

Weather Forecast:
Milder

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HOME
EDITION

Britain Ready For Next Raid By Cruisers

POLICE SEARCH LOCAL THEATRE FOR SWORDS BORROWED FROM WIVES OF OFFICERS AT FRONT

Ladies Asked Investigation
After Military Play Was
Put On.

UNIFORM ALSO TAKEN

Tom Marks Denied All Knowl-
edge of Military Equip-
ments Which Disappear.

A search of the Grand Opera House has been made by the police and wives of officers for two swords, a uniform, a tunic, a sergeant-major's stripes and a sergeant-major's crown, which mysteriously disappeared after they had been "borrowed" by an unknown individual some weeks ago. The wives of the officers suspected that the swords were borrowed for use in a military play, several of which were put on by the Tom Marks Company during their recent engagement.

The homes from which swords or uniforms were borrowed were those of Mrs. E. E. Williams, wife of Captain Williams, A. S. C., now at Salisbury; Mrs. William Coles, wife of Major Coles, A. S. C., now at Salisbury; Mrs. Dunlevy, wife of Sergeant-Major Dunlevy now at Salisbury; and Mrs. Courtney, wife of Sergeant-Major Courtney, of the A. S. C.

Cruiser Built In Record Time

[Canadian Press.]
London, Dec. 17.—(2:12 p.m.)—What is described by the admiralty as a record in ship construction was announced today. The light cruiser Caroline was delivered completely today and placed in commission, ten and a half months after her keel was laid.

The date of delivery specified in the contract was May 31, 1915. Cammell, Laird & Co., of Birkenhead, built the cruiser, which is 2,800 tons displacement and has a speed of 30 knots.

RUSSIANS CLAIM MANY SUCCESSSES

Turks Took Offensive, But
Their Forces Were Demor-
alized.

GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS

Nine Army Corps Said To
Have Reached Von Hinden-
burg in Month.

[Canadian Press.]
Petrograd, via London, Dec. 17.—A communication issued by the Russian army staff in the Caucasus says: "The Turks, considerably reinforced from Baghdad and by a new formation, assumed the offensive in the Euphrates valley and the Van region, which resulted in a number of engagements of secondary importance. In these battles the Russians were invariably victorious, with the result that the Turkish forces are demoralized, and in some cases have lost half their effectiveness."

Before Play Appeared.
The uniforms were borrowed on October 1 and 2, immediately before a performance of "Under the British Flag," played by the Marks Company. Mrs. Williams was called by telephone and told that Capt. McLean, of the Seventh Regiment, was speaking, and that he wished to borrow for military purposes a tunic belonging to Capt. Williams. Mrs. Williams called some of the military authorities, and was told that it would be advisable to lend the tunic. Then a man called for it. Later on it was learned that Capt. McLean had not called. It was suggested by a military man that the Marks Company had borrowed the uniform, and the police were asked to secure it within three hours of the time it was given. The tunic was not secured.

It is One Came Back.
A swo I was borrowed from Major Coles' home. Later, Mrs. Coles called Manager J. R. Minnick about it. He denied that he knew where it was, shortly after, Mrs. Coles says, a boy who said a man had given him the sword, returned it.

The sword and decorations of a sergeant-major were "borrowed" in about the same way from the home of Sergeant-Major Dunlevy. No trace of them has ever been secured since.

A uniform was secured from Sergeant-Major Courtney's home.

Knew His Way About.
Someone who knew that the military men had taken only their khaki uniforms did the collecting. Since that time only the sword borrowed from the home of Major Coles has been returned. The sword secured from Sergeant-Major Dunlevy's home was 30 years old, and highly prized by the family.

The theatrical people denied all knowledge of the swords and uniforms. There were swords used in plays, but these, according to a statement made by Mr. Minnick to The Advertiser, were owned by the company or members of the company.

Didn't See Trunks.
The search of the theatre was made by Detective Egleston and the wives of two of the military men. One of the latter stated today that when they got in the door Mr. Marks went down stairs in a hurry and later came up saying that they "now could make the search." Nothing was found. It was said that it was not permitted the ladies to look in trunks for the lost articles, the police maintaining that the theatrical people were right in refusing to permit this.

Manager Minnick states that the search was made "at the invitation of the house." He denies absolutely that he said anything about swords to Mr. Marks or anyone before the "borrowing." One of the ladies stated that Mr. Marks said he had asked Mr. Minnick to get him a sword.

Another statement made after the search was to the effect that one of the actors had admitted using a sword like Sergeant-Major Dunlevy's, and that it did not belong to the company.

Investigation Continues.
Meanwhile investigations are going on. Parties who are interested are being made up, and it is said that will be cleared up rather sensationally within a short time. That such a trick could be played on the wives of officers who are serving their country is characterized as disgraceful by those who are making it their business to get at the facts. Several confessions have been made with Magistrate Judge.

HER FIRST CENTENNIAL

An American cartoon marking the hundred years of peace between Britain and the United States, which will find an echo in the hearts of Canadians.



