

Handwritten signature: H. Mumford

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "The MAIL and ADVOCATE"

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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VOLUNTEER HEARS LAST ROLL CALL

Jack Chaplin, of the First Newfoundland Regiment, Dies at Fort George, Scotland

"Toll for the brave. The brave that are no more." While the Second Newfoundland contingent was parading our streets, New Year's morning, and all were observing the birth of the New Year, the Angel of Death was hovering over the camp of our First Contingent at Inverness, and would not be satisfied until one well-known to and loved by St. John's had been claimed.

The hearts of hundreds of Newfoundland mothers and friends went out to the Scottish fort where the khaki-clad boys from the Colony were stationed. Little did they think that one of the youngest, brightest and best was crossing the Bar. Perhaps it is better that they had no knowledge of it.

Saturday afternoon came the sad tidings that Jack Chaplin, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Chaplin was dead, abdominal trouble being the cause.

Widespread Sympathy.

Soon after the City was cast in gloom, and our all sides expressions of sympathy were heard.

Many parents who did not know the lad, but whose sons went forth with him to fight for the honor and liberty of our Empire, turned in their prayers and thoughts to the grief-stricken home, and offered petitions to the Ruler Omnipotent that the heart-broken mother and father would be given strength to bear the blow.

How often has it been asked since the boys left our shores, "Will they all come back." Few thought that the New Year would bring such sorrow and sadness, and that the horrors of the war would be so acutely brought home to us, for while he did not die in battle, the end came as he was doing his duty as a soldier and a man.

Death of a Hero.

His death was none the less heroic than if he had died at the hands of the enemy, and his memory will be enshrined in all our hearts.

The message came to Rev. Dr. Cowpehwaite from the Commander of the Regiment, Colonel R. de H. Burton, and upon the venerable clergyman devolved the sad task of acquainting the parents.

While the family were in the midst of their sorrow the English mail reached the home. There were letters for the mother and sister, and a dozen or more post cards from the young soldier, who was then in the best of health. One of the postals wished the family a Merry Christmas and lots of fun at New Year.

Many tokens of sympathy reached the family, but none more touching than that of His Excellency the Governor, Colonel of the Regiment, whose letter will so much help to lighten their burden.

Amongst the Brave.

The chief of the Clan Davidson lives not far from Fort George, and Sir Walter expresses his intention to visit the grave when he next visits home, for where the young soldier fell he will rest in the military cemetery looking over the Moray Firth, where so many brave soldiers have been buried with Highland honors during many generations.

While one message says the cause was abdominal trouble, another says influenza.

Mr. Lloyd Chaplin cabled Capt. W. March for particulars, and last evening received the following reply:—"Jack was out on Christmas Day. He was admitted to hospital on Dec. 27th. On the 28th his condition was normal. On the 29th, condition changed for the worse. On the 30th it was more serious. On the 31st, very serious. He was then semi-unconscious, gradually passing to unconsciousness. He died at 10.40 on New Year's Day. Suffered no pain. Everything possible was done for him. He was seen by the local doctor of the Fort Hospital regiment. Extend greatest sympathy to family.—Weston March."

Interred at Inverness.

The remains will be interred at Inverness tomorrow afternoon.

Rainy Weather On Battle Fronts Hinders Operations Of Armies Developments In Balkan States

London, Jan. 4.—The extremely rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced for years, is causing floods in the rivers and valleys on the Continent, as well as those of England, and has prevented any operations on a large scale in the Western battlefront. It has also seriously interfered with that in the East.

There have been heavy artillery engagements from the sea on the Swiss borders, and occasional attacks by the infantry of the opposing armies, which, when not repulsed, have added a few yards of territory to the possession of the attacking force, but have always proved costly to the adventurers.

French Gains.

The French have gained a little ground between Albert and Royo, just north of a point where the line turns eastward, and east of Rheims. Southwest of Verdun, where attempts have been made to make the German positions at St. Mihiel, on the Meuse, untenable events are proceeding slowly. The French have also made some advance in Alsace, but have suffered a repulse to the north-west of Saint Menchaud.

In the East, the Germans captured an important Russian position at Barjimow, but elsewhere they have been unable to make headway against the Russians.

The Austrians claim to have checked Russian advances on Galicia on the south of the Galician railway, west of Jasio, but apparently the battle here has not been concluded. The Russians, on the other hand, have taken an Austrian position near Uzsook Pass, which should open another entrance for them through the Carpathians into Hungary; while the Austrian retreat in Bukowina is described by the Russians as a rout.

