

The Courier's Best to All—"A Merry Christmas"

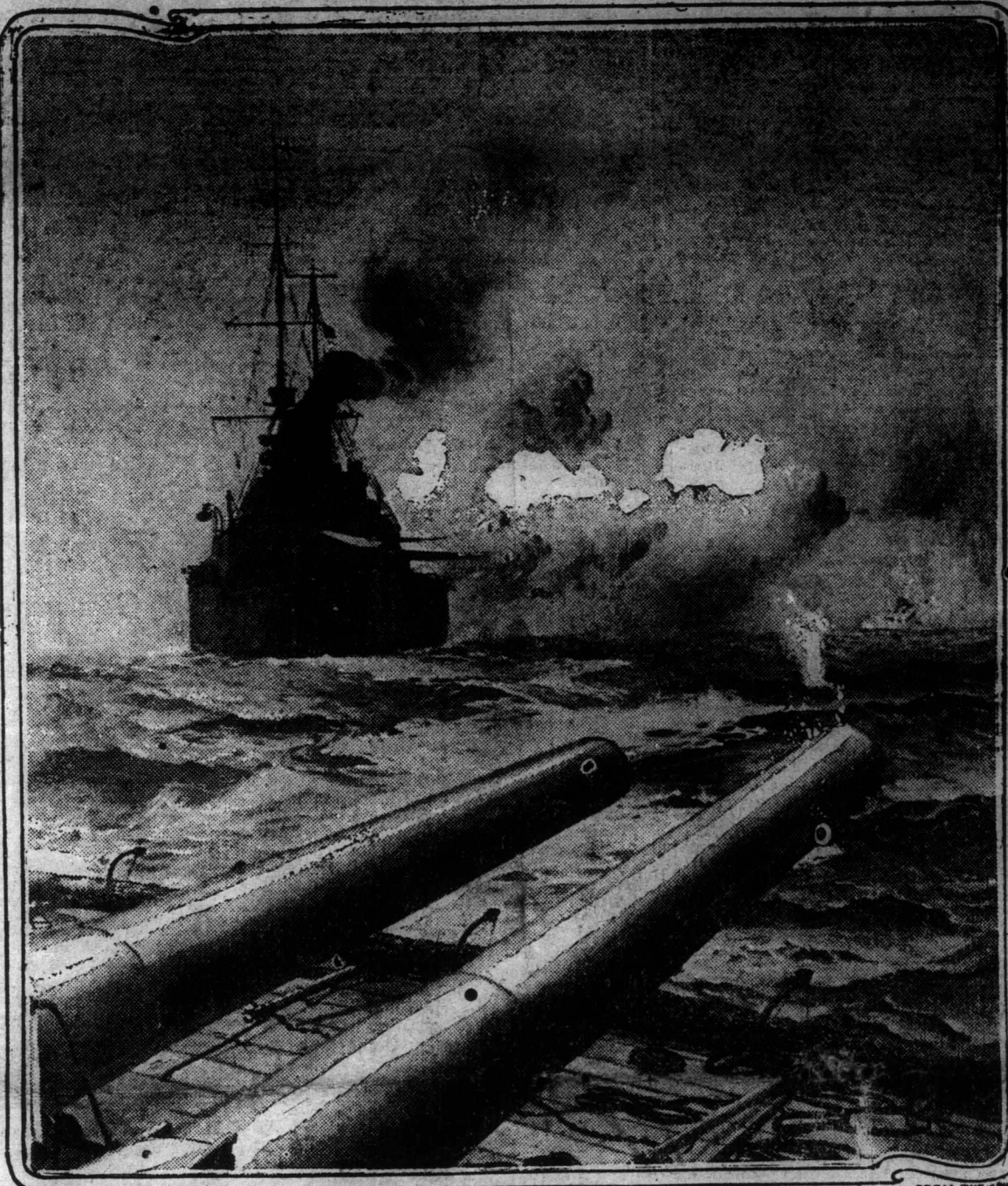
BELGIANS CROSS RIVER YSER AND WIN AN ADVANCE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Many German Prisoners Are Taken Daily—Depression in Ranks of Kaiser's Army—Success of Belgians is Reported.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Times correspondent on the Belgian frontier telegraphs: "The Belgian troops succeeded yesterday in crossing the Yser canal near St. Georges in the direction of Mannekenvere and establishing themselves firmly in spite of a murderous fire. This is an important step and merits attention. On the other parts of the Belgian front progress is gradual, but continuous. "Depression has overcome the German troops on the Yser, who are tired of fighting vainly in a cold, wet and comfortless land far from their homes. Batches of prisoners have been brought regularly into Furnes every day since the fighting around Nieuport began again. "There is considerable activity over the whole of the allies' front in the north. The British guns near Armentieres have been booming and the wounded removed. The destruction of the hospital is very much to be deplored. The German gunners doubtless were aiming at the railway station, but the bombardment began shells have not ceased to fall in and around the convent."

