## Christmas Will Find Armies Still

BRITISH OFFICER BRINGS CHEERING

### TAKING OF LODZ PLEASES ENEMY

Von Hindenburg Tells Associa ted Press Man It Was "Turning Point of Campaign in Poland" - Russians Evaded Trap Laid For Them.

21 (by automobile courier to Posen. Prussla, Dec. 23).-London, Dec. 24.-11 m,—The capture of Lodz, according to declaration made today by Gen. Von Hindenburg, the German commander, to a correspondent of the Associated Press, was the turning point of the campaign retreat, but the timety arrival of Rus-in Poland. The Russian lines in Northern Poland rested on this city, for the possession of which there occurred the the fork, relieving the situation for the most bitter struggle of the entire war Russians. on this front. After the Russians, folwing a most obstinate resistance on their part, were forced to evactuate the Lodz occurred the celebrated "cutting the direction of Warsaw became neces- after being entirely surrounded b

"Under the guidance of Major von ambassador to the United States, the Associated Press correspondent today visited some of the battlefields in the icinity of Lodz, and gained en acceptance of the nature of the operations which

led to the capture of the city. Like Pitchfork. According to the general alignment of the Austro-German forces, they

huge pitchfork, with another large Lodz, Russian Poland, Monday, Dec. (by automobile courier to Posen, russia, Dec. 23).—London, Dec. 24.—11 would be forced to retreat in the direc-

tion of their Warsaw base.

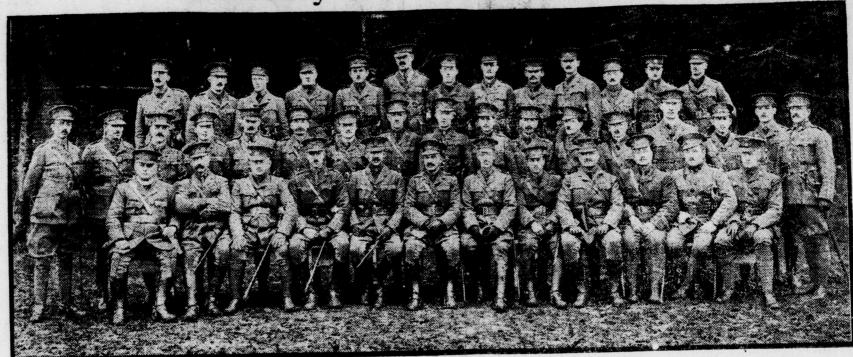
The intention was to drive the Rus sians into the arms of large Austro-German forces massed to cut off their

In one of the operations around

eral Russian retirement in off" of two German army corps which the rapid advance of the Warsaw re serves, turned and cut their way out Hollenbeg, a cousin of Earon von Hol- and brought with them 12,000 prisonone time German ers. The scene of this exploit which a member of the general staff characte ized as one of the most thrilling and the war, was Strykow, ten les to the northeast of Lodz.

About the same distance west Lodz is located the little church-yard of Beschiol, where the Russians, in one of the final phases of the struggle for Lodz, showed that in spite of their might have been expected to advance for Lodz, showed that in spite of their form the west. As a matter of fact, the defeats and discouragements they knew ttack was made largely from the north how to fight and die. This churchad northwest. They drove their col- yard lies on a small eminence, which into the Russians in the form of formed a salient into the German

London and Western Ontario Officers Photographed at JOFFRE CAUTIOUSLY Salisbury For The Advertiser.



Allies On Eve of Driving Germans From France and

Belgium.

ENGLAND'S QUIET HOLIDAY

Old Scenes of Revelry Will

Not Be in Order, Says

Chester.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser by

F. A. McKenzie, Copyright.]

London, Dec. 24 .-- A British officer,

returning yesterday from the front,

thus summed up the position: "I

cannot give any details, but I can

say this. 'We are on the eve of

driving the Germans out of North-

ern France and Belgium! Our posi-

tions never have been better since

the beginning of the war. Great

news, good news, may be expected

This is confirmed by every item of

information coming from the front.

