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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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Amundell

BRITISH BATTLESHIP "FORMIDABLE" SUNK WITH 600 OF HER MEN

British Dreadnought Torpedoed Fore and Aft, Presumably by a Submarine ---Carried a Complement of 750 men, Of Whom Only 150 Are So Far Accounted For.

(British Official Bulletin)

London, Jan. 1.—The battleship Formidable was sunk this morning in the English Channel, either by a mine or submarine. So far 71 survivors have been picked up by a British light cruiser. It is possible that others have been rescued by other vessels.

The French Government reports the capture of trenches at various points. The village of Steinbach, in Upper Alsace, has been entered by French troops, who carried half the village in a house to house fight.

Commander Hewlett, missing after the raid on Cuxhaven, safely landed in Holland.—Harcourt.

CAUSES WIDESPREAD GRIEF IN NATION

London, Jan. 2.—The destruction of the British battleship Formidable in the English Channel to-day by a mine or a submarine boat, although it is one of those events that Englishmen now realize must be expected so long as the British Navy is compelled to keep to the seas, caused widespread grief.

This is not due so much to the loss of the ship, which was fifteen years old and cost about five million dollars, as it is for the men, six hundred in number, who are believed to have gone down with her.

Thus far, only 150 men of the Formidable's crew of 750 are known to have been rescued and eight officers and six midshipmen.

Locality is Not Announced

The British Admiralty has not announced the locality where the disaster occurred, declaring its inability to say whether the ship struck a mine or was torpedoed.

The Formidable was launched in 1898 as a sister ship to the Irresistible. The ship had assigned to her, according to the British Navy list for December, various Fleet officers and she undoubtedly was acting as Flag Ship at the time of her destruction.

Her Captain was A. H. Loxley and her Commander C. E. Ballard. Captain J. C. Deed was in command of the Marines on board, while the Fleet-Surgeon was Godfrey Taylor, and the Fleet Paymaster, P. G. Ling. The Chaplain is given as Rev. Geo. D. Rodinson and on board were also 16 Midshipmen.

TOTAL RESCUED REPORTED 141

London, Dec. 2.—The Tor Bay trawler Providence has landed seventy additional survivors from the battleship Formidable. They were rescued by the trawler during a terrific storm yesterday morning.

This makes the aggregate saved, so far as is known, 141.

OFFICERS WELL KNOWN IN CANADA

Halifax, Jan. 2.—Among the officers on the Formidable was Fire Commander Street, who was Gunnery Lieutenant on H.M.C.S. Niobe. He married the only daughter of Lieut. Col. Oxley, of this city.

Fleet Paymaster King, whose name, also, is on the list of officers, was for three years Secretary of the Naval Department at Ottawa.

FORMIDABLE TORPEDOED FORE AND AFT

London, Jan. 2.—The Daily Chronicle states that the survivors of the Formidable report that the vessel was torpedoed both fore and aft and sank almost immediately.

The Chronicle's Brixham correspondent, who is the authority for the above says the Captain of the trawler "Providence" which rescued seventy survivors who had escaped from the battleship in a cutter states that other fishing boats were close at hand.

The Captain expresses the belief that other survivors have been rescued and taken to Dartmouth.

He saw no other boats belonging to the Formidable, however.

The Chronicle's Chatham correspondent says that the Formidable left that port on Thursday morning.

KAISER REPORTED ILL; MUST BE OPERATED ON

London, Jan. 2.—The Amsterdam correspondent of The Express says he learns the condition of the Kaiser is worse than is generally supposed.

The correspondent says he is informed that, sooner or later, the Emperor must return to Berlin for an operation on his throat but is deferring the trip because he is anxious to return only after having secured a crushing victory.

700,000 Britons At Front

Six British Armies, Totalling Eighteen Army Corps, now Fighting in Flanders

London, Jan. 2.—News from the front was dwarfed today by the latest loss to the British Navy although battles of considerable proportions are taking place along two lengthy fronts.

Fighting in Flanders and Northern France has been confirmed largely to artillery engagements except near Bethune where the Germans claim they have taken a British trench. They admit, however, the loss of St. George's near the Belgian coast which an official report from Berlin says it was decided not to retake owing to the high level of the water there.

Raging for Weeks.

