

SERBIAN ARMY REORGANIZED, COMES BACK STRONG AND DEALS BULGARIANS A SEVERE BLOW

Drives Enemy Across Black Drin River With Heavy Losses

—Italians Trying to Effect Junction With Serbs Through Albania Have Forwarded Supplies to Brave Little Ally.

Roumania Bargaining With Greece, Next Step in Balkans May Depend on Result

—Reported Germans Preparing For Strokes in East and West

London, Dec. 17.—While the diplomats in Greece and Roumania are engaged in new deals which will decide the next step in the Balkan operations, there is increasing evidence that the Germans, ever restive, are preparing new strokes on both the eastern and western fronts, or at least a concentration of their forces to strike when conditions are propitious.

Despatches from Petrograd note German activity, particularly in the Dvinsk district, which would accord with the German ambition to reach the line of the Dvina river, while all accounts from neutral countries mention a continued movement of men and guns to the west. In the latter theatre of operations it seems only a question at what points the offensive is to be taken.

Many persons believe that the Germans having found the lines in Flanders and Artois too hard to crack, contemplate moving in the Saint Mihiel region, where their line penetrates to the River Meuse, and where there has been considerable activity during the last few days. The only thing argued against this is that the river has been at flood, and the French have been systematically destroying the bridges as they were rebuilt. Thus far, however, there has been little more than the usual mining and bombing operations and aerial fighting in the west.

In the Balkan military operations are temporarily at a standstill, except in Montenegro and Albania, where the Austrians and Bulgarians are carrying on mountain warfare against King Nicolas' troops and the Serbians. A big battle is in progress in the valley of the Albanian, or Black Drin river, between the Serbs and Bulgarians. At last reports no decision had been reached in the fighting. It is said, however, that the Bulgarians, who crossed the river, found the Serbians had been reformed, and were driven back with heavy losses.

It is possible that the Serbian counter-attacks were made possible by supplies having reached them from the Italians, who landed on the Albanian coast, and who are trying to open communication with the Serbs through that country. The Italians, it is understood, already have landed eighty thousand men.

Germany in Doubt About Changes in British Command.

London, Dec. 17.—German newspapers for the most part seem to be uncertain how to view the appointment of General Sir Douglas Haig as British commander-in-chief in place of Field Marshal Sir John French.

Comment from two Berlin newspapers, however, is quoted by Reuters correspondent at Amsterdam. The Vossische Zeitung characterizes Field Marshal French as "a pushful, boastful dilettante," while the Lokal Anzeiger says General Haig has had no experience in the command of large masses of troops.

Effective Work by Allied Artillery in Belgium

Paris, Dec. 17.—The following official communication was issued tonight: "During the day a rather violent cannonade prevailed on the whole of the front.

"In Belgium and in Artois our artillery, in connection with the British artillery, did some lucky firing on the enemy trenches. In Champagne our guns silenced the fire of several German batteries to the north and east of Massiges. In the Argonne, to the north of Malincourt, we caught, under the fire of our artillery, an enemy convoy.

"At Les Eparges and in the region of the Bois Le Pretre our fire did considerable damage to the enemy organizations.

"The two of our bombing aeroplanes dropped about twenty heavy shells on the station of Metz-Sablons the night of December 16-17.

"The Belgian communication says: "Violent actions of the artillery have occurred on the Belgian front. Our batteries have shattered the accessory defensive works of the German post at Vicogne, and disturbed the completion of new works to the north of Dixmude."

"Army of the Orient: The situation remains unchanged on the whole front.

"Expeditionary force at the Dardanelles: During the night of December 15-16 the Turks attempted to disturb our mining work by exploding a small mine but obtaining no result. The enemy's fire, which blazed forth as a consequence of the explosion, was stopped at once by our artillery. The day of the 16th was quiet."

"Bargaining with Roumania.

Berlin, Dec. 17, via London.—The negotiations for the purchase and importation of Roumanian grain, which have been in progress for some time, are still hanging fire. The terms of sale, it is stated, have been agreed upon in principle, but difference remains regarding the method of payment and the valuation at which German marks shall be accepted.

Feared That Germans May Execute Dr. Beland

Montreal, Dec. 17.—Efforts to release Hon. Dr. Henri S. Beland, M. P., former postmaster-general of Canada, from imprisonment by the Germans in Belgium have been fruitless, so far, and now it is feared that he may be shot. He is being held as a hostage for the exchange of Lieut. Rintelen, a German spy convicted in England and at present under sentence of death in the Tower of London. Information to this effect has been received by Mr. Arthur Eremont, ex-M. P. for further documents bearing on Dr. Beland's case forwarded by the premier, Sir Robert Borden.