The Turks have crossed the Russian border in Caucasus and, according to their own account, defeated the Russian garrison at Ardahan. They are, however, displaying anxiety for their remaining possessions in Europe by feverishly fortifying the whole coastline. What they fear is not disclosed, for it is considered hardly possible for the Allies to land sufficient forces to prove a menace to them. Possibly they anticipate an invasion from another source. Indications point to the possibility of the Balkan States, which are now neutral, taking a hand in the war.

Greece Preparing. The Greek Minister of Finance has declared that Greece is making preparations to maintain her new territories which she gained in the Balkan Wars from Turkey and Bulgaria, but that she has more to fear from Bulgaria than from Turkey. It is not thought Roumania can look on calmly while the Russians are advancing toward Transylvania, and it is expected she will join with Russia and thus secure the much-coveted Eastern Province of Austria-Hungary.

BRITAIN WILL TAKE FIRM STAND

Will Favor U.S. Shipping as Much as Possible but Will Keep War Supplies From the Enemy

London, Jan. 4.—The Press Association, in a paragraph declaring that a reply to the American note has not yet been delivered or drawn up, says:—"The Government will not be actuated by diplomatic consideration alone, but will be guided largely by naval and military expert opinion, and there is not the remotest question of relinquishing the right which would militate against the interests of the Allies to the advantage of the enemy."

"The most that can be expected is that every care will be taken to ensure that that right is exercised with the minimum of hardship and friction."

Will Be Paid For.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The British Embassy tonight issued its first statement on the shipping situation since the publication of the American note. It cleared up one point on which the States had asked for information, by announcing that turpentine and rosin shipped from his country before those articles were declared contraband, would be paid for when seized.

Negotiations are proceeding in London with a view to the removal of the embargo on rubber, against a pledge not to export similar to that arranged with regard to German anti-line dyes.

Negotiations have been retarded by the discovery of shipments of rubber from the States to Europe under disguise.

New Court on Prizes.

London, Jan. 4.—It is possible, according to a trustworthy report, that the British Government will propose to the United States the establishment of some sort of tribunal, composed of representatives of both countries, which will pass on disputed points arising from Britain's position regarding the treatment of neutral shipping. This Tribunal would take cases as they came from the Prize Court. If America has any objection to offer to the Court's application of interpretation of the law the Tribunal sitting in London at the same time, would expedite the prize court's work by eliminating delays there and elsewhere, so that seized ships or cargoes could be acted on with the minimum of delay.

Fortunes Of War Favor The Allies Germans Fail To Check Offensive Of The British And French Forces

(Official St. Pierre Bulletin.) Paris, Jan. 2.—During the night of 31st Dec. to Jan. 1st, the enemy attacked on many points of the battlefront, but every attack was repulsed. The District north of the Lys was the scene during New Year's Day of an artillery contest, particularly sharp on Nieupoort Dunes and at Zone beke.

At St. George's the enemy ceased to counter-attack, and all our gains are maintained. In Arras, Albert and Roye regions were artillery duels. The enemy blew up two of our caissons between Beannet and Achicourt, but we overthrew the German trenches at Pavillieres Boiselle, and silenced the German fire opposite Fri-court.

Silenced German Artillery. Our artillery was also successful in the Aisne district, silencing the German artillery and dispersing several forces.

We also established ourselves on Nouvron Plateau in excavations effected by mining explosions. The Germans were unable to reach the position before us, neither were they able to dislodge us; every one of their counter attacks failing.

Rheims region was fiercely bombarded. In the Perthes region we captured and held a wood situated two kilometers north-east of Mesnil les Hurles. The enemy failed in a counter attack.

Lost Ground Recaptured.

In Grurie Woods, Argonne, the

CZAR TROOPS CAPTURE 22,270 OF ENEMY'S MEN

Petrograd, Jan. 3.—The Russian Army, under General Dimitrieff, has captured 22,270 Austrians and forty-five machine guns during the last fortnight, according to official announcements.

Still Icebound

The Crosbie steamers Fogota and Sagona are still icebound at Pogo and Seldom respectively. Saturday night and yesterday morning they were in danger, but to-day they are safe though still icebound.

SITUATION IN ALBANIA GROWS WORSE

London, Jan. 3.—The situation in Albania is much worse. Insurgents are said to have occupied Berat and to be marching on Dibra.

Norwegian Ships Founder At Sea; 11 Men Drowned

Majority of Crew of a Bark Are Lost, But all of Crew of Steamer Are Saved.

London, Jan. 4.—The Norwegian barque Maryetta foundered off Tan Isle, one of the Shetlands on Saturday.

Eleven of her crew of seventeen were drowned.

The Norwegian steamer Bjargoin, from New York for Gothenburg, Sweden, foundered sixty miles north of Rockhall Island, one hundred and fifty miles west of the Hebrides. The crew were saved.