In the Argonne region where a battle has been almost continuous for past weeks, Germans claim they have made a little progress as an offset to which, however, the French declare they have continued their advance in Upper Alsace.

Neither side has been able to make any great impression on their antagonists lines, both being very strongly entrenched. It is considered unlikely that either the Germans or the Allies will attempt another general offensive until superiority is attained by reinforcements.

Polish Situation.

Much the same situation prevails in Northern Poland where the Germans are reported to have found it impossible to get across the Bzura and Narew rivers.

They were equally unsuccessful in advancing along the Pilon and are said to be digging themselves in preparatory to remaining until the hardening of the ground by the frost makes the movement of the troops less difficult.

The growth of the British Army is shown by an army order issued to-night, constituting six armies of three army corps each.

Thus several generals, who commanded an army corps at the beginning of the war now find themselves heads of complete armies.

Six Complete Armies.

The First Army will be commanded by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, who headed the first army corps in the expeditionary force; the Second Army by Gen. Sir Horace L. Smith-Dorrien; the Third by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Archibald Hunter; the Fourth by Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton; the Fifth by Gen. Sir Leslie Rundle; the Sixth by Gen. Sir Bruce M. Hamilton.

Major-General, Sir Charles C. Monro; Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles Ferguson, and Lt.-Gen. Sir H. C. O. Plumer have been given command of the First, Second and Third Army Corps respectively.

This reorganization follows on the absorption of Lord Kitchener's army into the regular army.

RUSSIAN VICTORY BIG ONE

Austrian Forces Met an Overwhelming Defeat and Germans Had to Retreat

London, Dec. 31.—The most important and probably the most far-reaching event in the recent history of the war is the overwhelming defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and the complete collapse of that offensive.

This is the opinion of military authorities here. News of the great Russian victory received additional confirmation yesterday in official statements from Vienna.

All messages from Petrograd show the confident belief that, with the Austrian defeat and the retirement of the Germans across the Bzura River West of Warsaw, the turning point has been reached in the battle along the Polish Rivers.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

COMMANDER HEWLETT RESCUED BY TRAWLER

Germans Displeased With Fleet

Dissatisfied Because it has Figured so Little in the Present Conflict

London, Dec. 31.—The Times prints a statement from a correspondent lately in Germany, who says it is remarkable how everybody seems to think it would be quite easy for a German army to land in England. The Germans place their hopes on Zeppelins, which, they believe, would bring destruction and cause immense panic in England.

Disappointment with the German fleet has grown in the last two months, the correspondent says, and there is a strong feeling against keeping the warships in harbors without trying to engage the enemy. This feeling is especially strong in the coast towns.

SCANDINAVIANS WILL PROTECT OWN SHIPPING

Petrograd, Jan. 1.—Veval Vrennes, the Helingsfors correspondent at the recent conference, at Malmo, between the Scandinavian Kings, says that they have decided to assign warships to convoy all Scandinavian merchantmen, in order to prevent their detention by belligerent nations.

ALLIED FLEETS THROW A SCARE INTO THE TURKS

Athens, Jan. 1.—According to advices reaching here, the Austrian and German Embassies in the Turkish capital are transferring their archives to Asia Minor, fearing that action is imminent by the British and French fleets, against the Dardanelles and capital.

New Order Is Founded By The King

Decoration is Called the Military Cross—Bestowed on Several Naval Men

London, Jan. 1.—The King has instituted a new decoration which is called "The Military Cross." The decoration is of silver, bears the Imperial Crown on each arm, and in the centre the letters "G.R.I." George Rex Imperator.

Captains, Commissioned Officers of a lower grade or Warrant Officers of the Army, who distinguish themselves in time of war, are eligible to the Military Cross. It takes precedence over all decorations and medals, with the exception of the Victoria Cross.

The Gazette also announces that Capt. Grant and Commander Barv, both of the auxiliary cruiser Carmania, has been appointed Companion of the Bath for the services they rendered in the sinking of the German steamer Cap. Trafalgar, off the South American Coast; and that Capt. Glosop, of the Australian cruiser Sydney, has been awarded in a similar manner for the sinking by his ship of the German cruiser Emden.

Prince Leopold of Battenburg has been appointed a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Royal Victoria Order.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Moderate winds; fine and cold today. Sunday, easterly gales with snow.

British Aviator's Thrilling Story of His Bold Flight---Dropped Bombs On Zeppelin Sheds and Paid Same Compliment to German Warships.

