

BRITISH COAST BOMBARDED-- TWO GERMAN CRUISERS SUNK

HARTLEPOOL, Eng., Dec. 16, via London, 12 Noon: The residents of Hartlepool were awakened this morning by heavy gun firing. A great crowd at once assembled on the beach to learn whence the sounds came.

Shells from German ships soon began dropping into the city, whereupon the crowd on the beach rapidly sought shelter. Nine persons were killed and a number injured.

ATTACK MADE BY GERMAN FLEET STARTED AT 8 O'CLOCK TO-DAY AND WAS MET BY JELlicoe

Unfortified Towns Received Damage From Shell Fire—First Time English Coast Was Ever Bombarded—Admiralty Says That the Situation is Developing—Uncertain at Noon as to What the Outcome Would be—Life and Death Struggle is Now Being Fought.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 16, 11.52 a.m.—A German fleet made a sudden dash into the North Sea to-day shelled Scarborough and Hartlepool, English coast towns on the North Sea to-day, and engaged certain units of the British fleet.

Four German cruisers appeared off Scarborough at an early hour and began to bombard the town. It is apparent that they had no difficulty in dropping shells into the city. Panic seized the people and many of them fled from their homes.

The residents of Hartlepool were aroused from their sleep by the sound of heavy gun firing. They fled to the streets and thence made their way to the beach to learn what was going on. In a few moments shells from German cruisers began dropping into Hartlepool, whereupon the crowd along the shore broke for shelter. Panic also showed itself at this point. Fear took possession of the people and many of them abandoned their homes and fled inland.

The news of this naval raid was announced at 11.30 o'clock this morning and it threw London into the greatest state of excitement that has

prevailed since the outbreak of the war.

The preliminary announcement of the Admiralty made no mention of the damage to Scarborough, which is a fashionable sea resort on the North Sea, 37 miles northeast of York, and a little over 200 miles from London, or to Hartlepool, an important shipping centre, about forty miles northwest of Scarborough.

British flotillas have been engaged with the enemy at several points, however, and at noon the situation was described by the admiralty as "developing."

It could not be ascertained at first whether this German attack was designed merely to spread panic among the British people, or whether its purpose was to engage the British fleet in a general action or to act as an escort in an attempt to land troops on the British coast.

part of Yorkshire, on a headland, extending into the North Sea. It is 37 miles northeast of the important English city of York. It is a little over 200 miles from London.

Scarborough has been popularly styled "queen of watering places." The town has a large spa, an interesting aquarium, a museum and a fine drive and promenade pier. The permanent population of the place is more than 40,000.

Hartlepool is a seaport and municipal borough of England in the southeast portion of the County of Durham. It is about forty miles northwest of Scarborough on a promontory that extends into the North Sea. Its population is about 25,000. Adjoining Hartlepool is West Hartlepool, a city of more than 65,000 inhabitants.

The Hartlepoons, which are provided with a vast system of docks, before the war had an active trade with the Baltic ports and with Hamburg, Antwerp and Rotterdam. The chief industries are shipbuilding, iron founding and the construction of marine engines.

The bombardment of cities on the east coast of England by German cruisers is the first overt act of the war against British territory. Never before has the coast of England been attacked. It was felt that the British fleet in the North Sea was sufficient

to render this possibility very remote.

The official announcement given out in London that British flotillas have been engaged with the enemy is evidence that there has been a naval fight in the North Sea. No knowledge as to the outcome is at hand.

Immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities the British fleet or at least a considerable portion of it, supposedly took up positions on the eastern side of the North Sea by which the German warships were held in check or close to their naval base at Wilhelmshafen, the mouth of the Tibe, and elsewhere on the western coast of Germany. This patrol has been maintained since early in August. It has from time to time been penetrated by German submarines, but so far as is known the instances where German cruisers or battleships have broken the British line and emerged into the North Sea have been few and far between.