SPECIAL DAY OF INTERCESSION SET BY THE KING

London, Jan. 3.—Today, by request of the King, is being observed as a day of intercession, and special prayers for the success of the Allies army, and for the soldiers of all nations engaged in war, will be offered in every church and chapel by all creeds and religions in the Kingdom.

QUIET IN WEST; ENEMY CHECKED ON EAST FRONT

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STILL NO WORD OF THE DURANGO

There is still no word of the Durango, now 13 days from Queenstown. The weather on the Atlantic during the last few weeks has been fearful.

One steamer which has just put into Halifax was twenty-four days crossing and the Lusitania at New York was also late.

The Durango, no doubt is meeting the storms.

Schr. Nellie M. is loading fish at Munroe & Co's for Brazil.

Germans Fortify Their Battle Line In Eastern Field

Evidently Recognise That They Must Now Take the Defensive Against Russians.

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—The activity of the Germans in the neighborhood of Warsaw for some days past is explained, according to reports reaching here, by the claim that they have employed this time in fortifying the territory already taken up to the Bzura River and along the left bank of Lower and Middle Vistula River.

According to reliable information, Lodz and Lowicz, Skierniewice and Piotrkow are now as strongly fortified at Kalisz and Czenstochowa.

The Germans have attempted to make this territory as difficult to invade as if it were German soil.

GERMAN LOSSES ON EAST FRONT TOTAL 2,000,000

Petrograd, Jan. 3.—It is officially estimated that twenty-seven German army corps are operating against Russia.

Four hundred thousand Germans and Austrians have already been taken prisoners, and their killed and wounded are four times heavier.

Deceased was one of our youngest and keenest volunteers.

He was only seventeen—will not be eighteen until March next, but he was tall, strong and passed a creditable medical exam.

Some friends persuaded him not to go because of his age, but he was so anxious to fight for his country that he went, and now for him Life's Great Battle has been fought, and while he has fallen an earthly form lies cold in death and he has not lost for to die is gain.

The boy loved well, and we feel assured he died well.

The loving mother was not present to tend her boy, but that tender hands cared for him during the Passing we feel certain.

Jack had been a member of the Methodist Guards, was proficient in drill and became a crack shot. He was a bright student and spent two years at King's University before enlisting.

To the parents we extend sympathy. They gave freely of their sons, for their boy Dr. 'Hal' is with the Navy at Portsmouth. He has been cabled the sad news, but it is not known if he will be able to reach Inverness in time for the funeral.

CAUGHT GERMAN ARMY OFFICERS ON NEUTRAL SHIP

New York, Jan. 3.—German army officers were taken off the outbound steamer Bergensford last night by Government agents, on a charge of conspiring to use passports fraudulently.

Liberal Chief Whip Dies of Typhoid Fever

London, Jan. 4.—Percy Holden Illingworth, Chief Liberal Whip of the House of Commons and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, is dead of Typhoid.

Capt. Oxley of Dreadnought Formidable Was On The Bridge As His Ship Sank

Brixham, Devon, Jan. 4.—The survivors of the British battleship Formidable, which went down in the English Channel, after having struck a mine, or having been torpedoed by a German submarine have been brought ashore here.

They related that the warship was struck abaft of the magazine, and that the explosion was terrific, but that the magazine was not reached. Had this also blown up the ship would have foundered without there being time to save anybody.

Boat Was Destroyed. As the water rushed in, the men on the Formidable rushed on deck, and found that the vessel already had a heavy list to starboard. The small boats were sent out, but the cutter foundered, and the men on her were drowned.

The launch and pinnace succeeded in getting away, but almost all oars were broken in trying to prevent the small boats from being dashed to pieces against the side of the ship by the tremendous seas which were running.

The Captain and his signalman were still on the bridge when the battleship keeled over and went to bottom.

350 Officers Lost. London, Jan. 3.—The Admiralty today issued a list containing the names of Capt. Oxley and thirty-four other officers of the battleship Formidable sunk in the English Channel yesterday, who, it says, must be presumed to have been lost in the disaster, as they have not been reported among the saved.

Another cutter from the battleship

Formidable, reached Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire, with fifty men, making a total of two hundred and one survivors out of a crew of seven hundred and eighty. When the cutter left the Formidable she had sixty or more on board but all but fifty succumbed to exposure, having been in an open boat for some twenty-four hours in a violent storm.

Terribly Exhausted. All the survivors were in a state of exhaustion after their terrible experience. They declare there is little hope of any further survivors, as a tremendous sea, which was running at the time, made it impossible for the men to live long enough to be picked up by passing vessels, while many of those clinging to wreckage were undoubtedly killed when the second explosion occurred.