Ymuiden, Holland, Jan. 2.—After spending six days on a Dutch trawler in the North Sea during which time he was given up for dead, Flight Commander, Francis Hewlett, was safely landed at Ymuiden, on the Dutch coast.

I have just seen Commander Hewlett who appears none the worse for his adventure.

"I was the first aviator to ascend when all was ready for the raid," he said. "It was bright, but misty over the land, so I could not see the effect of the bombs I dropped on the Zeppelin sheds."

"I was three hours in the air and, owing to engine trouble, I came down at 10 o'clock on Christmas morning and was taken aboard a trawler. There were 10 men on board and all were very kind to me. I became one of the crew helping with navigation duties and with the nets."

Lost the Way for a While

It seems that on reaching Heligoland in the course of his flight to Cuxhaven, Commander Hewlett ran into a thick fog and went into Germany some way beyond Cuxhaven but a glimpse through a rift in the mist enabled him to find his bearings and to return.

Suddenly he caught sight of the Zeppelin shed and, descending to within 250 yards, dropped some bombs. He was heavily fired at but flew away untouched. He made note of the exact position of the Zeppelin sheds.

Making for the sea to be taken on board a British ship he saw a German squadron in Heligoland Bight. Again descending he dropped more bombs, one of which fell on a big vessel but he could not tell with what result. However, he saw a cloud of smoke rise from the vessel.

It was just after this that the engine trouble began and he was forced to descend.

'Naked Flyer' Now The Hero Of Germans

Escaped German Prisoner Tells an Improbable Story of the Cruelty of the British Authorities

Amsterdam, Dec. 31.—The German newspapers have recently been making a feature of an incredible story told by a German prisoner named Callies, who escaped. The prisoner alleges, among other instances of mistreatment, that a British officer compelled the German to accompany him in an aeroplane when he was only half-clad and then ordered him to indicate the German positions so that he could throw bombs on them.

When the prisoner refused to do this the officer is alleged to have punched him in the face. The prisoner says he repeatedly suffered horribly from the cold and contracted pleurisy.

A long, sworn statement by Callies was printed originally in Vorwaerts and afterwards reproduced everywhere. It has now become a standard story of British brutality. Callies is now sympathetically famous throughout Germany as the "naked flyer."

GREECE READY TO TAKE A HAND AT ANY MOMENT

Paris, Jan. 1.—The Havas correspondent at Athens says that the Greek Premier, during a discussion on the Budget in the Greek Chamber of Deputies, said that all necessary measures to assume the national defence has been taken since the outbreak of the war, and that he again assured the Chamber and the country that at the present time Greece is ready to mobilize at any hour and on any point in her territory, all contingents of her army.

The s.s. Beatrice, Capt. D. Stewart, two days from North Sydney, arrived last evening with coal to W. B. Fraser. Capt. Stewart reports slob from Cape Race inward and intensely cold weather during the trip.

Christmas Was Saddest In Centuries

Berlin Plunged in Gloom Over the Lack of Success To German Arms in the Great War

New York, Dec. 31.—A cable to the Herald from Amsterdam says:

"The saddest Christmas for centuries," expresses the conclusion of all the messages received from Berlin. Like every other town in Germany the capital is plunged in a gloom which contrasts painfully with the hope freely circulated by the General Staff that the nation would be presented with a Christmas gift in the shape of a crushing victory in Flanders, a hope which has been completely shattered.

"Berlin shopkeepers complain of doing a poor business and the people are beginning to grow weary of the war and want peace."

TRAINS COLLIDE 7 ARE KILLED

London, Jan. 1.—Seven persons were killed and many injured in a train collision this morning on the Great Eastern Railway, near Ilford, five miles from London.

DUNKIRK GETS ANOTHER VISIT FROM AVIATORS

Paris, Jan. 1.—Dunkirk was again bombarded by four German aeroplanes yesterday, according to reports which reached Paris during the night.

N. B. Lumber Plant Burned To Ground

Newcastle, N.E., Jan. 2.—Three quarters of the New Brunswick pulp mill at Lower Derby, six miles from here, built six years ago and recently rebuilt and enlarged, which was doing a big business, was burned today, leaving only the chemical and boiler plants. Damage, \$100,000, covered by insurance.