

ALLIES RECALL COMMANDER IN BALKANS

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85 CASUALTIES IN AIR RAID ON ENGLAND

SARRAIL LOSES COMMAND OF ALLIED ARMIES IN BALKANS; NEED OF VERDUN TO SUCCEED

Leader of Entente Forces at Saloniki To Be Replaced by Gen. Guilleminet.

London, Dec. 19.—Gen. Sarrail, commander of the Allied armies at Saloniki, has been recalled, according to newspaper announcements in Athens, says a Reuters dispatch from the Greek capital, under date of December 15. The successor of Gen. Sarrail in command of the Macedonian forces, it is said, will be Gen. Guilleminet.

Gen. M. P. Sarrail has been identified with the Allied operations based on Saloniki since October, 1915, when he was sent to command the French expeditionary force engaged in an attempt to secure the Serbians during the Teutonic-Bulgarian drive that resulted in the over-running of Serbian territory. When Saloniki was turned into an Allied base and active operations on the Macedonian front begun by the Entente forces, the next year Gen. Sarrail directed the united operations of the Allies, and has since remained in command on this front.

Was at the Marne. Gen. Sarrail's chief services previous to going to Saloniki were performed during the battle of the Marne, when he held the German crown prince's army in the Argonne, and prevented the investment of Verdun. He commanded the French expeditionary force after Gen. Dronaud was wounded there, and subsequently relieved in August, 1915.

Guilleminet of Verdun. Although there are several officers bearing the name of Guilleminet in the French army, it seems not improbable that the man selected to succeed Gen. Sarrail may be Gen. Guilleminet, who commanded the French army at Verdun during their brilliant operations last summer, when they completed the recovery of virtually all the ground that the Germans had won in the west.

VALUABLE PATTERNS FOR ALLIED POWERS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Work For U. S. Emergency Fleet Corporation Also Burned.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 19.—Valuable patterns for the manufacture of special equipment of British, French and Italian submarine chasers were destroyed early today in a fire of undetermined origin at the U. S. Emergency Fleet Corporation plant of the General Electric Company. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. The fire, which has not yet been traced, is believed to have been caused by a gas leak from a gas engine.

BAD BALTIMORE BLAZE. Baltimore, Dec. 19.—Fire which broke out in the fourth street clothing establishment of Morris Bros. & Co., in the heart of the wholesale business district early this morning, resulted in a loss estimated at close to \$200,000. Several large wholesale establishments suffered heavy loss by water and were threatened by the flames.

IRISHMEN OF CHICAGO SEND AID TO REDMOND

Chicago, Dec. 18.—A declaration upholding the Irish nationalist party and charging that any Irishman or organization seceding from the party is committing an act of open hostility to the United States was adopted tonight by the Irish Fellowship Club here, the largest Irish organization in the city. It was directed to John Redmond and announced the forwarding of \$10,000 as the first installment of a fund to be collected in America in support of the party.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during week: Highest, 36; lowest, 6 above.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 36; lowest, 6.

TOMORROW—SNOW AND RAIN. Toronto, Dec. 19.—8 a.m. Forecast: Partly cloudy and mild today and tomorrow, with some light snow and rain.

Temperatures. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures for the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today: Weather: Stations. High. Low.

Victoria	36	10	Cloudy
Calgary	30	25	Clear
Winnipeg	28	23	Clear
Port Arthur	40	4	Cloudy
Port Stanley	30	30	Cloudy
Port Huron	30	30	Cloudy
Buffalo	38	32	Cloudy
Toronto	38	34	Cloudy
Kingston	32	28	Cloudy
Ottawa	32	28	Cloudy
Montreal	32	28	Cloudy
Quebec	32	28	Cloudy
Father Point	32	28	Cloudy

Weather Notes. The weather has become quite mild in Ontario and Quebec and continues comparatively mild over the greater portion of the western provinces.

SOLDIERS ASSISTING IN RESCUE WORK AT HALIFAX



Advertiser Illustration

HOSPITAL SHIP LANDS CANUCKS AT PORT OF U. S.

Vessel With 2,000 Returned Soldiers Diverted From Halifax.

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 19.—Diverted from Halifax because of conditions due to the recent disaster there, a British ship bearing more than 2,000 Canadian soldiers, invalided home because of wounds or illness, arrived here today. The men will be sent to Canada by rail.

