

BRITISH FLEET SHELL ENEMY'S POSITIONS ALONG BELGIAN COAST; FORTY SHIPS TAKE PART IN BOMBARDMENT, BERLIN REPORTS

U.S. WILL ENCOURAGE NO ARGUMENT IN ARABIC CASE

Nor Will She Wait Indefinitely for Berlin to State Her Case—Up to Germany to Voluntarily Explain—Tension Grows as Hours Pass and No Word Comes from German Official Sources.

Washington, Aug. 23.—Four days have passed since a German submarine sank the White Star liner Arabic, with the loss of two American lives, and the American government still is without the detailed and official information necessary to shape its course.

The only notable development today was a break in the official silence which has surrounded the White House. Secretary Tumulty, after conferring with President Wilson, issued this statement:

"As soon as all the facts regarding the Arabic are ascertained our course of action will be determined."

Secretary Lansing declared that all the information so far in the hands of the State Department was fragmentary, and that details still were being sought. Ambassador Paet at London, who had forwarded by mail a detailed statement, including some affidavits of American survivors, was instructed to send immediately a summary by cable. Some despatches were received from him but they were not made public, because it was understood the department was unwilling to give out material it considered incomplete.

While the situation still was a waiting one, official quarters reflected the strain which grows hourly, as no word comes from the German government. In the opinion of State Department officials it is not now incumbent upon the American government to ask Germany for an excuse for the conduct of the submarine commander who sank the Arabic.

It is assumed that unless Germany wishes to make an outright issue with the United States some explanation will be volunteered. Acting with that thought Ambassador Gerard was instructed today to report whether he had received a report from the German government on the sinking of the Arabic. He was not, however, instructed to ask for one.

It is said the State Department will not necessarily wait indefinitely on Germany before taking whatever action is decided upon, neither does it intend to invite or encourage arguments. All it wants now are the facts. No meeting has been called for tomorrow, a regular cabinet day.

NOT SLIGHTEST DOUBT STEAMER WAS DELIBERATELY TORPEDOED, CAPTAIN SAYS

Liverpool, Aug. 23.—Captain William Finch, of the sunken White Star liner Arabic, tonight gave the Associated Press a statement bearing on the cable reports that some German officials claimed that there was no proof that the Arabic had been sunk by a German submarine, and that she might have met with disaster by running into a British mine.

"There is not the slightest doubt that the Arabic was sunk by a torpedo," said Captain Finch. "Neither is there the slightest doubt that it was fired at the Arabic deliberately. It is quite true that we never saw any submarine or any periscope, but I saw the white streak made by the passage of the torpedo through the water—a white streak that commenced with air bubbles in the water 300 yards from us, at the point where it was discharged at us."

"There was no mistaking the cause of that white streak, which ended in a torpedo entering the ship and causing the explosion which sank the vessel. I was not alone in seeing it. The chief officer, the second officer and many passengers saw it. No one can doubt for a moment that it was deliberately fired at the Arabic. Those aboard the submarine evidently saw us and got into a position ready to release their torpedo."

"The fact that nobody on the Arabic saw a submarine may be easily explained. Those in command of it could submerge and leave only a small portion of the periscope showing above the water. When the missile was sent at us under such circumstances it would be impossible for those on the Arabic to see either the submarine or the periscope."

"The suggestion that a mine caused the explosion is perfectly absurd. I repeat that there was only one thing that sent the Arabic to the bottom. That was a torpedo, which left a clear white mark in the water 300 yards from us."

Captain Finch was seen at his home in Liverpool, where he had just arrived from Queenstown for a conference with the officials of the White Star Line. Before making his statement he laughed heartily at the claim of some of the German officials that a British mine might have sunk the Arabic.

ARABIC SUNK BY SUBMARINE AND WITHOUT WARNING BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DECLARES

London, Aug. 23.—Official and unofficial statements were made today bearing upon the precise status of the steamer Arabic of the time she was sunk, the purpose being to show definitely that she was an unoffending merchant ship, proceeding on her course, and that without question she was struck by a torpedo fired by a German submarine. The latter point became increasingly important owing to cable reports from the United States, stating that some Berlin officials maintained that since there was no proof any one aboard the Arabic saw the submarine, the sinking might have been the result of striking a mine.

The Foreign Office issued a brief statement summing up the facts within its knowledge, without disclosing all the details in its possession. The statement said definitely that the Arabic was sunk by a German submarine without warning, and without any attempt on the part of the steamer to attack the underwater craft or to escape. The announcement also declares the Arabic was unarmed, and was proceeding to a neutral port, and therefrom carrying no contraband. This is considered a summary of the British official view of the essential facts, and as showing the culpability of the German submarine in sinking the ship.

The most important direct testimony came, however, from members of the crew of the steamer Dunsley, who gave a circumstantial account of seeing the German submarine while she shelled the Dunsley. They declared that during the shelling a German captain came on board the Dunsley, who clearly into view that it was possible to note she showed no number or distinguishing mark. Later, they declared, the submarine submerged and

German Submarine Base at Zeebrugge Shelled—Other Towns Bombarded—Firing Lasted Several Hours—French Report Announces Sinking of German Destroyer Off Coast of Ostend.

