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PROBS—FAIR AND COLD

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DARING RAID BY BRITISH AIRMEN ON GERMAN BASE AT CUXHAVEN; DROP BOMBS NEAR WARSHIPS

NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN WAR THEATRE

German Attacks to Prevent Allies from Organizing Territory Gained in Recent Advances the Only Activity in France and Belgium — The Airmen Having Their Innings Now — Russians Again in Ascendency in South Poland and Galicia — Czar at the Front.

London, Dec. 27.—The airmen of the belligerent countries spent a busy Christmas holiday. While a solitary German flew over the Thames estuary and dropped a single bomb, which fell in a roadway and did no damage, a convoy of seven British naval aeroplanes visited the German naval base at Cuxhaven and dropped bombs on ships and the gas works. All but one of the British airmen returned safely to the ships which conveyed them.

Similar activity was displayed along the battlefronts, German airmen paying a surprise visit to Nancy; French aviators to Metz; British to Brussels and other Belgian towns occupied by the Germans, and German airmen to Polish cities.

As usual, the accounts of the airmen of the damage done differ from those of the occupants of the territory attacked. While bombs were dropped during these flights, most of the flights were made for the purpose of reconnoitering. The Allies who are on the offensive in the west, are naturally desirous of knowing when and where the Germans are moving their reinforcements, the arrival of which at the front has been the signal for many German counter attacks.

Except in the Argonne and Alsace, where the French have made some progress, and outside of artillery practice, the battles in the west for the last two days largely consisted of German attacks to counter those of the Allies and to prevent the Allies from organizing the ground which they had gained.

In Poland, where the Russian Emperor has joined Grand Duke Nicholas at the Russian headquarters, the German attacks on the Bzura and Rawka rivers are being made almost exclusively with artillery, while an offensive in force has been assumed further south, along the River Pilica, where hard fighting continues and both sides claim to have inflicted heavy losses on their opponents. The Russians apparently have again gained ascendancy over the Austrians in South Poland and Galicia. The Austrians themselves admit the loss of the towns of Jaslo and Kroso, on the south Galician railway, which their army from across the Carpathians recaptured a week or more ago. The Russian report tonight is the record of a series of victories from Middle Poland to the foothills of the Carpathians.

Today's report also reports the capture of 13,500 prisoners and a number of guns, and unless some prisoners have been counted more than once the Russians, according to their own accounts, have taken thirty thousand Austrian prisoners since they resumed the offensive.

GEN. HUGHES PLANS TRIP TO THE WEST

Will Inspect Canadian Troops Enlisted for Second Contingent and Also the Coast Defences.

Special to The Standard
Ottawa, Dec. 26.—General Sam Hughes stated today that he was planning a western trip of inspection as soon as he can get away. The Minister has an accumulation of work which he wants to clear up first. While he is still suffering from a severe cold, the Minister when he makes his trip will go through to Victoria and will go over the coast defences as well as review all troops enlisted for the second contingent.

ADMIRALTY TAKES OVER NEW C.P.R. STEAMERS

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 27.—Canadian Pacific officials have been notified that two new steamers, the Princess Margaret and Princess Irene, just finished on the Clyde have been taken by the Admiralty. The vessels are oil burners with turbine engines and have a speed of twenty-three knots. They were designed for service between Vancouver and Seattle.

"BOXING DAY" THE QUIETEST ON RECORD

Merry Scenes of Other Years Conspicuously Absent in London Saturday.

London, Dec. 27.—The celebration of Boxing Day yesterday was perhaps the quietest on record for many years, and in marked contrast to the scenes which in previous years were generally associated with the day following Christmas. The usual merry crowds on the streets were absent, and the bars, generally crowded on this holiday, did a slack business. A rainy day, followed by fog in the evening, made London exceptionally dull and quiet, the only traffic being for the pantomimes, as all shops and offices have closed from Thursday night until Monday morning. There were very few visitors in town, the people of the provinces remaining at home this year.

PEACE CONFERENCE PLANNED BY SOCIALISTS

London, Dec. 27.—Arrangements have been made to hold an international Socialist Peace Conference in London January 17, at which each neutral country will be represented by four delegates. Jeppe Borgbjerg, leader of the Danish Socialists, admits that no practical results are anticipated, but he thinks the conference will serve to pave a way for the resumption of friendly international relations when the war is over.

Seven Naval Airmen in Seaplanes Attempt to "Dig Out" The German Fleet and Novel Battle Follows—Attack Made in Daylight Hours and Six of the Aviators Escape—Enemy's Aircraft Drop Bombs Near British Ships Which Accompanied Air Fleet but do no Damage and Enemy Driven Off—British Ships Three Hours Off Enemy's Coast Unmolested by Surface Vessel and Picked up Heroic Aviators—Extent of Damage Done by British Unknown, But all the Bombs Directed at Points of Military Significance.