Despatches from Germany for as much as a month past have indicated in one way or another that the Germans were making preparations at their sea base for naval activity. Very little detail of what was going on has come out, nevertheless these messages led to the belief that the German ships might soon attempt some manoeuvre.

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Official Announcements

LONDON, Dec. 16th, 11.26 a.m.—The official announcement regarding this important development follows: "German movements of some importance are taking place this morning in the North Sea. Scarborough and Hartlepool have been shelled and our flotillas have at various points been engaged. The situation is developing."

LONDON, Dec. 16th, 1.46 p.m.—A statement given out by the official information bureau says that the German warships which have been bombarding the eastern coast of England have been driven off by the West Hartlepool fortress.

LONDON, Dec. 16, 1.44 p.m.—The official press bureau this afternoon made the following announcement with regard to the German attack on the North Sea coast of England:

"The fortress commander at West Hartlepool reports that German war vessels engaged that fortress between 8 o'clock and 9 o'clock this morning.

"The enemy were driven off. "A small German war vessel also opened fire on Scarborough and Whitby."

BULLETINS FLASHED OVER WIRE TO-DAY

TWO ARE SUNK. LONDON, Dec. 16, 12.35 p.m.—Reports are current in London that two German cruisers have been sunk in the North Sea.

FIRE 50 SHELLS. HULL, Eng., Dec. 16.—Via London 1.17 p.m.—A man, who has arrived here from Scarborough estimates that the German cruisers fired a total of about 50 shells into Scarborough. He declares he saw only three chimney stacks shattered. He believes, however, that the damage nearer shore will prove to be more serious than this.

THEY FELL THICKLY. HULL, Dec. 16.—via London, 1.03 p.m.—Fugitives reaching here from Scarborough say that the German bombardment was heavy and that great damage was done to property. The morning train from Scarborough to Hull brought many passengers, who left Scarborough when the shelling commenced. A railroad man has wired his wife here from Scarborough saying: "Shells are falling thickly around me, but I am all right."

CAME OVER IN FOG. HULL, Dec. 16.—Via London, 2.12 p.m.—The arrival of the German raid-

ers off Scarborough took place under cover of a thick veil of fog. Some people declared they saw a German cruiser lying off Castle Cliff.

The roof of St. Martin's Church was struck and one woman is known to have been killed.

RED CAR IN IT. REDCAR, YORK, Eng., Dec. 16.—Via London 1.27 p.m.—Heavy firing was heard off the coast here between eight and eight-twenty a.m. to-day. The forms of three cruisers could be discerned looming up out of the haze and the flashes of artillery fire could be easily observed from the Redcar promenade.

The people of Redcar sought the water front, but they were driven back from the promenade by the military authorities to a point beyond the zone of danger.

It appeared from here as if the hostile warships were attacking the forts on Tees Bay.

The cannonading was kept up for more than half an hour, when the booming of guns gradually grew less. During the height of the bombardment, as many as half a dozen flashes of guns were counted within the space of two minutes.

Via London 1.48 p.m.—Two German cruisers bombarded this town between 9 and 10 o'clock this morning.

NINE WERE KILLED. HULL, Eng., Dec. 16.—Via London 1.51 p.m.—Nine persons are reported to have been killed at Hartlepool, and a number injured, in the bombardment of that port by German cruisers this morning.

The bombardment of Hartlepool lasted for 25 minutes.

The hostile vessels which took part in the operation are estimated from two to six, but never once were they clearly visible from the shore.

The forts on the River Tees replied to the fire of the German vessels. Pieces of shell have been found all over Hartlepool. The damage inflicted on the town is said to be considerable. One of the shells hit a gas tank and set it afire.

The people were greatly excited. They rushed from their houses at the first sound of firing, and women and children were seen running through streets in their night clothes.