All of Washington's Demands Ignored in Reply From Vienna on Ancona Case

Second Note Drafted Yesterday by U. S. Will Vigorously Renew Demands Made in First Note.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The United States government, late today, drafted a second note to Austria-Hungary on the shipping of the Italian steamer Ancona. The communication will vigorously renew the demands made in the first note; none of them, according to an official announcement by Secretary of State Lansing, having been complied with by the Vienna foreign office.

President Wilson will probably approve the form the second note shall take tomorrow, in conference with Secretary of State Lansing. The secretary will then act without further suggestion from the President, who will leave Washington tomorrow night on his wedding trip. Should the secretary determine, however, that the further counsel of the President is necessary, he will go to wherever the executive may be. Should the situation become still more acute the President may be forced to shorten his honeymoon and return to Washington.

From an authoritative Teutonic source came the information tonight that the Vienna government had no desire to be the cause of diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary being severed. It was said that if the second note left an avenue for it, the foreign office probably would see to it to agree to all the demands made by the United States.

The second note will be cabled to Ambassador Penfield for presentation to the Vienna foreign office at the earliest possible moment. It is considered probable that it will be started by Monday afternoon.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona, received during the night was laid today before President Wilson and the cabinet and discussed more than an hour. The gravity of the situation caused by Austria's rejoinder to the American demands, which is considered evasive, unsatisfactory and unacceptable, remained unchanged.

The next step will not be decided upon until some minor points not clear in the official text are checked up. The apparent discrepancies are not important, and may be due to transmission from the State Department code, but they will be cleared up before another move is made.

Secretary Lansing said, after the cabinet meeting, that he did not know when the official text of the note would be given out for publication, and that it certainly would not be made public until he had an opportunity to study it carefully and at length. Diplomatic relations, although in danger of being broken off, are not likely to be discontinued, at least before there has been another exchange of notes with Vienna, and so the crisis may be said not to be in its final stage. Another note, setting out why the United States cannot accept Austria's reply, will go forward before the situation takes on a more settled aspect. Meanwhile there are some opportunities and even hints of informal negotiations which might smooth over the troubled situation. The frequent

PLOT TO BLOW UP WELLAND CANAL; GERMAN SECRET SERVICE MAN ARRESTED

Spies Sent to Photograph Canal and Nitro-Glycerine to Have Done Work — Former Chief of Hamburg-American Line Secret Service Arrested by U. S. Federal Authorities.

New York, Dec. 17.—Paul Koenig, formerly head of the Secret Service of the Hamburg-American line, and Richard Emil Lindecker, were arrested tonight by agents of the department of justice, charged with conspiring to attempt to blow up the Welland Canal.

Koenig was arrested at 45 Broadway in the offices of the Hamburg-American line. Before the war he was in charge of the steamship company's bureau of investigation, but since then, it is charged, he has been the head of a German secret service in the United States.

Lindecker was taken into custody at his office at 845 Fifth avenue, where he has been selling antiques. The agents of the department of justice declare they found in his office maps and drawings of the Welland Canal.

The specific charge preferred against Koenig and Lindecker is violation of section 12 of the United States penal code, which prohibits the planning within the boundaries of the United States of a military expedition against a foreign power.

Lindecker claims to be an American citizen, and has admitted, it is understood, that he has been employed by Koenig. Koenig took out his first citizenship papers in this country ten years ago but never applied for his second. The government agents assert that Koenig has been known by many names.

The arrests were made by William M. Ofler, in charge of the government's neutral investigation, Joseph H. Baker, his assistant, and Captain Thomas Tunney, of the New York Bureau of Explosives and Combustibles.

Koenig, under the name of Stelmert,

it was charged, was responsible for obtaining from Gustav Stahl the affidavit in which he declared he had seen guns on board the Lusitania the day before she sailed on her last voyage. Stahl was convicted on a charge of perjury, and sentenced to eighteen months in the federal prison at Atlanta.

Plot Mapped Out in Buffalo

The actual plan to blow up the canal was mapped out in Buffalo, according to the complaint, which was made by Captain Ofler, in charge of the government investigation. The complaint alleges that Koenig and Lindecker left New York on Sept. 27 last for Buffalo over the Lehigh Valley Railway. Later they went to Niagara Falls. The complaint specifically charges that it was "the purpose and intent of said defendants, to destroy, mutilate and damage the Welland Canal by force of arms."

The precise details of the alleged plot were withheld by the federal authorities, but it is understood that they had employed spies, who went out from Buffalo and Niagara Falls to photograph the canal, prepare plans and make arrangements for blowing up the waterway at its most important point, and that nitro-glycerine was to have been used as the explosive.

Koenig and Lindecker were in Buffalo about four days, according to the complaint, and returned to New York with the execution of the alleged plot left in the hands of their agents. As far as is known by the department of justice, it was said tonight, when arrested, they still contemplated carrying out of the plot, when the opportunity offered.