BIG CROWD SEES PRESENTATION TO F UNIT M. H. C. C.

Troops and Citizens Witnesses to Handing Over of the I. O. E. Flagstaff.

PRaises WOMEN'S WORK. Brig. Gen. L. W. Shannon Commends War Services They Render.

In the presence of the troops quartered in London, members of the headquarters staff, officers and members of the I. O. E., officers of the Military Hospitals Commission, and a large crowd of citizens, a hand-some flagstaff was formally presented to F Unit, M. H. C. C., by Mrs. J. S. Niven, on behalf of the Municipal Chapter, I. O. E., shortly after 3 o'clock today, on the grounds of the Central Military Convalescent Hospital, Ottawa avenue.

Brig. Gen. L. W. Shannon, general officer commanding this district, received the flagstaff on behalf of F Unit.

Proceeding the presentation, the troops marched through the city streets to the Convalescent Hospital, under the command of Lieut. Col. H. L. Milligan, D.S.O., acting commander of the 1st Depot Battalion, W. O. R. The men of the 1st Depot Battalion, Canadian Field Artillery, both mounted and unmounted, led the parade, followed by the members of the 1st Depot Battalion, W. O. R., and the men of the 1st Depot Battalion, Canadian Medical Corps, followed by the 1st Depot Battalion, Canadian Medical Corps, followed by the 1st Depot Battalion, Canadian Medical Corps.

THE CHATEAU RENAUT SUNK WHILE ACTING AS A TRANSPORT.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The old French cruiser, Chateau-Renaud, employed as a transport, was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean on the morning of December 14, and the submarine which attacked her later was destroyed, according to an announcement made tonight by the French minister of marine. The passengers on the Chateau-Renaud, all of whom were either soldiers or officers, were saved. Ten members of the crew were lost.

RECEPTION TO SOLDIERS.—All returned soldiers in the city who attend a reception being tendered to them by the Y. M. C. A. on Thursday night will receive a full membership ticket during the evening's entertainment, which is to be provided by the Y. M. C. A. officials. The reception was to have been held on Thursday night last week, but was postponed until this week. A good musical program has been prepared.

GALLANT NEWFOUNDLAND WINS "DOMINION" TITLE

Boston, Dec. 19.—As a reward for its overseas forces, Newfoundland, the oldest British overseas possession, has been designated officially as the Dominion of Newfoundland, according to word received from St. Johns today.

HUNS TORPEDOED SPANISH VESSEL

Steamer Noviembre Is Sent Down in Night Without Warning.

Paris, Dec. 19.—The torpedoing by a U-boat of a Spanish steamer Noviembre, 2,554 tons gross, is reported in a dispatch from Biarritz to the Excelsior quoting advices received there from Bilbao. Thirty of the crew have been landed. They say the ship was torpedoed without warning at night, and that they were all thrown into the sea.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER RETURNS TO CAPITAL

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who arrived in the capital from the West at an early hour this morning, spent the day at his home and denied himself to callers. His private secretary stated over the telephone that the Opposition leader would spend the day attending to correspondence, and that he would not issue a statement bearing on the election result today.

Old French Cruiser Is Torpedoed By U-Boat But "Gets" the Latter

The Chateau Renaud Sunk While Acting as a Transport.

CHRISTMAS BUSINESS HERE REPORTED BETTER THAN EVER BY SATISFIED MERCHANTS

Londoners Have Bought and Bought Well — Jewelers Say That Patriotic Fund Campaign Have Stimulated Trade as Never Before in City's History.

"Even more satisfactory than a year ago," was the verdict of a number of merchants of London interviewed today in regard to the Christmas trade of 1917. A leading jeweler explained it this way when the question was raised: "Where do the people get the money? The people have acquired the habit now of parting with money. They make much less fuss now about prices than they used to do. When a person is in the habit of giving sums of money away frequently and getting nothing for himself in return, a piece of jewelry looks like a big value to him, even if he has to pay a good price for it."

With regard to underwear, it isn't silk alone that is in demand this year for gift-giving, but the best quality in wool as well. With all the thousands of boxes that have gone overseas for Christmas, the ready response to weekly calls for patriotic purposes, it is apparent that the citizens of London and district are keeping up their old custom of showing love to relatives and friends at home by gift-giving at the season of the year of good-will to man.

