

THREE GERMAN CRUISERS SUNK AND THE ADMIRALTY IS ARRANGING TO SINK SOME MORE

ANOTHER VICTORY: British and Indian Troops Gain Mastery of Persian Gulf When Turk Forces Surrender

THREE GERMAN CRUISERS WERE SUNK, TWO PURSUED WITH LOSS OF NEARLY 2000

British Squadron Under Command of Sir Frederick Sturdee, Won Naval Victory off Falkland Islands, Which Is Claimed Thruout the Empire.

GOOD HOPE AND MONMOUTH AVENGED AND BETTER NEWS IS SOON TO COME

Other Combinations May Be Effected, Says the Admiralty, Meaning That the Whole German Squadron Will Be Annihilated.

LONDON, Dec. 9. — A British squadron under command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, chief of the war staff, engaged a German squadron, under Admiral Count Von Spee, off the Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic, yesterday, and won a victory which is being acclaimed thruout England.

The armored cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the protected cruiser Leipzig, three of the German warships which had been menacing British shipping, and part of the squadron which sank the British cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth in the Pacific on Nov. 1, were destroyed, while the cruisers Dresden and Nurnberg, the two other vessels which composed the German squadron, made off during the fight, and, according to latest accounts, are being pursued. Two colliers were captured.

The announcement of this engagement and victory, which was the most important naval engagement of the war, with the exception of that off Heligoland last August, was made this evening in a statement by the admiralty of less than one hundred words.

THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The following announcement was issued by the official information bureau: "At 7.30 a.m. on Dec. 8, the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nurnberg, Leipzig, and Dresden were sighted near the Falkland Islands by a British squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee.

"An action followed, in the course of which the Scharnhorst, flying the flag of Admiral Count Von Spee, the Gneisenau and the Leipzig were sunk. The Dresden and Nurnberg made off during the action and are being pursued.

"Two colliers also were captured.

"The vice-admiral reports that the British casualties are very few in number.

"Some survivors have been rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig.

The statement makes reference to some survivors rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig, but no mention is made of the crew of the Scharnhorst, which was the flagship of the German admiral, being saved, and it is thus presumed that Count Von Spee, his officers and men, went down fighting.

The British casualties were light, but beyond the fact that the British squadron was commanded by Vice-Admiral Sturdee, no information is vouchsafed regarding the ships engaged, and the newspapers are enjoined not to speculate, as "other combinations may be effected."

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed in London over the victory, and the general impression is that it will be completed, as the admiralty would not be likely to send ships that could not overtake the Dresden and Nurnberg, which are 24-knot and 23-knot vessels, respectively, and probably even slower after their long service. They are at a disadvantage also because of their small coal capacity.

The British squadron which engaged the Germans left England without the knowledge of the general public, and until his name was mentioned it was believed that Vice-Admiral Sturdee was serving in home waters.

HAS FORMIDABLE SQUADRON. The fact that he was taken from the post of chief of the war staff is indicative of the determination of the British Government to clear the Pacific and South Atlantic of all German warships. It is believed, therefore, that the British commander is at the head of a formidable squadron.

In addition to the Dresden and Nurnberg, only one German warship—the Karlsruhe—is now unaccounted for in those waters, although there may be one or two armed merchantmen which the allies have not rounded up.

As the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau each carried a complement of

Servians Advance on Whole Front As Austrians Flee in Disorder

Servian Army Routs Enemy

Austrians Retire in Greatest Disorder After Losing 2000 Prisoners and Much War Material.

Canadian Press Despatch. PARIS, Dec. 9. — (7.21 p.m.) — A despatch to the Havas Agency from Nish, Servia, says: "The crushing offensive movement of the Servian army has been successful along the entire front. The Austrians are retiring in the greatest disorder, losing a large number of prisoners and cannon and war material.

"At one point alone the Servians took 2000 prisoners, and the band and the flag of the 22nd Regiment." The Servian legation makes public a report from Servian headquarters, to the effect that the Servian army has won a complete victory, resulting in the recapture of the towns of Valjevo and Ushizza, in Servia, and the rout of two Austrian corps.

EDISON PLANT FLAME SWEPT

Loss Nearly Seven Million Dollars—Three Thousand Employees Out of Work.