Many signs indicate, however, that

the Germans are preparing a strong

counter-move, possibly in the Alsace

region, where they are pouring in

fresh men and making hospitals

ready to deal with large numbers of

Will Beg for Mercy.

"I do not think the war will be

long," says a British chaplain from

a German city, who has recently re-

turned, after 23 years there. "Your

German is ready for any amount of

bluster when he is winning, but at

heart he is a coward, and when he

finds things are going against him

he will beg for mercy. Prussia is

almost as much hated as we are by

other German states. When it be-

comes known that Prussian militar-

ism has failed there will be a great

Official returns show that trade is

still improving. The percentage of

unemployed in registered trades is

3.28 now, against 4.32 a year age.

The London Christmas spirit has

risen greatly during the past two

days with finer weather. Some shops

have practically sold out, the de-

mand being exceedingly brisk. So

many gifts have been forwarded to

the troops at the front that they are

almost overwhelmed, and state-

ments are being circulated now to

induce the public to turn their kind-

ly activities temporarily elsewhere.

England's Quiet Christmas.

Our Christmas will be a quiet,

home-staying. Old-fashioned scenes

of boisterous revel, which formed

prominent features of recent years,

Many soldiers have received a

HUGE ORDERS OF WIRE

short Christmas leave from Flanders

Pittsburg Firms Offered Contracts For

125,000 Tons, Quick Delivery,

[Canadian Press.]

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 24 .- Demand from

the belligerent nations of Europe for

specified as barbed wire of special de-

sign, have been made here within the

past few days, the only point being the

are conspicuously absent.

are now arriving here.

war /began.

BELLIGERENTS WANT

soon.'

wounded.

This photograph is the only one showing practically all the officers from this district who will soon be at the front. are not in the photograph, the former being attached to the staff, and the latt er being provost marshal (military magistrate) of the camp. While removed are bringing up their from the home circle for Christmas these officers are expecting to enjoy the many good things sent from home at their camp tomorrow. Those in the photo-

TOP ROW.-Lieut, Lalor, Lieut, Creighton (Scout officer), Lieut, Mah affy, Lieut, Chesham, Lieut, Swift, Lieut, Metcalf, Lieut, Johnston, Lieut, Tranter, Lieut, Greenwood, Lieut, Clifford, Lieut, Brown, Lieut, James, Lieut, Robinson, MIDDLE ROW.-Lieut, Butler (Signaling officer), Lieut, Bottomiy (paymaster), Lieut, Lodge, Capt. Pembroke (quartermaster), Lieut. Young, Lieut. Young, Lieut. Campbeil (machine gun officer). Capt. Robertson (medical officer). Lieut, Henderson, Lieut. Gordon, Lieut. Thomas, Lieut. Pick. Capt. W atson, Lieut. Douglas, Lieut. Gallagher, Lieut. Stapleford, Lieut. Lockhart, Capt. BOTTOM ROW.—Rev. Father Arts (R. C. chaplain), Capt. Osborn. Capt. Sutherland, Capt. R. J. Brook (adjutant), Major Becher, Lieut.-Col. F. officer), Major Welch, Capt. Coghill (assistant adjutant), Capt. Kimmina, Capt. Wilkinson, Capt. Smith, Capt. Warner (chapiain),

Battalion and Battery Temporarily Disbanded For the Christmas Holidays.

UNPRECEDENTED EVENT

Never Before Have Any Units Been So Treated in War Times.

An event unique in the history of active militia in war time, an event that is absolutely unprecedented, in fact, occurred at the parade grounds f Wolseley Barracks this morning then the Eighteenth Battalion of the econd contingent and the Fifteenth Sattery were temporarily disbanded in order that the men might spend Christmas with their friends and relatives. Every man of the two detachments. save those detailed to the guard, were paraded before Lieut.-Col. E. S. Wigle,

battalion commander. The latter's sol-derly address to his men touched every heart, and the cheers for the colonel were even heartier than those accorded the announcement that they were free that they wer to do as they willed until Monday noon. Not a pass, not a restriction, not a bar of any description has been placed on the men Relying on His Men.