Defeat in Gulf of Riga a Blow to German Campaign on Land—Leaves Riga, Strong Naval Base, in Hands of Russians and a Hindrance to Von Hindenburg's Further Advance on Petrograd.

Flushing, Holland, Aug. 23, via London.—Several British warships appeared today off Knocke, Belgium, and bombarded the coast. A press despatch says that shells burst over a factory between Zeebrugge and Liszeweghe.

The Germans replied with their coast defence guns, but their fire finally ceased.

Heavy clouds of smoke appeared over Zeebrugge, but no fires were visible.

Two large British warships were still off Knocke at 9 o'clock this morning.

Today's German official statement says that a hostile fleet of about forty ships appeared before Zeebrugge and subsequently steamed away to the northwest, which would take them in the direction of England. This is the first report of any naval movements of consequence in the North Sea for a considerable period. The last important naval action in these waters occurred on January 24, when the German cruiser Bleucher was sunk.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY SILENT

London, Aug. 23.—Only meagre details have been received concerning the British bombardment of the German submarine base at Zeebrugge and neighboring points on the Belgian coast. Berlin reports that forty British ships were engaged in it, but the British Admiralty as yet has made no statement. The firing lasted several hours, the German heavy artillery answering the British fire.

That there has been French naval activity in the same locality is shown in the Paris official communication, which announces the sinking of a German torpedo boat destroyer off Ostend by two French torpedo boats.

In the west there have been no notable changes in the battle line.

Amsterdam, via London, Aug. 23, 3:12 a. m.—An official report of the German Admiralty received here says:

"Off Zeebrugge Sunday night a German outpost boat was attacked by two hostile destroyers. After a brave resistance the boat was sunk. Part of her crew was rescued."

ITALIAN TROOPS TO DARDANELLES?

Rome, Aug. 23.—Several transports laden with troops, and escorted by warships, have departed from Naples, Syracuse, Taranto and Brindisi for an unknown destination.

They sailed under sealed orders. It is generally believed they are to be employed for operations against Turkey.

London, Aug. 23.—The German naval reverses in the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea, the German success in occupying the fortress of Osowetz, and a British naval bombardment of the German naval base at Zeebrugge, today, furnished a series of news features which temporarily diverted attention from the gravity of the issues growing out of the sinking of the White Star Line steamer Arabic by a German submarine.

The German version of the Riga battle has not yet been given out, but the definiteness of the official Russian report on the sinking or crippling of the German battle cruiser Moltke, two other cruisers and eight torpedo boats, has sent a wave of enthusiasm throughout the country and dispelled the depression over the Russian retreat on land. Aside from the loss of the German ships, the naval engagement is regarded chiefly important for the strategic effect upon the land operations in the German sweep eastward toward Petrograd, which military observers now consider as having been checked and possibly irreparably defeated.

The German centre has pressed forward steadily, until Prince Leopold of Bavaria is near the Russian new line of defence, but the military observers say that the entire campaign hinged on the vast enveloping movement of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's forces in the north. They had succeeded in pushing far beyond Riga, to Jacobstadt, on the Dvina, but the Russians held on the Gulf of Riga and of the great naval base of Riga which is a continual menace to Von Hindenburg's rear.

This, military observers say, led to the shifting of a number of German capital ships, including the Moltke, from the North Sea to the Baltic, with the purpose of controlling Riga and thus protecting a German land advance on Petrograd. The result of

the naval battle, as gleaned from the official report, appears definitely to have defeated the German objective, according to the observers, who say that, aside from the loss of the ships, the gulf and the naval base of Riga are still in Russian hands and a menace to Von Hindenburg's further advance toward Petrograd.

The capture by the Germans of the fortress of Osowetz gives them another stronghold, only Grodno and Brest-Litovsk remaining in the central section. It also gives them the main point on the railway to Bielsk and Brest-Litovsk.

Special reports from Petrograd indicate that the Russian position at Brest-Litovsk gradually is becoming untenable and that the public is being prepared for its abandonment.

GERMANY LOST SUBMARINE IN RIGA BATTLE

Paris, Aug. 23, (10:25 p. m.)—The following official communication was issued tonight:

"In Artois, to the north of Souchez and in the sector of Neuville-Rocourt, the artillery on both sides still shows marked activity."

"The enemy has dropped a few shells on Arras, Mont Didier and Rheims. Our counter-fire of the trenches and batteries of the enemy has been observed to be successful at many points."

"In Champagne, on the 'Perthes-Beausjour front, a violent fight with grenades and bombs has taken place. Before Ville-Sur-Toube an advanced trench of the enemy was completely destroyed by one of our mines."