Canadian Press Despatch. WEST ORANGE, N. J., Dec. 9. — Fire destroyed virtually the entire main plant of the Edison Company here tonight, causing damage estimated at nearly \$7,000,000, with insurance that it is expected will reduce the loss to approximately \$5,000,000.

An entire square block of modern reinforced concrete buildings which were supposed to be fireproof, was burned out by the flames. The only building saved in the block was the laboratory building, containing valuable scientific machinery under the superintendence of the inventor, Thomas A. Edison.

It is estimated that about three thousand men and women will be temporarily thrown out of work. About 7000 persons were employed at the plant.

"Altho I am more than 87 years of age, I'll start all over again tomorrow," said Mr. Edison.

In all eleven buildings in the main plant went down with the fire.

TURKEY IS ANXIOUS TO PLACATE ITALY

Holy War Does Not Apply to Tripoli, Says Sublime Porte.

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, Dec. 9. — As the result of a serious rising in Tripoli, and the Turkish ambassador at Rome has been summoned to assure the Italian Government that the Sublime Porte is trying to avert it.

LODZ GIVEN UP WITHOUT LOSS OF A SOLDIER

Germans Feared to Advance for Fifteen Hours After Evacuation.

ATTACKS HAD CEASED

Enemy, After Losing Ten Thousand Men, Showed Timidity.

Canadian Press Despatch. PETROGRAD, Dec. 9. — The evacuation by the Russians of Lodz, Russan Poland, is admitted in a semi-official communication issued today, to the effect that the Russian troops did not lose a soldier when the position was given up.

The text of the communication is as follows: "The German official communication says that the Russians must have had enormous losses in evacuating Lodz. The confidence that should be placed in this communication is evidenced by the fact that the Russian troops withdrew from Lodz about midnight on December 8, while the Germans remained motionless for 15 hours in front of our empty trenches, the attack on which had cost them more than 10,000 soldiers, and upon which they dared not advance.

Germans Cautious. "Only at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of December 8 did the Germans move forward to verify that there was nobody in the trenches facing them. They then entered the town.

"In changing our positions in the region of Lodz we did not lose a soldier. We undertook the manoeuvre only after we had ascertained that the Germans had definitely decided not to continue their attacks in this district. "Our manoeuvre was entirely independent of any aggressive action on the part of the enemy."

U.S. TROOPS MAY GET INTO ACTION

Wilson Authorizes Forces on Mexican Border to Return Fire if Annoyance is Continued.

Canadian Press Despatch. WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. — If the contending Mexican forces opposite Naco, Ariz., do not cease firing into American territory, the three batteries of field artillery sent to the international line by President Wilson and Secretary Garrison will be ordered to return the fire.

This is the determination of the U. S. Government, it became known tonight. No specific orders have been given, as yet, to Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, who was directed to proceed to Naco with the field artillery, but while he is en route there, officials expect an answer to the sharp warning which has been given to Gen. Mayones, commanding the Villa troops and Gen. Hill of the Carranza forces, that bullets and shells must not fall on American soil. Similar warning has been communicated to Gen. Carranza and Gen. Villa thru American consular agents.

AEROPLANE OF ALLIES FLEW OVER ANTWERP

Bombs and Messages Dropped and Scheidt Bridge Destroyed.

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, Dec. 9, 4.50 p.m. — The Rotterdam correspondent of the Evening Star says aeroplanes of the allies flew over Antwerp, dropping bombs and messages. The bridge over the River Scheidt was again destroyed. The aviator escaped under a heavy fire.

DEADLOCK IN PORTUGAL AFTER MINISTRY QUIT

Parties Unable to Agree on Formation of Coalition Cabinet.

Canadian Press Despatch. LISBON, Dec. 9. — The Havas Agency is informed by its Lisbon correspondent that a deadlock prevails in Portugal as a result of the resignation of the entire ministry of Dec. 5. It is reported at Lisbon that the various parties, after a series of conferences, have been unable to agree on the formation of a coalition cabinet.

BACK TO PARLIAMENT FROM THE FIRING LINE

French Minister of War Gives Members Leave of Absence.