Koenig is given thirteen aliases in

the complaint. They include German, English and Irish names. Koenig had two aliases, which he employed in other activities, it was stated by the authorities.

While the complaint specifically mentions that the accused men purposed to "set on foot a military enterprise," it was stated by assistant district attorney Wood, who prepared the text, that this did not, in any way, mean he use of troops. He indicated that only a few persons were concerned in the alleged plot.

Prior to the arrest of the men, the federal grand jury began an investigation into this newest phase of alleged violation of American neutrality, which, it is intimated, will embrace other activities of Koenig's organization.

Koenig and Lindecker will be arraigned tomorrow morning.

Dominion Police Not Informed.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Officials of the Dominion Secret Service have not been advised of the arrests of Koenig and Lindecker, and profess ignorance of any conspiracy to blow up the Welland Canal.

Lieut. Col. Eberwood, chief of the Dominion police, stated tonight he had absolutely no information as to the arrests and the charge against the two men.

Nothing known of it at Welland, Ont., Dec. 17.—Neither military nor police authorities here know anything of the alleged plot to blow up the Welland Canal.

URGENT NEED FOR MORE DOCTORS AT THE FRONT

Men in Army With Only One Year's Medical Training Being Relieved of Military Duties to Help in Hospitals.

London, Dec. 17.—(Gazette cable)—The McGill general hospital in charge of Lieut. Col. Birkett, of Montreal, is being removed from Camlaid, some miles from Boulogne, into the city, where the Jesuit College will be occupied as winter quarters.

Lieut. Col. H. B. Bates of Montreal is on sick leave at Brighton. Several nurses and officers of the hospital are at Shorecliffe awaiting the re-opening to be getting more serious and men in the army with even one year's study in medicine are being relieved of all except medical duties.

An eye and ear hospital for Canadians has been opened at Folkestone, where many men pass through on their way from the front.

Major Maurice Alexander of Montreal who has been serving recently as a member of the pension claims board at Folkestone, sailed today on the C. P. R. liner Metacama. He is charged with a special mission to the militia department, and will return to England when it is concluded.

N. S. STEEL CO. CUTS A MELON

Dividend of Twelve Per Cent Announced After Directors Meeting Yesterday.

New Glasgow, N. S., Dec. 17.—The directors of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company met here today and as a result of their deliberations is the announcement of a 12 per cent dividend on Scotia preferred stock covering the deferred dividends.

calls of Baron Zweidinek, the Austrian charge, at the State Department give some color to discussion along that line, and those who expect that at the end the differences will be adjusted count on the influence of Berlin to counsel Vienna to avoid a break.

So far as was apparent today the situation has not affected President Wilson's plans for going on his honeymoon journey after his wedding tomorrow night.

MADE THREE TRIPS TO SAP OF THE ENEMY

Pte. Wythe of 5th Battalion Wins Distinguished Conduct Medal.

MILITARY CROSS FOR TWO CANADIANS.

More Honors Won by Canada's Fighting Men by Gallantry on Empire's Battle-ground.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Lieut. John G. Anderson, of 6th Canadian Battalion, and Lieut. Albert W. Northover, of the 25th Battalion, have been awarded the military cross for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. Private H. V. Wythe, of the 5th Battalion, has been awarded the distinguished conduct medal. The official stories of the brave deeds that brought recognition have been received by the government and read as follows:

"Lieut. Anderson for conspicuous gallantry near Messines on 8th October, 1915, when he went out with private Wythe to a German sap. Lieut. Anderson entered the sap and Private Wythe crept along the edge. They met and shot two Germans who retired leaving a clock, some bombs, a periscope, etc., behind. These they brought in. Much valuable information was gained.

Lieut. Northover for conspicuous gallantry on 8th October, 1915, near Wytchaele. When the Germans had exploded mines near our trench Lieut. Northover was buried under debris, but immediately on being dug out he assumed control and took steps to deny to the enemy any foothold in the crater. His prompt action and gallant example went a long way towards successfully coping with a difficult

SIXTEEN DIE IN COLLISION IN ENGLAND

Over Fifty Others Hurt When Trains Come Together in Heavy Fog Near Jarrow.

Newcastle, England, Dec. 17.—Sixteen persons are known to have been killed, and more than fifty others injured, in several collisions today between a freight train, a pilot engine and a passenger train in a heavy fog near Jarrow. Four coaches overturned and were completely incinerated.

Sixteen corpses, so badly charred as to make identification almost impossible, have been received from the wreckage early this afternoon. A train load of nurses and physicians was despatched from Newcastle. The train was compelled to grope its way down the coast in one of the densest fogs that has blanketed the Tyne region in months.

GERMAN PATROL BOAT WRECKED IN THE BALTIC

London, Dec. 17.—The German patrol boat Buz has been wrecked on the island of Langeland, in the Baltic Sea, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen. The bodies of several German officers were found on the shore, the despatch adds.