelming force of the German troops, the British troops vigorously attacked, and a British cavalry division, extending over seven miles of trenches, had thrown back the attacks of a whole German army corps for more than two days. The arrival of Indian troops on the field, he said, proved a great advantage, and when fresh reinforcements pushed forward, the march on Calais was stopped.

Kitchener spoke of the splendid fighting qualities of the French troops and of the pluck and gallantry of the Belgian Army, whose fine resistance had been strengthened and encouraged by the cooperation of the British fleet, which had effectively shelled the German artillery positions.

Advantage Remains With The Russians. Have Retreating Germans in Disadvantageous Position—Austrians Lose More Guns and Men

Petrograd, Nov. 27.—The following official statement from General Headquarters was issued tonight: In the battle of Lodz, which continues to detain our troops, which, having penetrated to our troops.

The Germans are making strenuous efforts to facilitate the retreat of their corps, which, having penetrated in the direction of Brzeziny, are now retreating to the region of Strykow under conditions very unfavorable for them.

On the Austrian front our action continues with success. In the fighting of Nov. 25 we took as many as eight thousand prisoners, including two regiments with their commanders and other officers.

The Germans are now attempting to force a "strong wedge" into the Russian front between the Vistula and Wartha rivers, but, as for the Russian line, which everywhere is continuous, it was reinforced wherever necessary and strong reserves success fully outflanked every focal German advance.

Meanwhile, the double Russian advance into East Prussia from the east and south is overcoming the numerous obstacles and making rapid progress, avoiding or enveloping the thickest of the fortified line of the Mazurian Lakes. Here, too, the subject population is chiefly Polish.

SERVIAN VICTORY REPORTED

All the Attacks of the Austrians Were Repulsed and Many Prisoners Taken From Retreating Enemy

Paris, Nov. 27.—Victory for the Serbians in their fighting for the Austrians in North Western Serbia is reported today in a despatch from Nish.

Combats occurred on Nov. 22nd, says the despatch along the positions to the East of Rogozhitza, attacks being made by us on the enemy's forces on our left wing.

Along the front from Lazareatz to Mironitza we maintained all our positions. The attacks of the enemy to the south-west of Lazareatz were repulsed.

From our point of view the day ended favorably for us.

After the fighting of Nov. 23rd the enemy was constrained to retire. His retreat was disorderly and at some points we took a number of prisoners.

STEAMER ASHORE IN CLYDE RIVER

Glasgow, Nov. 27.—The steamer Cassandra, which sailed from Halifax on November 15th, for this port, is aground on the Clyde, near Cardross. The Cassandra sailed for England with horses and deals.

MONTREAL SENDS HELPTO FRANCE

Montreal, Nov. 27.—The Montreal City Council has made a grant of \$10,000 to France as a gift to that country in connection with the war.

BRITAIN'S STRENGTH ON SEAS IS GREATER NOW THAN EVER

Many New Warships Have Been Added to the Fleet Since the War Began and Many Others Are Almost Completed

To the total strength of the allies Britain contributes 470 vessels, including 71 Dreadnoughts, 108 cruisers, 167 destroyers, 49 torpedo boats and 75 submarines. Since the war commenced Britain has added several new vessels to her fleet.

Mr. Winston Churchill stated in Parliament in September that the Admiralty would build a destroyer every week, a light cruiser every thirty days, and a Dreadnought every forty-five days. This rate of production has not been sustained, but it is declared that the programme has not been departed from very materially.

In the prosecution of the war the British navy is assisted greatly by the manner in which the work has been divided amongst the various fleets. Japan has been looking after the Far East in co-operation with a small British fleet. France has taken over the principal work on the Mediterranean and on the Adriatic, while Britain has been left free to control the North Sea and the Atlantic.

Schr. Noah is loading fish at Monro & Co's. for Valencia.

Battle Front Quiet All Day

Paris, Nov. 27.—The following official communication was issued tonight in Belgium today complete calm prevailed.

In the centre there was cannonading but there was no infantry attacks. There is nothing of importance to report from Argonne. There was a small engagement east of Verdun.

Florizel Here

S.S. Florizel, Capt. Martin, arrived at 2.30 p.m. yesterday from New York, via Halifax. She brought a full cargo. The following passengers arrived by her:—E. A. Smith, H. S. Windler, C. J. Blackie, J. A. Chiquette and ten steerage.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Strong breezes to moderate local gales; shifting to N.W. and W.N.W.; a few showers today Saturday—colder with local snow flurries.

RUSSIA'S VICTORIOUS ADVANCE IN THE EAST STILL CONTINUES

Population of Poland and Eastern Germany and Austria Sympathises With the Czar's Men and is Giving Them Much Help

London, Nov. 27.—Professor Bernard Pares, the British Government correspondent with the Russian army headquarters in a despatch dated Nov. 25, dealing with the general Russian advance says that after the Russians had held the River San for nearly a month against the Austrians, word came to go forward. The river was crossed and the enemy driven from the trenches and neighboring villages and was forced further back. The advance was triumphant at all points, says Prof. Pares.

Austrians Driven Back. The Austrians were driven southward and westward. Some were pressed against the Carpathians, at a point where there are only two passes so difficult they will hardly admit the passage of artillery field trains. Others were pressed back on Cracow

where the line of the Russian advance is now complete.

The Russian impact on Cracow promises the first settlement of the destiny of West Galicia, where the population is Polish and ready to respond to the appeal of the Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces.

The next gap was made between the Austrians and Germans who were already retreating in mutual dissatisfaction in different directions.

Political interests must still more facilitate their further advance of the Russians through this gap into Slavonic territory, as Southern Silesia up to the River Niesse is mainly Polish or Bohemian and Czech and in general is largely friendly to Russia and quite hostile to Germany.

The Germans are doing all possible to make diversion on other sides. Stopped and driven back near Miawa, seventy-five miles north-east of Warsaw, they have made a serious effort on both sides of the Vistula, near Plock, but have been decisively repulsed, the inhabitants giving effective aid to the Russians in bridging the river.