London, Dec. 27.—Assisted by light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, seven British naval airmen, piloting seaplanes, made a daring attack Christmas day on the German naval base at Cuxhaven, at the mouth of the Elbe. Six of the airmen returned safely, but the seventh, Commander Hewlett, it is feared, has been lost, as his machine was found off Heligoland wrecked.

What damage was done by the bombs thrown by the attacking party could not be ascertained, but the German report of the affair says that the raid was fruitless.

The enterprise of the British navy in thus attempting to "dig out" the German fleet brought about a battle between the most modern of war machines. The British squadron, including the light cruisers Arethusa and Undaunted, which have been engaged in previous exploits on the German coast, was attacked by Zeppelins, sea planes and submarines.

By rapid manoeuvring the ships were able to avoid the submarines, while the Zeppelins found the fire of the cruisers too dangerous for them to keep up the fight. The German seaplanes dropped bombs, which according to the British account, fell harmlessly into the sea. The Germans, however, claim to have hit two destroyers and their convoy, the latter being set afire.

The British ships remained in the vicinity for three hours without being attacked by any surface warships, and picked up three of the seven pilots and the planes. Three others were picked up by submarines, but their machines were sunk. Commander Hewlett, it is thought, was drowned.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF RAID

London, Dec. 27.—The official press bureau gave out the following statement tonight regarding the British raid on the German coast: "On Friday, December 25, the German warships lying off Schilling Roads, off Cuxhaven, were attacked by seven naval seaplanes, piloted by Flight Commanders Oliver, Hewlett, Boss and Kilner, Flight Lieutenants Miley and Edwards and Sub-Lt. Blackburn.

"The attack was delivered in daylight, starting from a point in the vicinity of Heligoland. The seaplanes were escorted by a light cruiser and destroyer force, together with submarines. As these ships were seen by the Germans from Heligoland, two Zeppelins and three or four hostile seaplanes and several hostile submarines attacked them.

"It was necessary for the British ships to remain in the neighborhood to pick up the returning airmen, and a novel combat ensued between the most modern cruisers and the enemy's aircraft and submarines. By swift manoeuvring the enemy's submarines were avoided, and the two Zeppelins were easily put to flight by the guns of the Undaunted and Arethusa.

"The enemy's seaplanes succeeded in dropping their bombs near our ships, but without hitting any of them. The British ships remained for three hours off the enemy's coast without being molested by any surface vessel, and safely re-embarked three out of the seven airmen with their machines. Three other pilots returned later, and were picked up by British submarines which were standing by. Their machines were then sunk.

"Six out of the seven pilots returned safely. Flight Commander Hewlett is missing. His machine was seen in a wrecked condition about eight miles from Heligoland, and the fate of the daring and skillful pilot is at present unknown.

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Italy Offers Services of Her Warships To States if The Turks Get Troublesome

Rome, Dec. 27.—Instructions have been sent to the Italian cruiser Calabria, which is now at Beirut, Syria, to assist the United States cruiser North Carolina, if the necessity should arise as the result of further demonstrations against the departure of Europeans from Turkish territory. The cruiser Tennessee, the fuel ship Valcan, and the gunboat Scorpion, of the United States navy, which also are looking after American interests along the eastern Mediterranean, are ready to steam to any place where they are needed according to reports received here.

POPE'S REPRESENTATIVE RECEIVED BY SULTAN

London, Dec. 27.—The new Apostolic Delegate to Turkey, Monsignor Dolet, was received yesterday by Sultan Mehmed V, according to a despatch from Constantinople to Reuters Telegram Company. Monsignor Dolet presented to the Sultan an autograph letter from Pope Benedict. His visit marked the first occasion on which an Apostolic Delegate has been received by the ruler of Turkey without the intervention of the French Ambassador.

ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN OF SAN FRANCISCO DIED YESTERDAY

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Most Rev. Patrick William Riordan, Archbishop of the diocese of San Francisco, of the Catholic church, died at his home here today. Archbishop Riordan was born in New Brunswick in 1841, and was appointed head of the San Francisco diocese in 1884.

NO TRUTH IN STORY, SAYS GEN. HUGHES

Report of Friction Between Minister of Militia and Gen. Alderson Denied and Correspondent Loses His Lieutenantancy.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Dec. 27.—There has been no friction between General Sam Hughes and General Alderson, who is in command of the first Canadian contingent. Cordial messages are passing constantly between the Minister of Militia and General Alderson.

A day or two ago a cable was sent by a Canadian correspondent with the troops at Salisbury Plain stating that there has been friction and that as a result the resignation of General Alderson might be expected soon. General Hughes returned from Lindsay today and gave an emphatic denial to the statement. The correspondent who cabled the story had been given superannuated lieutenantancy to enable him to remain with the troops. His commission has been cancelled. There are other complaints against this correspondent.

CREW OF AMERICAN SHIP ATTACKED BY TURKS AT TRIPOLI?

Sec. of U. S. Navy Investigating Report of Attack and Threat of American Warship to Bombard Town.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels today called on Captain Oman, commanding the armored cruiser North Carolina, to report whether threats of violence had been made by Turks at Tripoli against American sailors. Athens despatches, published today, said that an American warship had threatened a bombardment as a result. The North Carolina and the Tennessee both are at Beirut today, the Tennessee having come there from Jaffa after depositing gold. Beirut is about forty miles south of Tripoli where the disorders are said to have occurred.