"Men, I am relying on you," said the colonel, and every man in the ranks seemed to swell with pride at the trust that this statement implied. "As soon as these exercises are over the regiment will be disbanded for the rest of the day until the supper, that is being provided for us, in the McCormick factory building tonight by the Women's Canadian Club," said Col.

Wigle. "After the supper the battalion is temporarily disbanded until Monday Every Man at Liberty. "Every man is at liberty to go where likes. There will be no passes ised. Every man will be bound only his own honor. I feel sure that in their own home towns every man will conduct himself in such a manner as to command respect and admiration from

I know that on the battlefield you will command the respect of everyone, even the Kaiser. 'All that I ask is that every man day morning.

Free at Last. This morning's parade of the Eighteenth and the Battery had a double significance to the men. Not only did it mean freedom for the Christmas holidays for the whole regiment, but it meant the freedom from quarantine re-Continued on Page Three,

#### Car of Flour for Belgians again, foggy,

Proceeds of Advertiser Special Edition Expended in Purchasing It.

With the proceeds of the special edi- says: tion of The Advertiser, printed for the Local Council of Women, a carload of Made-in-London flour has been pur-chased and will be forwarded to Hallfax next week. The amount secured from the edition, about \$1,100, was just sufficient to purchase a full car of flour at a special price from Hunt Bros. The car will have streamers along the side stating what the contents are and

The local council will send another car filled with canned goods within a short time. The nucleus for this was seen through the Travellers' Club smokers and the minstrel show at McCormick's put on by the young men of the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. George Rob-Presbyterian Church. Mrs. George Robhe says is much needed by those coninson and Mrs. (Dr.) Seaborn have contributed \$50 each to the second car.

tributed \$50 each to the second car.

Further donatios will be gratefully re
Purther donatios will be gratefully re
The city council last night agreed that Mr. Glaubitz aided Becker to get away. I think this agrees with what the control of the Pittsburg wire mills since the control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand the people will understand that they are control of the people will understand the people wil

#### **GETS GENERAL'S** COMMISSION AS **CHRISTMAS BOX**



ing that he is to be shortly gazetted with the temporary rank of brigadier general. Col. Hodgins received gratulations over this good news, which comes in the nature of a Christma

Hostile Aeroplane Took Morning Flight Over English Coast Town.

DAMAGE RESULTED

Incident Took Place In Fog, Which Helped Airship's Escape.

[Canadian Press.]

London, Dec. 24.-1:59 p.m.-A hostile aeroplane dropped a bomb over Dover take the first train for London on Mon- this morning and then disappeared, according to a statement made this afternoon by the official press bureau.

The text of the statement follows: "An aeroplane of the enemy dropped a bomb while passing over Dover this morning. The missile fell in a garden trictions of the seven companies of the and exploded, but no damage was done. The aeroplane was seen for a few seconds only. It left immediately, passing out over the sea. A British air craft went up, but did not see the enemy again. The weather was cloudy and

> BASE AT ZEEBRUGGE New York, Dec. 24.-A London Daily

Express dispatch to the Herald, dated On the Belgian frontier, Wednesday,"

"A Zeppelin today flew over Veeland, a Dutch town on the German frontier, coming from the direction of the Sea and disappeared in the direction of I have reason to believe the Germans have begun using Zeebrugge as base for aerial raids on the English coast. A reliable informant tells me fever stage. Offers of orders aggregations. large hangars, capable of housing a ing 125,000 tons, of which 25,000 tons are number of aeroplanes, have been erected near the Heyst tram station, in addition to a waterplane depot."