Said one jeweler: "A man will pay \$25 today for a clock that formerly cost \$14, and there will be much less objection raised to the price than there was then." With all the utilitarian goods being bought in big quantities, of electrical conveniences for the house, of superior cooking utensils, of needed underwear of boots and shoes and so on, ornaments of jewelry, pins, neckties, rings will this year find their way to many Christmas stockings from London shops.

Better Than Last Year. "On the whole," said one of the street jeweler, "our Christmas trade has been more satisfactory this year than last. It is a building up of the business."

The high price of footwear has doubtless been responsible for the fact that boots and shoes have been bought in large quantities. The shoe dealer is receiving an unwelcome share of Christmas trade. "Notepaper is going like ice cream cones in dog-days. Everybody, more or less, is using notepaper, heaps upon heaps of it, and buying it for self use is no joke at present. Boxes of notepaper can be obtained in prices ranging from fifteen cents to fifteen dollars, and they are going at that. The correspondence cards to match are included in many of the stationery boxes. No busy woman needs to apologize for the evening's entertainment, which is to be provided by the Y. M. C. A. officials. The reception was to have been held on Thursday night last week, but was postponed until this week. A good musical program has been prepared.

GREAT DECREASE IN EGGS AND BUTTER OF COLD STORAGE PLANTS

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—A big decrease in the quantity of eggs and butter in cold storage on December 1 as compared with November 1 is shown in the monthly report of the acting commissioner of the minister of labor and of living. The figures are:

Products.	November 1.	December 1.
Eggs.	14,517,224 doz.	6,519,160 doz.
Butter.	17,023,477 lbs.	12,534,202 lbs.

The December figures include the reports of 140 cold storage plants and cover 99 per cent of all the cold storage companies of Canada.

TEN KILLED, 75 INJURED BY AN ENEMY AIR RAID ON ENGLAND; TWO OF INVADERS WRECKED

HAIG CHANGING HIS WAR STAFF

London, Dec. 19.—Field Marshal Haig, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France, the Times says it is understood, is making important changes in his headquarters staff, which up to this time has virtually been unaltered since he took over the supreme command.

PETAIN'S POILUS THROW BACK FOE IN THE ARGONNE

Two Attempts to Reach Positions Repulsed With Losses.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Two attempts by the Germans to approach French positions in the Argonne near Fort de Paris, last night, were defeated with losses, the war office announced today. The communication follows:

"The enemy's artillery during the night bombarded our first line south of Juvincourt and in the Argonne, and the latter point enemy forces effectively. At the latter point enemy forces which made two attempts to approach our positions were repulsed with losses."

In Lorraine, in the sectors of Flirey and Nauroy, our patrols took prisoners including an officer. "There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

"Last night German aviators threw down fifty bombs in the region of Dunkirk. No victims have been reported thus far."

ALBERTA'S STANDING GOVT. NINE, LIBS. ONE AND TWO IN DOUBT

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Latest summary of the Alberta standing is as follows: Battle River—W. J. Blair, Unionist; D. W. Warner, in doubt; Bow River—H. H. Halliday, Unionist, elected; Calgary East—D. E. Reedman, Unionist, elected; Calgary West—M. Tweedie, Unionist, elected; Edmonton East—H. A. Mackie, Unionist, elected; Edmonton West—W. A. Griesbach, Unionist, leading over 800 majority over Oliver; 92 polls to hear from; Lethbridge—W. A. Buchanan, Unionist, elected; Medicine Hat—A. L. Sifton, Unionist, elected; Red Deer—M. Clark, Unionist, elected; St. Albans—J. M. Douglas, Unionist, elected; Victoria—W. H. White, Opposition, elected by 600 majority with a few small polls to come.

This makes Alberta standing Government 9, Opposition 1; in doubt 2.

PATROLS OF ENEMY ACTIVE IN FLANDERS

Elsewhere Nothing of Special Interest Is Haig's Report.

London, Dec. 19.—German patrols were active last night in Flanders, near Paschendaele. Otherwise there were no operations of consequence, the war office reports. The statement follows:

"Hostile reconnoiterers endeavored to approach our posts southeast and northeast of Paschendaele. They were driven off by our fire. We secured a few prisoners. Elsewhere there was nothing of special interest."

FORTY-THREE THOUSAND GRANTED EXEMPTION IN MONTREAL DISTRICT

Montreal, Dec. 19.—Out of 52,341 ed exemption. The military representatives have appealed 14,594 cases. Among those whose exemption claims have been refused is Glen Hillier, McGill's champion 100 yards sprinter.