GOT ACROSS THE YSER. LONDON, Dec. 14.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs from "Northern France": "Belgian troops yesterday broke through a German position on the banks of the Yser beyond St. Georges and succeeded, notwithstanding a fierce attack by the Germans, in establishing a new position and holding it. "Fighting with odd parties of Germans in the dunes northwest of Nieuport still goes on, but throughout the lines about Nieuport the allies are showing ascendancy over the Germans and making steady progress without undue loss. "ZEPPELINS ACTIVE. NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A London Daily Express despatch dated "On the Belgian frontier Wednesday" to the Herald says: "A Zeppelin to-day flew over Vleetsies, a Dutch town on the German frontier, coming from the direction of the North Sea and disappeared in the direction of Kiel. "I have reason to believe that the Germans have begun using Zeppelins as a base for aerial raids on the English coast. A reliable informant tells me large hangars, capable of housing a number of aeroplanes, have been erected near the Heyst tram station, in addition to a waterplane landing stage."

AN INCIDENT DURING NAVAL ACTION OFF HELIGOLAND



THE LION TURNED SLOWLY AND MAJESTICALLY ROUND AND FIRED HER BROADSIDE—ONCE

The naval battle of the Bight of Heligoland, which occurred during the very early stages of the war and which was the first really decisive naval engagement between the British fleet and the German, was remarkable for the accuracy and effectiveness of the heavy guns of the British battle cruisers. The Lion, in particular, did very deadly work with her huge 13.5-inch guns. A naval man present at the action wrote: "It was a fine sight to see the Lion demolish one cruiser. We could see her (the cruiser's) shots falling short, but still the Lion did not fire a single shot. Then the Lion, who was leading the line, hoisted 'open fire,' turned slowly and majestically round, and fired her broadside—once. It was quite sufficient. We went a cloud of smoke and steam from 'the target,' and when it cleared off her aft funnel was at a rakish angle and a huge rent appeared the length of her side. After a few more salvos she was rapidly sinking by the stern. Shortly afterward she half hauled down her ensign, and as we were steaming up to stand by and rescue her survivors she hoisted it again and opened fire. It was a dirty trick, but they got their deserts. Once again the Lion turned, and this time fired but five shots from her huge turrets. Amidst a shower of splinters, smoke and fire she disappeared. We steamed over the spot, but although there was plenty of wreckage not a single living thing was to be seen. This incident only lasted forty-five minutes, although the battle was raging for eight hours."

HOW TO AVOID SHELLS IS TOLD IN DETAIL BY RHEIMS RESIDENT

[By Special Wire to the Courier] DUNKIRK, France, via London, Dec. 24.—A resident of Rheims, who has survived all the successive bombardments of that city advised against taking to the cellar in case of bombardment. "Two of the Rheims hotel were blown into rubbish while I was sleeping in them, he says. "In each instance, most of the people in the hotels took refuge in the cellars and came to losing their lives when brick and mortar came tumbling in on top of them. If your house is blown up, you in your cellar and you stand every chance of being killed by a shell or by asphyxiation. "I had calculated correctly that the part of the city where I was living would come under fire from the north

west, so I selected a room on the first floor at the side most remote from the point of the threatened attacks. In my second hotel, just across the way, I reversed the process. In each case I escaped with my clothes; in my hand, and later assisted in digging out the cellar refugees, who were nearly dead. "The writer of the bombardment is between two and four o'clock in the morning, when the Germans can use their big guns without any risk of their location being found out by scouting aeroplanes. It might be well to mention that shells of this calibre do not merely make holes in walls or blow roofs off. They lift the entire contents of a four story house into the street, floors, partitions and all details included. The daily bombardment of Rheims after this fashion has now lasted over eighty days."