IT WAS HEAVY. HULL, Eng., Dec. 16, via London 1 p.m.—Fugitives reaching here from Scarborough say the German bomb-

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DRESDEN IS CHASED OUT OF PUNTA ARENAS BY SPEEDY BRISTOL

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—A special cable to the Herald from Santiago, Chile, dated Tuesday, says:

"It was officially announced to-day that the German cruiser, Dresden, steamed from Punta Arenas on Sunday night. The British cruiser Bristol arrived at the port on Monday and left immediately in pursuit of the Dresden. With her superior speed the British war vessel may overhual the Dresden before she clears the Strait of Magellan.

"While the normal speed of the German warship is 23.5 knots, her long stay in tropical waters, during which she was at anchor most of the time, has caused her keel to become encrusted with submarine growths, which fact undoubtedly has reduced her speed considerably, probably to less than 20 knots.

The Dresden is believed to have been unscathed in the naval action last week. Without warning, she slipped away from Punta Arenas at dusk on Sunday.

PEOPLE IN PANIC. SCARBOROUGH, Dec. 16, via London 1 p.m.—When the German shells began falling into Scarborough shortly before 8 o'clock this morning the people rushed out of their houses in a state of the greatest excitement.

The crowds ran hurriedly to the railroad station, and all who could boarded the train that was just leaving for Hull.

OFFICIAL FRENCH NOTICE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 16.—2.46 p.m.—The French war office to-day gave out an official communication as follows:

"In Belgium, the town of Westende in the northeast of Lombardezyde, has been violently bombarded by the British fleet.

"The Belgium army has repulsed a counter-attack on St. Georges, and occupied the farms on the left bank of the Yser.

"Our troops, who already had gained ground in the direction of Klein Zillebecke, also made progress, but not so perceptible in the region of St. Elio.

IMPUDENT PROPOSALS WERE MADE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—A copy of a treaty of alliance signed between General Maritz, the rebel leader in British South Africa and the Government of German South West Africa, has been received in New York.

The treaty has the following clauses:

"1. General Maritz has declared the independence of South Africa. War with England has commenced.

"2. The Governor of German South West Africa recognizes all African forces which operate against England as belligerents.

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TWO CRUISERS OF THE ENEMY WENT DOWN

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 16, 3.12 p.m.—The Yorkshire Evening News reports that two German cruisers were sunk in to-day's engagement and that the British flotilla was damaged.

WERE WRECKED. HARTLEPOOL, Dec. 16, via London 2.45 p.m.—Many business premises and private homes were wrecked here by the German shells.

Christmas presents for men and boys. Suitable, sensible, seasonable, reasonable, at McFarland's.

Mr. G. G. S. Lindsay, K. C., of Toronto, speaking at the annual dinner of the Queen's Engineering Society, Kingston, laid emphasis on the moral responsibility, resting upon the engineer as a rigid code of honor.

Woman Was Killed By German Shells While Tending Shop

[By Special Wire to the Courier] SCARBOROUGH, EN., Dec. 16.—(Via London, 3.35 p.m.)—Just before daylight broke, a vessel of the cruiser type was observed off Scarborough. The warship came in close and for half an hour threw shell after shell into the town, doing considerable damage.

A woman behind a counter in a shop was instantly killed and her husband was wounded. The ruins of the

shop tumbled down about them. Forty or fifty shells were thrown, the object of the German gunners apparently being the town hall, which was damaged slightly. Other property suffered much more severely, and places the streets are filled with wreckage.

During the bombardment the vessel steamed slowly past the town and finally disappeared in the haze. After she had been lost sight of the sound of her guns was heard for some time.

Courier Will Give the News

Immense interest was created to-day in Brantford by the German naval raid on the English coast, a Courier extra giving full details and official announcements concerning the raid. Later devel-

opments will be bulletined by the Courier up to 6.30 this evening. Thus far this afternoon the British Admiralty has not announced that the German cruisers were sunk.

Christmas presents for men and boys. Suitable, sensible, seasonable, reasonable, at McFarland's.

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