Score of German Planes In Six Groups Make Dash On English East Coast, But Only Five Reach London—Two Brought Down and All Defenders Return Safely.

London, Dec. 19.—Ten persons were killed and seventy injured in London during last night's air raid. Outside of London five persons were injured.

The following official communication in regard to casualties was given out: "Last night's air raid casualties were: Ten killed and seventy injured in London; only five injured outside London."

Several fires occurred. The material damage was not serious. There was no damage to naval or military establishments."

THE WAR SITUATION

On the Italian northern front the Austro-German armies in strong efforts to find a weak point in the Italian defence and through it to rush south to the Venetian Plains. Checked east of the Breno last week, the invaders, despite the heavy losses inflicted upon them struck at two new points on the line between the Asiago and the Piave. The Piave has become the centre of fighting in this sector. Berlin claims the capture of some Italian positions there and the repulse of Italian counterattacks. Vigorous attacks in this region, Rome says, were repulsed by defenders. West of the Breno the Austro-Germans have attacked in the mountain region, and Berlin says, more than 1,000 prisoners were captured.

No Chance in France. There has been no change on the front in France. Infantry fighting not increased and the artillery continues to be active in certain sectors. Field Marshal Haig, the London Times says, is making important changes in his headquarters staff. The commander-in-chief in France has made virtually no changes since he took over the command from Viscount French.

New German Air Raid. London and east coast towns again have been visited by German raiders. Numerous bombs were dropped on London and in Essex and Kent by the enemy airplanes which crossed the coast last night. British fighters met the enemy in the air, and the anti-aircraft defence subjected him to a heavy fire. The casualties and damage caused have not been announced.

RAIDED COAST TOWNS. LONDON, Dec. 19.—German airplanes raided English coast towns tonight. Continued on Page Two.

JOS. HOBSON, GREAT RAILWAY ENGINEER, DEAD AT HAMILTON

For Many Years With G. T. R. and Builder of Sarnia Tube.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 19.—Joseph Hobson, a noted civil engineer, died here today at the age of 84 years. For many years he was chief engineer of the Great Trunk, and after retiring from active service was employed in consulting capacity. Mr. Hobson had charge of the construction of the Sarnia tunnel. After completing this big engineering feat, Mr. Hobson was offered a knighthood, but refused it. Robert Hobson, general manager of the Steel Company of Canada, is a son.

Deceased was born near Guelph, educated at Toronto, and later joined the firm that built the Great Trunk from Toronto to Guelph. In 1870 he was appointed resident engineer in charge of building the bridge across the Niagara River at Sarnia. He was chief engineer of the Great Trunk system, and occupied that position ten years.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO SIR ROBERT BORDEN

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The prime minister has received the following reply from Hon. W. M. Hughes, prime minister of Australia, in reply to the cablegram sent by him to Premier Hughes yesterday: "Heartiest congratulations on your magnificent victory. Canada has set Australia glorious example which I trust she will follow."

NEW MONTREAL CHURCH DESTROYED BY FLAMES

Montreal, Dec. 19.—The Church of Saint Stanislas Des Kostka, recently completed at a cost of \$150,000, was destroyed by fire this morning. The loss is covered by insurance.

MANION'S MAJORITY. Fort William, Dec. 19.—With two polls still to be heard from the majority in Fort William and Rainy River constituency for Capt. E. J. Manion, Unionist, stands at 1,931.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOMBING BY BRITISH AIRCRAFT.

London, Dec. 19.—The successful bombing by British naval aircraft of the Engel aerodrome, behind the German lines in Flanders, is announced in today's admiralty statement. The text reads: "Naval aircraft dropped bombs which burst close to the sheds and on the ammunition dump and railway sidings at the Engel aerodrome on Tuesday. One enemy aircraft was brought down ablaze and one out of control. All of our machines returned safely."

LETTER CARRIER GIVEN THREE YEARS FOR THEFT

Brantford, Ont., Dec. 19.—William B. Snyder, letter-carrier, who pleaded guilty to robbing systematically for the past year having letters on his route, was today sentenced by Magistrate Livingstone to a three-year sentence, with a fine of \$1,000. In default of payment the term will be four years.

ONLY FOUR MORE SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS—DO YOUR SHOPPING AS EARLY AS YOU CAN