This is one of the many remarkable cartoons from the weekly that has taken such a strong stand for the Allies in the present war. In another page Life pictures a gorilla with a young woman under his arm, and a spiked German helmet and his cruel teeth are bared. The Advertiser has published many of Life's cartoons since the war began, believing that they would make the friendship of this country and the United States, welded by so many bonds of practical business and sentiment, stronger than ever.



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SEVENTY-FOUR KILLED IN BOMBARDMENT OF COAST

One Hundred and Forty-Seven Wounded In
Towns Attacked by German Raiding
Cruisers—Britain Fully Expects That
Assaults Will Be Repeated.

[Canadian Press.]
London, Dec. 17.—(10:30 a.m.)—The crippling of telephone and telegraph wires by the bombardment yesterday of three ports on the east coast of England by German raiding cruisers, together with the precautions thrown about these towns by the police and the military authorities, made it impossible even today, more than 24 hours after the shelling of Scarborough, the Hartlepool and Whitby, to obtain more than an approximate estimate of the civilian dead and wounded.

Official Lists.
According to an official statement given out today, a total of 55 persons met their deaths in the Hartlepool, while 115 were wounded. At Scarborough 17 dead and 30 wounded were reported. Both official and unofficial estimates place the Whitby casualties at two dead and two wounded.

Of the Hartlepool casualties seven of the dead were soldiers, while of the wounded fourteen men belonged to the military.

The maximum of wounded is close on to 150 persons. This does not include the slightly wounded civilians, who banded their own hurts and left town on the first train.

Arranging With Wrath.
Bristling with wrath and resentment at the attack on unfortified towns, England is astir today as never before since war was declared. Another raid is confidently expected, and the entire machinery of home defence has been put into motion. On the east and south-east coast of England emergency committees are at work, while in London the Home Office is organizing a national guard of men too old for military service as under way.

Although to the British mind a raid on London seems remote, yesterday's episode drove home the realities of war as nothing else could.

Arrangements have been made at Deal and Dover to expedite the removal of the wounded.

BRITISH BOMBARD TURKS

Troops Had Concentrated On the Coast of the Gulf of
Saros, North of the Dardanelles.

[Canadian Press.]
Athens, Dec. 17.—Via London, 11:47 a.m.—A British squadron has bombarded Turkish troops who had concentrated Sunday on the coast of the Gulf of Saros, the arm of the Aegean Sea north of the Dardanelles. This information was received here today in a dispatch from Mitylene. Details are lacking.

THREE STEAMERS SUNK BY MINES IN THE NORTH SEA

[Canadian Press.]
South Shields, England, Dec. 17 (via London, 2:45 p.m.)—Three steamers were sunk by mines in the North Sea, off Flamborough Head, last night.

Only one of these three vessels has so far been identified. This is the steamer Elterwater. Twelve of her crew were saved, but seven lost their lives. The casualties on the other ships have not yet been determined, but it is reported that the crew and passengers of the passenger vessel were seen taking to their boats.

The admiralty has announced that all traffic between Flamborough Head and Newcastle has been stopped indefinitely.

CREW ALL SAVED.
Scarborough, England, Dec. 17, via London.—The steamer Princess Olga, bound for Aberdeen, Scotland, struck a mine off here last night and went down. All the crew of 15 men landed in their own boats.

"The damage at Maidow Field, a suburb, was chiefly to Curry school, where the boys had just commenced their morning lessons. They fled from the schoolhouse, and took refuge in nearby places of safety."

TRENCHES TAKEN AT POINT OF BAYONETS

French Official Statement Reports Successes and Progress Made In Vermelles Region—Germans Claim To Have Repulsed Attacks and Inflicted Losses.

[Canadian Press.]
Paris, Dec. 17.—(2:50 p.m.)—The French war office gave out an official statement this afternoon as follows:

"Between the sea and the Lys we have occupied several German trenches at the point of the bayonet, and organized the territory taken from the enemy to the west of Chéval."

"We have made progress at some points in the region of Vermelles. There has been no infantry action along the remainder of the front, but we report very effective shooting on the part of our heavy artillery in the environs of Tréves-le-Val, on the Aisne and in Champagne, as well as in the Argonne, and in the region of Verdun."

"In Lorraine and in Alsace there is nothing to report."

GERMANY'S REPORT.
Berlin, Dec. 17.—Via London, 3 p.m.—Army headquarters today issued the following statement: "Yesterday the French continued their attacks at Neuport without success. Attacks were attempted at Zillebeke and La Bassée, but were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy."

"The intention of the French to throw a bridge over the Aisne at Solsous was prevented by our artillery."

"French earthworks to the east of Rheims were destroyed."

MORE VICTORIES.
"There is no news on the east and west Prussian frontiers. The Russian offensive against Silesia and Posen has completely broken down. In the whole of Poland the enemy was forced to retreat, after stubborn and fierce frontal battles, and is being pursued everywhere."

"During the fighting in Northern Poland yesterday, and the previous day, the heavy of the West Prussian Heer regiment gained a victory. The effect of this victory cannot yet be estimated."

FROM AUSTRIA.
Berlin, Dec. 17.—Via London, 3 p.m.—The German official press has taken prisoners in West Galicia."