OFFICIAL FRENCH NOTICE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 24.—2.59 p.m.—The French war office this afternoon gave out an official communication which reads as follows: "From the sea to the Lys we made progress by sapping operations in the dunes and we repulsed an attack in front of Lombartzyde. At Swarte-ried a group of houses and we drove back as far as the southern part of this village, a counter-attack of the enemy; this was done in spite of a very spirited fire from the German artillery. "The Belgian army pushed forward certain detachments along the right bank of the Yser, to the south of Dixmude, and organized a defensive work protecting the head of a bridge. "In the region of Arras, the fog still made all operations impossible. "To the east and to the southeast of Amiens, especially in the suburbs of Lassigny, there have been artillery exchanges. "In the region of the Aisne, the Zouaves, during all day yesterday, held back brilliantly, a number of attacks; they remained masters, at a point near the road of Puisseine of the German trenches, occupied by us December 21. "In Champagne, we strengthened the positions taken by us in our advance of the night before, in the region of Craonne and Rheims. "In the vicinity of Perthes, all the counter-attacks of the enemy on the positions conquered by us December 22, were successfully repulsed. To the northwest of Mesnil-les-Hurlus, we occupied German trenches for a distance of 400 yards, and we drove back a counter-attack. The Germans endeavored to take the offensive in the direction of Ville-sur-Tourbe, but our artillery dispersed them. "In the Argonne we took possession."

SUMMARY

[By Special Wire to the Courier] Christmas Eve finds little change in the underground warfare now being conducted in the western theatre of war where General Joffre, the commander-in-chief of the French armies, still appears to be cautiously feeling for an opening in the strongly entrenched German line across France and Belgium. "In the east a supreme German effort continues to be made before Warsaw, the capital of Russian Poland, where the forces of the German centre and of the Russians seeking to check them, sway back and forth along the banks of the river barring the way to the Polish capital. The Russians claim successes in the latest encounters, but during the last ten days the Germans have advanced appreciably, and it is said they now are bringing up their 42-centimetre guns preparatory to siege operations. In Galicia the Austro-German forces seem to have made no further progress and in the north the Russians are reported to have pushed the invaders further back into East Prussia. "The German tactics in the March toward Warsaw, military observers in London point out, are beginning to have some of the characteristics of the rush towards Calais and Dunkirk, which the allies stemmed, thousands being sacrificed and others being hurled forward to fill the gaps with the same prodigality that was shown by the Germans in Flanders. "Although accounts vary as to the present status of military affairs in Poland, it is evident that the scene of heaviest fighting has shifted southward from Sochaczew to the town on the Buzura River, 30 miles from Warsaw, towards which the Germans for several days directed their principal efforts. Austro-German forces operating from the Cracow base are attempting to push northward into Poland. In this effort, however, they are meeting with determined resistance from the Russians."

BERLIN OFFICIAL NOTICE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(By wireless telegraph to London, 3.15 p.m.)—The official communication issued today by the German general headquarters staff says: "The enemy did not renew his attacks in the neighborhood of Nieuport yesterday. At Bixchoote we took 230 prisoners on December 22. "The enemy was again active yesterday in the neighborhood of Chalper. Infantry attacks followed a fierce artillery attack made by the enemy in the regions of Souain and Perthes, these were repulsed. A trench, kept under continuous artillery fire by the enemy, was lost yesterday. The position was abandoned after this successful counter attack because parts of the trenches had been almost levelled by the enemy's fire. More than 100 prisoners were left in our hands. "In the east we have assumed the offensive, and are advancing from Neidenburg and Soldau (in East Prussia). We have repulsed the Russians after days of fighting, and Miawa in northern Poland, and the enemy's positions at Miawa again are in our hands. More than 1,000 prisoners were taken in these battles. "At the confluence of the Bura and Rawka Rivers, fierce bayonet attacks took place at many places. The artillery could do little on account of the misty weather. "The Russians suffered heavy losses on the right bank of the Pillica river, in the district to the southeast of Tomaszow. The Russians attacked fiercely several times, but were repulsed by the Austro-German armies with heavy losses. "Further to the south the situation generally is unchanged."