AUXILIARY CRUISER ALSO IN LIST

Bulletin—London, Aug. 24, (4:46 a. m.)—Reuters' Petrograd correspondent says that a semi-official statement, issued in the Russian capital, adds another auxiliary cruiser to the previous list of the German losses in the Gulf of Riga.

London, Aug. 24, (2:50 a. m.)—A despatch to the Morning Post from Petrograd says:

"In addition to the German losses previously reported in the Riga battle, a German submarine was run ashore on the coast of Dago Island (in the Baltic sea, just outside the Gulf of Riga), and doubtless also is lost."

A STEP NEARER SOLUTION OF THE BALKAN SITUATION

Serbia Reported to be Willing to Give Way to Italy Regarding Albania—Also Trying to Come to Terms With Bulgaria—Serbian Army Soon Ready Again to Take its Part in the Struggle.

AMBASSADOR OF THE SULTAN LEAVES ROME

With Embassy Staff and Turkish Consul Left Italian Capital for Home via Switzerland.

Rome, Aug. 23, via Paris, Aug. 24.—Naby Bey, Turkish Ambassador to Italy, with the embassy staff and the consul in this city, left today for Turkey, by way of Switzerland.

Marquis Di Garroni, the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople, already has left that country.

REGRETS THE TORPEDOING OF DANISH STEAMER

Berlin Says Submarine Commander Failed to See Marking and Assumed Vessel Intended to Join British Fleet as Auxiliary.

London, Aug. 23.—A despatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Copenhagen says:

The German government has expressed regret for the torpedoing and sinking in the North Sea, on May 26, of the Danish steamer Betty, and announced its willingness to pay compensation for the loss of the steamer.

It is claimed by Germany that the submarine commander failed to see the mark denoting Danish nationality on the steamer, and assumed from the route the vessel was taking that it was going to join the British fleet as an auxiliary cruiser.

VENIZELOS TAKES OFFICE AGAIN AMID GREAT ENTHUSIASM

Athens, Aug. 23, via Paris, Aug. 24.—The new Greek cabinet was definitely formed today and took the oath of office in the presence of an immense crowd, which enthusiastically cheered M. Venizelos, the premier. The chief portfolios are constituted as follows:

Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs—M. Venizelos.
Minister of War—General Danglis.
Minister of Marine—M. Miaoulis.
Minister of Finance—M. Repoulis.

WAR STAMPS INCREASED P.O. REVENUE BY NEARLY MILLION DOLLARS

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—The war stamp on letters, receipts and cheques has increased the revenue of the post office department during the first four months of the present fiscal year by about one million dollars, or a 30 per cent. increase.

But the war stamp has made Canadians less ready to write letters. This is shown by the fact that the mails bulk about one third less than during the same period last year.

K—Proof up xzfrfrfr intou? m?
Milan, Italy, Aug. 23.—One of the main difficulties in the way of a solution of the Balkan problem favorable to the Entente Allies has been settled, according to an interview with Premier Pachitch of Serbia in the Corriere Della Sera.

The Premier is quoted as saying that Serbia has given way to Italy regarding Albania.

Premier Pachitch, according to the newspaper, went over several phases of the present situation, as well as declaring that Austria had tried several times since the beginning of the war to conclude a separate peace with Serbia, but always with refusals from the Serbian government. The inaction of the Serbian army, the Premier said, was due to sanitary conditions and the necessities for re-organization and the accumulation of war supplies.

When the moment comes, he declared, the Serbian army will fight steadfastly and in accord with the armies of Serbia's allies, true to the principles of the Balkans for the Balkan peoples.

Serbia has been endeavoring ever since the beginning of the war to reach an agreement with Bulgaria, and is trying to do so now, the Premier said, on a basis conserving the vital interests of both countries. So far as concerns Albania, the Premier is quoted as declaring, Serbia bows to the decision of Europe and wishes a friendly solution of the Adriatic question with Italy, acknowledging the predominant position of Italy in that field.

An agreement has just been reached, the Premier added, for Serbia to send to Italy Austrian prisoners of Italian nationality in exchange for prisoners of Slavic nationalities taken from Austria by Italy.

In June, 1913, when the second Balkan war was brought to a close, the European powers made Albania an independent kingdom, with Prince William of Wied as king. The prince, however, was unable to pacify the turbulent tribesmen and in May, 1914, he fled the country.

Since the beginning of the European war the flags of several of the neighboring countries have been hoisted on Albanian territory. Italy last fall occupied the Albanian town of Avlona, on the Adriatic, while the Greeks took territory in Epirus. Serbian troops marched across the country and assumed control of Durazzo, another outlet into the Adriatic, while Montenegro occupied the northern town of Scutari.

According to recent semi-official Serbian information it was stated that Serbia had accepted the conditions of the Allies and would consent to the occupation of Macedonia by the Allies in exchange for a section of the Dalmatian coast and adjacent islands, and the partition of Albania with Greece, with the exception of Avlona, which was to remain Italian. The interview with Premier Pachitch indicates that the Serbian government has granted further concessions regarding Albania to Italy.



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