One report was that Turkish authorities sought to prevent the departure of American, British and French consuls, and that the attack on the American crew of a commercial ship and the threatened bombardment of Tripoli by the American man-of-war followed.

No Confirmation Received By Navy Department

Secretary Daniels said tonight that the Navy Department had not yet received replies to the queries addressed to Captain Oman and Decker of the cruisers North Carolina and Tennessee respectively, concerning alleged threats to bombard Tripoli, Syria, if British and French consuls were not permitted to depart. He thought the delay in receiving reports was due to the slow and imperfect cable communication through southern Mediterranean countries.

Czar at Battlefront

Petrograd, Dec. 27.—Emperor Nicholas, who left Moscow Christmas evening, has arrived at the battlefront.

AUSTRIANS ROUTED FROM POSITIONS ALONG THE NIDA

Driven Back by Russians from Tuchow-Olpiny Line and Retreat in Disorder — Machine Guns Abandoned and 1,000 Prisoners Captured — Met with Enormous Losses in Carpathians.

Petrograd, Dec. 27.—The following official communication was issued from general headquarters today:

"During December 26 the fighting along the lines of the Bzura and Rawka rivers was confined in general to artillery fire. We have repulsed, with success, various attacks by the Germans.

"Along the lower course of the Nida River we ousted, towards evening of December 25, from the village of Wislica the Austrians who had obstinately defended it, and who attempted to fortify themselves on the left bank of the Nida. We then drove the Austrians beyond that river.

"South of the Vistula, in the region of Tarnow, Galicia, on December 25, we drove back the Austrians from the Tuchow-Olpiny line. The enemy abandoned ten rapid-firers, and we took forty-three officers and more than 2,500 soldiers prisoners. The next day we continued the pursuit of the Austrians, who retreated in disorder. We captured eight or more machine guns, and about 1,000 prisoners. We occupied the heights near Siedlitzka, on the left bank of the Blala River.

"In the direction of Dukla, Carpathians, there were engagements on December 25 and 26, and the Austrians driven from the Zmigrod-Dukla line, are in full retreat. In the latest encounters in this region the Austrians suffered enormous losses, and left in our hands as prisoners more than 10,000 men.

The official communication issued from general headquarters last night:

"On the left bank of the Vistula the general position is without essential change.

"Between the lower courses of the Vistula and the Pilica the fighting on December 25 was of less desperate character, with the exception of that region bordering on the Pilica, where throughout the night and day violent combats continued. Likewise fighting of a desperate nature with the Austrians has been going on along the lower courses of the Nida River. On December 24 in that region we took prisoners 68 officers and about 4,000 soldiers.

"In Galicia the fighting along the whole front is favorable to the Russian arms."

SAW NO SIGNS OF SEA FIGHT OFF CHILE

No Confirmation of Supposed Fight Between British Warship and the Dresden.

Valpariso, Dec. 26.—No new sea fight has offered off the Chilean coast so far as can be ascertained today at Valpariso. The cannonading reported last night fifteen miles off this port by the Chilean torpedo gunboat Tommie, and which was supposed to be an engagement between the cruiser Newcastle and the German cruiser Dresden, and converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, is now believed to have been the Newcastle saluting the flag of Sir Frederick Sturdee, commanding the British squadron which sank the German squadron off the Falkland Islands.

HINDU THROWS BOMB IN TEMPLE

Is Killed by the Explosion and a Dozen Others Injured.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—During services at a Hindu Temple near the Panama Pacific Exposition grounds today, an unidentified Hindu threw a bomb which probably fatally injured one person and seriously wounded a dozen others and wrecked the place. The bomb thrower was killed in the explosion. No cause for the act could be learned.

WOULD REVISE LAWS ON RIGHTS OF NEUTRALS

Venezuela Proposes that a Conference of All Neutrals be Held at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Venezuela has formally proposed to all the neutral governments of Europe and Asia, as well as the two Americas, that a conference be held in Washington to revise or supplement the rules of international law respecting the rights of neutrals in the present war.

The plan provides that the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union, consisting of the diplomatic representatives of all the American republics, should draft a program for the conference or congress, and that the rules finally agreed upon by all the neutrals should in turn be submitted to the belligerents.

Acting under instructions from his government Dr. Santos A. Domínguez, Venezuelan Minister to the United States, has delivered a memorandum to Secretary Bryan, and all the diplomatic representatives here of neutral governments in all parts of the globe, outlining in detail the need for the international conference, and what it could accomplish.

DUTCH STEAMER SUNK BY MINE

Scarborough, England, Dec. 27.—The Dutch steamer Leersum, from Amsterdam, and the British steamer Gallier, from London, struck mines in the North Sea today. The Leersum foundered and two members of her crew were drowned. The Gallier succeeded in reaching port.