LITERATURE FOR HOSPITAL .- A time at which delivery can be made. patient at Victoria Hospital writes in This business is worth approximately a candidate for the utilities commispatient at victoria Hospital writes in effering to collect and distribute among the patients literature, which among the patients literature, which

#### KING AND QUEEN SEND GREETINGS TO SOLDIERS

[Canadian Press.]

"GREAT NEWS MAY BE EXPECTED SOON,"

Ottawa, Dec. 24 .- The Dominion Naval Department was advised by the British admiralty this morning that Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary had sent the following message to all the officers and men in the imperial navy:

"The Queen and I send to the officers and men of the navy our hearty good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

#### TORPEDO FAILED

French Armored Cruiser Struck by an Austrian Submarine Missile, But Only Slightly Damaged.

(Canadian Press.)

London, Dec. 24 .- 3:17 p.m. - An official statement given out in Paris today says that an Austrian submarine torpedoed a French armored cruiser in the Gulf of Otranto. The cruiser was damaged only slightly. No one was injured.

TWO SHOTS WERE FIRED. | torpedoes at a French armored cruis-Paris. Dec. 24.—12:55 p.m.—An offi-er in the Strait of Otranto, one of them communication issued today by exploding forward. The damage done to the vessel was unimportant. "An Austrian submarine fired two of the cruiser's crew was injured."

## Belgians Cross Yser Establishing Position

German Troops Tired of Vain Fighting, While Allies Make Steady Progress Along Whole of Battle Front, Says Correspondent.

London, Dec. 24.—The Times correspondent on the Beigian frontier telesary in crossing the Yser Canal struction of the hospital is very much to the convert of Sacre Coeur asto.

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The ear St. Georges in the direction of be deplored. Belgian front, progress is gradual the convent. continuous.

Clearing Lille. "There is considerable activity over the whole of the Allies' front in the north. The British guns near Armentieres have been booming hard and I have reason to believe that appreciable showing ascendancy over the Germans, advances have been made toward clear- and making very good progress without

The German gunners ves firmly, in spite of a murderous station, but the fact remains that ever erits attention. On the other parts of have not ceased to fall in and around CONFIRMATION. [Canadian Press.] man troops on the Yser, who are tired of fighting vainly in a cold, wet and com-

regularly into Furnes every day since bank of the Yser beyond St. Georges, fighting around Nieuport began and succeeded, notwithstanding a fierce completely annihilated. Other advance attack by Germans, in establishing a new position and holding it. Fighting with odd parties of Ger-

#### GLAUBITZ CASE TO BE MITCHELL'S PLATFORM

Want Manager Removed From His Office.

barbed and plain wire has reached the

supreme issue in his campaign.

for several months. England, France issue I will stand alone. If I am elected funny work tried. main as manager. If I am defeated I I have charged."

Candidate Believes the Public, will understand that the citizens want futile. Mr. Glaubitz left in office, in the matter in any way. I am against Mr. Glaubitz as public utilities manager

in this city. I honestly believe he In declining the nomination for the should not hold the position at such a mayoralty, Ald. Fred Mitchell did so time, though I have nothing against with the intention of making the case him personally. I have received many of General Manager H. J. Glaubitz the letters, numbers of telephone calls from citizens, and in general have come to believe that the citizens do not want "I am out to test public sentiment as not care for any other matter in the

"The city council last night agreed

# SAYS OFFICER WHO HAS JUST RETURNED

Germans Have To Change Angle of Attack In the Warsaw March.

RUSSIAN LINE IS INTACT

In Prussia and Galicia Czar's Troops Make Good Headway.

[Canadian Press.]

New York, Dec. 24 .- A cable to the Herald from London this morning says: Blocked by a great Russian army between Warsaw and the Bzura River, the Germans have shifted their angle of attack, and are moving toward the Polish capital from the southwest. In this irection they have reached Skiernievice. 40 miles from the city.