RUSSIAN SUCCESSES ARE REPORTED OFFICIALLY AND MANY CAPTURES ARE MADE

Austrians Are Pursued Through the Mountains and All Kinds of War Munitions Are Delivered to the Czar's Armies.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PETROGRAD, Dec. 23.—(Delayed in transmission)—A statement issued by the official press bureau today regarding the fighting along the Russian front says: "On the left bank of the Pillica, obstinate fighting continues in the region of the villages of Jesesee and Rojokowawolia, about six miles west of Nowemiasio. "On the right bank of the Pillica we have made progress in the vicinity of Opoczno and Tomaszow. "In Galicia our success continues. South of the Vistula we captured, during the 20th and 21st, 86 officers and 5,600 men, three cannon and ten mitrailleuses. "In the Carpathians, while pursuing the retreating Austrians, we captured on December 22, thirty officers and about 1,500 men. "Near Przemysl the Austrians attempted a new sortie during which several of their advance companies were completely annihilated. Other advances companies were made prisoners. In this affair we seized about a mile of railway, leading into the city."

BLOCKED BY RUSSIANS NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A cable to The Herald from London this morning says: "Blocked by a great Russian army between Warsaw and the Bura River the Germans have shifted their angle of attack and are moving toward the Polish capital from the southwest. In this direction they have reached Siermiewice, forty miles from the city. "The fighting in the eastern arena is proceeding with an intensity not exceeded since the war began. The Russians in East Prussia are conducting a vigorous offensive and they are making excellent advances in Galicia. In Poland the progress made by the opposing forces has been slight, but in the long run the ground gained may prove vital. Thus far the Germans have failed to pierce the Russian line at any point, although it was reported here last night that Grand Duke Nicholas has been forced to withdraw his troops from before Cracow. Since this was one of the aims of the German offensive, Berlin says the eastern campaign already is successful."

King Albert Real Leader of Belgians

GRAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS IN WEST FLANDERS, Belgium, Sunday, Dec. 20.—(via London, Dec. 23.)—In the Council chamber of an ancient Flemish town hall, from which he is directing under German shell fire the resistance of his war-sworn little army blocking the road to Dunkirk and Calais, King Albert of the Belgians to-day told The Associated Press of the stand his soldiers are making against the German invaders. The king's headquarters are located on one of the remaining dry areas of that small corner of Belgium under his rule. "The monarch was alone when the correspondent was admitted to the Council chamber, not even an aide being present. The king's tall, angular form was clothed in the simple undress uniform of a general of artillery which was without insignia, beyond braided shoulder straps, to distinguish him from a staff officer. "Physically, King Albert looks hardened, but lines of care show in his otherwise youthful face. In manner he is deceptively shy, and he apologized for his English, which, however, was very fluent. The light from a smoky oil lamp barely penetrated the recesses of the great beamed hall, from the walls of which empty picture frames stared down. "When the king saw the eyes of the correspondent fixed on these blank spaces where a few months ago invulnerable Flemish canvases hung, he smiled and said he no longer expected the Germans to be even in a position to take the frames. "PRAISES HIS SOLDIERS. "Modestly he praised the courage of his soldiers, speaking of them with great kindness—as though he were talking about his own children. "I believe," he said, "my army is courageous. My people, however, are too democratic for the same discipline that prevails in the conscript European armies. You will see something of the bravery of my people when tomorrow you shall have a chance to witness the peasants working in their fields under shell fire, concerned only for the losses of their homes, the destruction of which causes them great grief. "When Edgar Senger, Belgian attaché to the American commission for the relief of Belgium, entered and presented King Albert with a report from the commission, showing that enough food was in sight to feed his people until February 12, the king turned quickly to the correspondent, saying: "Will you be kind enough to convey to the American people my deep gratitude?" "King Albert also was anxious to have the American people know, as he put it, the facts of the story of how his troops, demoralized and disorganized by their disheartening retreat almost across the entire limits of their own country, turned at bay along the Yser and held back the Germans there at frightful costs in killed and wounded to their army and of the almost incalculable loss suffered."