The Admiralty has not issued any statement in reference to the cause of the disaster, or where it occurred.

Stories of Survivors London, Jan. 4.—The survivors of the battleship Formidable give graphic stories of the scenes on board when the vessel went down in the English Channel last Friday morning, after the ship either had struck a mine or had been torpedoed.

They state that when the explosion occurred at 2.30 in the morning 500 men were asleep in their hammocks and the berths were jerked several inches upwards by the shock which explosion missed the magazine by only ten feet but it entered the dynamo room and put all the electric lights and wireless out of action.

The Captain of the battleship according to survivors was on deck all the time until the vessel sank.

When the order was given for all hands to come on deck, the men swarmed up, saluting the officers as they passed. Many were almost without clothing. Two minutes after the first alarm was given the engine room was flooded and the supply of steam stopped.

This was the worst blow of all because, with steam available, the Formidable might have been able to make port. The absence of steam also made the work of getting the boats out very laborious.

The vessel was soon tilted at an angle that made it difficult for the men to retain their foothold.

Orders were given to make rafts and soon the men were tearing up the decks and bringing all available furniture from below for this purpose. The ship's carpenters improvised rafts by the dozen.

Second Explosion While the second cutter was being launched another explosion occurred. This curiously enough served to lengthen the warship's life. She had tilted to a terrifying angle and it seemed as though she might capsize at any moment but the rush of water into the port side had the effect of balancing her better, though she laid lower in the water.

A large percentage of those saved wore patent inflatable waistcoats which are more effective than any lifebelt.

The Formidable's end was hurried by the fact that she was struck three times by terrific seas within the space of a minute.

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6 ALARMS RUNG IN IN STORM

First Sunday in the New Year Brought the City Fire Department a Record Number of Calls

The first Sunday in the New Year was a memorable one for the firemen, as they had no less than six alarms to look after, the greatest number in the history of the Department.

From 6 a.m. until retiring hour the men at the three stations were on the qui vive.

Excepting the early morning blazes which was at the Congregational Church, no damage was sustained.

The terrific wind and the knowledge that the snow-drifts made it almost impossible for the horses to get through the City, made the day and night an anxious time for citizens of all classes.

Early Sunday Fire. At 6.10 a.m. the fire-bell woke those living in the vicinity of the Central Station, and almost as soon as the bell ceased ringing the apparatus could be heard going along.

It was then a wild morning, not yet daylight, and for once the weather conditions were such that the alarm did not appeal to spectators.

The fire was at the Congregational Church, and thanks to the efforts of the firemen, the pretty building and surrounding neighborhood were saved.

When the firemen reached the scene the flames had made considerable headway, and had they been a few minutes late the whole church might have been destroyed.

The fire was caused by the heat from the furnace igniting the wood-work.

It was no easy matter locating the fire and for half an hour the firemen worked assiduously.

Considerable damage was done the building, more by water than by fire. The men had no sooner returned to their stations than they were called to the Congregational Church again. The fire had not been completely extinguished and it was deemed advisable to summon the firemen.

This time they made sure that no fire was left.

Slight Evening Blaze. At 4.55 p.m. an alarm from box 37 called the Western and Central men to the residence of Capt. Gooible, 170 Pleasant St. where a slight fire was in progress. It was extinguished by some of the neighbors without the aid of the firemen.

While then Central was on its way to Pleasant St. an alarm was received from box 225 at the Belvedere Orphanage gate, and the Eastern men responded.

The roads were so blocked with snow that the greatest difficulty was experienced in getting along.

On Barnes Road, near the Balsam House the horse wagon became "bogged" and had to be shovelled out.

After a brief delay it continued and reached as far as the head of William Street, when it again became jammed, and further progress was impossible.

Fortunately Slight. The fire was at Mr. E. Furling's residence and fortunately did not amount to much. It was confined to the chimney was put out by the application of a few buckets of water.

The alarm from box 225, a special one in Belvedere Orphanage, now occupied the attention of the firemen. The apparatus could not reach the scene, so Capt. Tribble and a few of his men hurried there on foot.

Flames were issuing from the chimney and the Sisters and children were naturally frightened.

Ascending the roof, the firemen formed a bucket brigade and in a few minutes the danger was over.

The wind in that section was fearful and the firemen actually had to hold on to the chimney or they would have been blown off the roof.

All were thankful when this fire was out, as had it been necessary for the Sisters and children to leave the institution they would have had an uncomfortable experience.

A fire was also discovered in a chimney of a house on Barnes Road, the sparks from which alarmed the neighbors. A couple of men were dispatched and were not long in extinguishing it.