"The fighting in the eastern arena oceeding with an intensity not exeeded since the war began. The Rus sians in East Prussia are conducting a vigorous offensive and are making cellent advances in Galicia. In Poland the progress made by forces has been slight, but in the long run the ground gained may prove vita 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 beaims of the German offensive, Berlin

[Cenadian Press.]
Petrograd, Dec. 23.—(Delayed on).-A statement issued by the official press bureau today regarding the fighting along the Russian front 'On the left bank of the Pilica obstin-

ate fighting continues in the region of "The shelling by the Germans of the wolia, about six miles west of Nowemi-"On the right bank of the Pilica we

Mannekensvere, and establishing them- doubtless were aiming at the railway South of the Vistula we captured, duris an important step and since the bombardment began shells 5 600 men, three cannon and ten mitrail leuses.

the retreating Austrians, we captured on December 22, 30 officers and about 1 500 men. fortless land, far from their homes. ern France: "Belgian troops yesterday "Near Przemys! the Austrians at-Batches of prisoners have been brought broke through a German position on the tempted a new sortie during which sev-

companies were made prisoners. In th affair we seized about a mile of rail-way leading into the city." BUSSIA MUST WIN.

[Canadian Press.] Rome, Dec. 23 -9:55 p.m.-(Delayed in transmission) .- Reports having roulated here that Count Sergius Witte, the Russian statesman, eading a pacific party at the Russian ourt, the count has telegraphed to the city denying the statements. In his telegram he says:

"At the beginning I deplored the war, thinking it was not inevitable or inc pensable, but since the war is in progress any discussion regarding it would be "Now that the war has assumed, in

Russia "I do not need to qualify my position end with a decisive victory for Russia."

#### Do Not Forget Carriers.

The usual Christmas appeal is being made today on behalf of the carrier boys of The Advertises The little chaps who carry the paper every day in the week both morning and evening, are more than grateful to the Christ mas recognition of their ser vices, and appreciate the kindness of their customers in remembering them.

## FEELING FOR OPENING

Searching Out Weak Spot In German Entrenched Line-German Rush On Warsaw Resembles Dash For Calais-Royal Postcards For British.

mas Eve finds little change in the underground warfare now being conducted the western war theatre, where Gen. German troops in the east, ously feeling for an opening in the aggerating her resources, should strongly-entrenched German line across

In the east a supreme German effort ontinues to be made before Warsaw, he capital of Russian Poland, where the orces of the German centre and of the assians seeking to check them sway ivers, barring the way to the Polish

Bring Up Big Guns.

atest encounters, but during the las ten days the Germans have advanced Captain Ware and Captain Hunt appreciably, and it is said they now In Galicia the Austro-German forces and in the north the ported to have pushed the invaders fur-

ther back into East Prussia ficed and others being hurled to fill the to dispatches from Budapest

gaps with the same prodigality that was London, Dec. 24.—12:20 p.m.—Christ- shown by the Germans in Flanders.

Military experts here are unable to agree on the number of the Austrothe commander-in-chief of the varying from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000, but it is pointed out that Russia, unless exable easily to top this figure now that her concentration of forces is nearing

completion. occupation of Lodz by the Germans had any strategic importance, but the Ger-man view has now found expression from Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, who remarked to the representative of the Associated Press on the eastern front that he considered it "the turning

point of the campaign Royal Christmas Cards. All the armies are planning to spend Christmas as best they may. and greetings from home have been or are being distributed in the trenches, at the hospitals and in the camps. seem to have made no further progress, dreds of thousands of postcards to the soldiers and sailors from King George and Queen Mary being one feature of

the British gifts. The Austrians' attempt to crush Serobservers in via, which some predicted would be abandoned in view of the recent turn of events by which the Servians reoccupied towards Calais and Dunkirk, which the Belgrade, are soon to be renewed in

### BLOCKS ENEMY Berlin Admits Loss of Valuable Trench

Berlin, Dec. 21.-By wireless 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 yes. terday. At Bixschoote we took 230 prisoners on December 22.
"The enemy was again active yesterday in the neighborhood of Chalons.