ATTEMPT MADE TO END LIFE OF MINISTER

Missionary Does Some Shooting Right on Streets of Toronto.

TORONTO, Dec. 24.—Rev. J. McPherson Scott, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church, corner Simcoe and Broadview Avenues, was shot at and wounded last night while walking from his home to attend the weekly prayer meeting at his church. His assailant, Harry Asher, of Montreal, a Roumanian missionary to the Jews, surrendered himself to the police, and is now under arrest on a charge of attempted murder. "Asher fired six shots at Rev. Mr. Scott, two entered his body. One entered the hip, but was extracted last night by Dr. Charles R. Sneath. At a late hour Rev. Mr. Scott was reported to be resting easily, and his recovery is expected. He will be removed to a hospital to-day, where the doctor will attempt to locate the second bullet by means of the X-ray. "The heavy overcoat he was wearing and his spectacle case are responsible for the saving of Rev. Mr. Scott's life. He was carrying his spectacle case in his vest pocket directly over his heart. One of the bullets struck the case, shattering it and the glasses, and was found lying in the bottom of his vest pocket. One of the bullets passed through the left sleeve of the coat, another went through the left pocket, and the sixth apparently missed him entirely. "The shooting occurred on Broadview Ave, near the corner of Withrow Avenue. Rev. Mr. Scott was walking south towards his church when he met Asher. Without a second's warning Asher raised his revolver and fired. This shot was the one which struck the spectacle case. So close was the muzzle of the revolver to Rev. Mr. Scott that his coat was singed by the fire of the powder. The minister turned and ran, followed by Asher, who kept firing at him. Two young men, Charles David, 44 Sparkill Avenue and Leonard Taylor, 74 Bellwood Avenue, who were walking down Broadview Avenue heard the shots and ran in the direction from which the sounds came. When they reached the scene Asher was gaining on Rev. Mr. Scott. The preacher called to the boys to stop Asher. They attempted to do so, but Asher evaded them by running out into the road. He fired two more shots and Rev. Mr. Scott was seen to fall. "GAVE HIMSELF UP. "Asher, by that time, having emptied his revolver, handed it to the young men, and said, 'The game is off now. Scott has wronged me, and now I am satisfied to go to jail that I have shot him. Take me to a police station.'"

AUSTRIA MAKES ADMISSION OF HEAVY DEFEAT

A Whole Army Was the Victim of a Servian Success. LONDON, Dec. 23.—An official communication issued in Vienna, gives the result of inquiries made by a high military officer into the defeat of the Austrians by the Servians as follows: "After he had gained successes, the chief in command of the Balkan forces intended to complete the defeat of the enemy, but did not pay sufficient regard to the difficulties. Bad weather made the conditions of the few roads which lead across the barren country worse, so that it was impossible to supply the army with the necessary provisions and ammunition. At the same time, the enemy collected fresh forces and opened an attack, the offensive had been given up. "It was thought prudent not to offer decisive battle under these unfavorable circumstances. Forced by adverse conditions, our troops retreated from Servia, but they are not defeated. That we suffered severe losses in men and war material is inevitable,

TO CHEER TROOPS

Reason Why the Kaiser Will Spend Christmas With Them. [By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—A cable to the Herald dated "On the Belgian frontier Wednesday," says: "The Kaiser's decision to spend Christmas among his troops in Western Flanders, is intended to encourage them to fresh efforts against the allies. "The Germans are making preparations to celebrate Christmas in the trenches, so far as the situation permits. The German staff has facilitated the transport of thousands of presents from the relatives of the men, which now are being delivered by the military post offices. "In some places small Christmas trees have been obtained by detachments of infantry for erection in their underground shelters. Trees also are being supplied at the supply station at Bruges and in the hospitals, where the seriously wounded are treated until they are able to make the train journey to Germany."

Hosiery advertisement with logo and text: "More than any hosiery known. \$5.00 per pair, in any color. Sold by all good stores. NEW YORK"

Advertisement for a product, possibly a record or book, with text: "What to give?" is best answered by a Victrola. It is the ideal gift as well as the ideal musical instrument. We have the proof right here come in and see styles—\$20 to \$75. Terms, if desired."

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued on Page Two)

(Continued on Page Four)