Canadian Press Despatch. PARIS, Dec. 9, 4.50 p.m. — The minister of war, Alexandre Millerand, has granted to the senators and deputies a leave of absence from military service from Dec. 15 until three days after the close of the extraordinary session of parliament which begins Dec. 22.

DRUMMER WON VICTORIA CROSS

He Took Command When Officers Fell and Held Position.

WOUNDED MEN SAVED

Lance Corporal's Heroic Feat Wins for Him Highest Honors.

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, Dec. 9. — (11.30 p.m.) — Two additional Victoria Crosses have been awarded British soldiers for valor on the field of battle.

One of them was conferred on Drummer Spence John Bent Ask of the Lancashire Regiment, who, near Legheer, "after his officer, a platoon sergeant and section commander, was struck down, took command and succeeded in holding the position."

On previous occasions the drummer distinguished himself by bringing up ammunition under a heavy shell and rifle fire, and under similar conditions in bringing into cover some wounded men, in the account of the awarding of the honor.

The other recipient of the decoration is Lance Corporal Dobson of the Coldstream Guards, who at Chavannes "brought into cover on two occasions while under heavy fire wounded men lying exposed in the open."

Twenty officers have been appointed Companions of the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in action. "Mr. Lester's Dress" Next Week. The attraction of the Princess Theatre next week is Edward Knoblauch's tremendous comedy play, "Mr. Lester's Dress," which comes from William A. Brady's New York playhouse with the same company which appeared there. At the head of the cast are Mary Boland, for several seasons' leading woman with John Drew, and Leon Garmeterman, one of the most versatile and popular of London's leading men. The advance sale of seats opens this morning at the Princess box office.

TURKS YIELDED TO BRITISH ON GULF OF PERSIA

Subhi Bey Capitulated at Kurma After a Sharp Clash.

VICTORS' CONTROL WIDE

One British Officer and Forty Indians Killed During Operations.

(BRITISH OFFICIAL)

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, Dec. 9. — (8.35 p.m.) — It is officially announced that Subhi Bey, late governor of Basra, Asiatic Turkey, commander of the Turkish forces at Kurma, yesterday surrendered unconditionally with his troops to the Indian expeditionary force, which is operating at the head of the Persian Gulf.

Kurma subsequently was occupied by the British, who are now in complete control of the country from the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the sea, and of the richest part of the fertile delta.

The Indian officer in a despatch describing the operations of the British forces on the Persian Gulf, says: "A reconnaissance of the enemy's position at Kurma was made Dec. 3 by Col. G. S. Fraser with the 110th Madras Light Infantry. The enemy was encountered on the left bank of the Tigris, opposite Kurma. They were promptly attacked and driven across the river, losing heavily. Two gunboats and 70 prisoners, including three Turkish officers, were captured.

Masera Captured. "Kurma was found to be strongly held by guns and infantry, and the British, finding no means of crossing the Tigris, withdrew to their original bivouac.

The following day reinforcements were sent from Basra under Brig.-Gen. Charles Irwin Fry, and captured Masera, cleared the left bank of the Tigris, and took three guns and 100 prisoners, including three officers.

"On Dec. 8, the British crossed the river, and the next day Subhi Bey surrendered.

"The British casualties during the whole of these operations amounted to one British officer killed and three wounded, with 40 Indians of the rank and file killed and 120 wounded."

GERMAN AMMUNITION IS SHOWING SCARCITY

Artillerymen Asked to Be Sparing in Use of Projectiles.

Canadian Press Despatch. PARIS, Dec. 9, 10.16 p.m. — According to Le Temps a German document has been found in a village in the department of the Aisne, recommending that economy be observed in the use of projectiles for the artillery. The reason for this recommendation it is said, is that the German ammunition factories, even when working at full capacity, are unable to supply in sufficient amounts of ammunition for the army.

THREE KILLED AT LEVEL CROSSING

Moses Cameron and Wife and Mrs. Dupuis of Vankleek Hill Struck by Train.

Canadian Press Despatch. VANKLEEK HILL, Ont., Dec. 9. — Mrs. Moses Cameron and Mrs. H. Dupuis living near this town were killed in a railway accident this afternoon when the carriage in which they were driving was struck by a G. T. R. train at a crossing when their horse balked. The animal was also killed.

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