Infantry attacks followed a flerce 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 by us, but was recaptured in the evening. The position was abandoned after this suc cessful counter-attack, because parts of the trenches had been almost levelled by the enemy's fire. More than 100 prisoners were left in our har

Resume Offensive. "In the east we have assumed the offensive and are advancing from Neidenburg and Soldau (in East Prussia). We have repulsed the Russians after several days' fighting at Mlawa (Northern Poland), and the enemy's positions at Mlawa again are in our hands. More than a thousand prisoners were taken in these

"At the confluence of the Bzura and Rawka Rivers fierce bayonet attacks took place at many places. The artillery could do little on account of the misty "The Russians suffered heavy losses on the right bank of the Pilica River, in the district to the southeast of Tomaszow. The Russian attacked fiercely

several times, but were repulsed by the Austro-German armies with heavy

"Further to the south the situation is unchanged."

#### Germans Repulsed; Trenches Captured

Paris, Dec. 24.—2:59 p.m.—The French war office this afternoon gave out an Fog at Arras. official communication which reads as follows: "From the sea to the Lys we made all operations impossible. made progress by sapping operations in says the eastern campaign already is to the southeast of Ypres, we occupied a changes, group of houses, and we drove back as far as the southern part of this vilage aves yesterday held back brilliantly a a counter-attack of the enemy; this was number of attacks; they remained masdone in spite of a very spirited fire from ters, at a point near the road of Puis

"The Belgian army pushed forward by us December 21. bank of the Yser, to the south of Dix-

CHRISTMAS DELICACIES ALL FOR THE SCLOIFRS SENTIMENT OF FRENCH

"In the Carpathians, while pursuing Relatives Sacrifice Their Comforts to Gallant Defenders -Government Helps.

> [Canadian Press.] Paris, Dec. 24.-11:00 a.m.-

Christmas at the front will be as cheerful and comfortable as the love and self-denial of well-nigh every family in France can make

The spirit of those at home is not to give presents to one another, but to unite and give all to the son, father or brother serving with the

Many a family in France probably will dine meagrely tonight and tomorrow, because of the packages of soft woolen things and boxes of delicacies which have gone to the kinsmen at the front. Then there are field glasses, wrist watches, sleeping bags, and an amazing variety of campaign conveniences.

The military administration has been most considerate in providing transport, so that all this month numerous vans loaded with hollday packages were among the long supply trains back of the

Many a lone soldier, without fam-

"In the region of Arras the fog still "To the east and to the southeast of made progress by sapping operations in the dunes, and we repulsed an attack in front of Lombaertzyde. At Zwartelen, Lassigny, there have been artillery ex-

mude, and organized a defensive work

leine, of the German trenches occupied

Continued on Page Three. ily, has received various packages

of things to eat, wear or smoke, from the societies and from the Government. The ministry of war, among other things, is sending a bottle of champagne for every four All the plum puddings in the

shops of Paris have been taken by the French military to send to the British soldiers.

MAIL FOR BRITAIN.

The next British mail (parcel post) will close today at 2 p.m. The next British mail will close tomorrow at 10 a.m.

THE WEATHER.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES Following were the highest and lowest emperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 12; lowest, 7 above zero. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Higest, 14; lowest, 8 above zero.

TOMORROW--FAIR AND VERY COLD Forecasts. Today-Light or moderate snowfalls, Friday-Fair and very cold. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours

previous to 8 a.m. today Stations. High. I.o. Victoria ..... Port Arthur... Parry Sound ...

Minus (-) means below zero.

Weather Notes.

A shallow depression covers Michigan, attended by light snowfalls over the Great Lakes, while the severe cold wave is now centred over Manitoba, with temperatures ranging from 28 to 38 degrees velow zero.

Quebec ..... Father Point.