Effect of Raid Is To Stimulate Recruiting

Rush in London Like That at Outbreak of Hostilities—The
Allies Have Clearly Taken Up Offensive in
Flanders.

[Canadian Press.]
London, Dec. 17.—(12:25 p.m.)—The German naval raid on the east coast of England has had the effect of stimulating recruiting in the British Isles. The increase in the number of men joining the coast guard today is attributed almost solely to this cause.

The increase in recruiting resulting from the bombardment of the east coast towns is particularly marked in London, where the rush of applicants resembles in many respects the scenes witnessed at the outbreak of the war.

The raid is still being widely discussed. Other results from it are preparations at coast points for the protection of the civilian population in case of further German attacks, and the organization in London of a national guard for local defence.

In the western arena of the war, especially in Flanders, the roles of the contending armies would appear today to have been clearly expressed. All the recent official communications issued by both the Allies and the Germans, refer to the allied offensive from Ypres to the sea. Consequently the Germans are on the defensive. It may be said that the attempt of the Allies to push the Germans out of Belgium, and that the results so far recorded, are a considerable tactical gain for the Allies, rather than a tactical loss for the Germans.

Winning, of course, wants the battle for the possession of the line. It will mean that the soldiers will get Government pay of nearly \$50,000 a month, and most of this would be spent in Windsor.

It is believed that the soldiers will get Government pay of nearly \$50,000 a month, and most of this would be spent in Windsor.

While Col. Hodgins has given no indication of how he stood on the question, it is believed that he is opposed to any mobilization in the border city for the reasons stated above.

It was said today that when the new battalions are recruited it may be necessary to recruit them at various cities in the division, such as Windsor, Stratford, and other places. This would be a considerable length of time before they are brought to a concentration camp.

Clear, Cold Spell
Say Wiseacres

High Barometer Sure Indication of This, They Claim—Superstitious Rejoice.

"A green Christmas makes a full graveyard" runs the old adage, and the superstitious are comforting themselves with the fact that the barometer runs unusually high, and the weatherman predicts a spell of clear, cold weather. With the ground all covered with snow and a sting in the air that makes them shiver in their heaviest garments, they tell all who will listen to them, that a white Christmas is prophetic of a full harvest, good health and prosperity.

Judging by the impetus given to Christmas buying as a result of the cold snap, the merchants are quite certain the planks of the mercury will spell greater influence.

Not since the dry spell of the past summer has the barometer registered so high—23.75—and according to the wiseacres, the street railway company and other big corporations may stable their snowplows for the present.

At 8 o'clock this morning the thermometer read four above zero, the lowest reading being three above zero. Tuesday still holds the record for the coldest day this week.

Opinion seems pretty unanimous that this is the all-around worst for the time of the year, London has experienced in many seasons. The stokers of home furnaces who take the precaution to shut off the water at night are quite sure they can't possibly have the same kind of degrees out in blighted Middlesex.

IS IN NEW YORK

Dr. H. A. Stevenson's Intentions For
Majority Are Therefore Unknown.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson, named Wed-
nesday evening as the majority
nominee of the Trades and Labor
Council, is out of the city. The doc-
tor is in New York, and, therefore, his
intentions are unknown. It is expected
however, that he will enter the race.
At his last election to the public util-
ities commission, he was returned by
the largest vote ever rolled up in
London.

SAW THOUSANDS KILLED

London Doctor's A French Witness
Wrote War's Awful Toll.

After three months' strenuous work as
an auxiliary in a Paris hospital, Dr. E.
Gardiner, son of Mrs. J. H. Gardiner, of
this city, is returning home to take up
a practice here. The hospital, which up
to the time of the war was a private one,
is being extended and continued for Red
Cross service.

Dr. Gardiner was taken to the front by
his chief at the time of the bombard-
ment of Rheims and Soissons, and, in
a letter just received by his mother, tells
of seeing thousands killed.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and low-
est temperatures recorded in London
during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock
last night: Highest, 16; lowest, 3
above zero.

The official temperatures for the 24
hours previous to 8 a.m., today were:
Highest, 16; lowest, 3 above zero.

TOMORROW—MILDER.
Forecast.
Toronto, Dec. 17, 8 a.m.

Today—Western to southerly wind,
fair and cold.
Friday—Stationary or a little higher
temperature.

Temperatures.
The following were the highest and low-
est temperatures during the 24 hours
previous to 8 a.m., today:

Stations. High. Low. Weather.
Victoria..... 25..... 2..... Cloudy
Calgary..... 20..... 4..... Clear
Winnipeg..... 18..... 2..... Cloudy
Port Arthur..... 16..... 2..... Cloudy
Parry Sound..... 20..... 6..... Cloudy
Toronto..... 16..... 10..... Cloudy
Ottawa..... 10..... 4..... Cloudy
Montreal..... 12..... 4..... Cloudy
Quebec..... 10..... 4..... Cloudy
Father Point..... 12..... 10..... Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.
Pressure is decreasing quickly in the
Western Provinces, with rising tempera-
tures. Elsewhere it is high, attended
by fair, cold weather.