

## ZEPPELINS REPORTED OVER ENGLISH COAST TOWN HEADING INLAND; REPORT NOT CONFIRMED

### AMERICAN SHIP STARTS FOR GERMANY WITH SUPPLIES

The Wilhemina, an American Owned Steamer Sails With \$200,000 Cargo Consigned to American Resident in Germany, Taking Chances on Seizure by British Warships—Gets Past One of Britain's Watch Dogs Outside New York Harbor Unmolested.

New York, Jan. 22.—Risking possible seizure by British warships lying off the Atlantic coast, the American-owned steamer Wilhemina, flying the American flag, and loaded with approximately \$200,000 worth of foodstuffs consigned by an American commission firm to an American citizen in Germany, passed out to sea tonight entering on the first voyage of its kind undertaken by any vessel from an American port since war began, nearly six months ago in Europe.

If the Wilhemina is detained or seized, the W. L. Green Commission Company, of St. Louis, charterers of the vessel and shippers of her cargo, will, according to their counsel here, file a protest with the American State Department, declaring that the cargo is conditional contraband, denying the right of a belligerent warship to confiscate it, and requesting the United States to demand the immediate release of ship and cargo.

The cargo consists of grain, meats and dried fruits, and is intended, according to the shippers, for consumption by the civilian population of Germany, and will not be sold directly or indirectly to the German government or its armed forces. Nor is it intended, of course here for the St. Louis Company, said today that the shippers were prepared to obtain from the German government, if necessary, with a view to quieting possible fears by the British or other allied governments, a guarantee that only non-combatants will receive the Wilhemina's cargo.

A guarantee to this effect was filed with the United States customs authorities today in the form of an affidavit by W. T. Brooking, representing the shippers, and Mr. Lindheim said the shippers were prepared to back this guarantee with a bond in any amount.

Sir Courtenay W. Bennett, the British consul-general in New York, when the sailing of the Wilhemina was brought to his attention today, declined to discuss the case.

With Their Rights State Department Tells Charter Parties.

Washington, Jan. 22.—It is understood here that the British government has not been consulted concerning the voyage of the American-owned steamer Wilhemina, with a cargo of foodstuffs from New York direct to Hamburg, Germany.

The State Department has advised the charter parties of their legal right to take such cargo to Germany, providing the food is not for the use of the German government or army. Nevertheless the opinion prevails among the officials that the British government will not hesitate to seize the cargo, though the ship itself may be held free, thus precisely reversing the facts in the case of the former Hamburg-American liner Dacia and her cargo of cotton.

The British note of January 10 admitted that foodstuffs should not be detained and put into a prize court without presumption that they were intended for the armed forces of the enemy or the enemy government. But while expressing an intention to adhere to that rule, the British government added that it cannot give an unlimited and unconditional undertaking in view of the departure by those against whom we are fighting from hitherto accepted rules of civilization and humanity, and the uncertainty as to the extent to which such rules may be violated by them in future.

This was accepted as a reservation of the right of the British government to examine into each shipment on its merits, which, of course, would involve the detention of the ship at some British port while the investigation was making.

Passes British Watch-Dog Unmolested  
Fire Island, Long Island, Jan. 22.—Under the nose of a British cruiser watching at the gateway of New York, the American steamship Wilhemina, which sailed today from New York with her hold filled with food supplies for Germany, passed out to sea tonight, and unmolested laid her course for Hamburg.

After having her compasses adjusted in the bay, the Wilhemina dropped down the Ambrose Channel at nightfall. Six miles to the eastward of Ambrose Lightship the Wilhemina sighted a two-funnelled British cruiser just under stearaway, and with all lights out. She looked like a black patch against the fast-dimming sky. Smoke was pouring from her stacks.

The Wilhemina kept on her course. With all lights burning the merchantman steamed past the warship, which did not even speak the American. An

### EVIDENCE IS STRONG AGAINST GERMAN AIRMEN

Telegram from Friesland Says Zeppelins cruised over Sneek for Half an Hour.

The Hague, via London, Jan. 22.—The Netherlands government has taken steps to establish the veracity of reports that the operators of a Zeppelin dirigible balloon recently violated Dutch neutrality, and also has directed the Dutch minister to Germany to bring the matter to the attention of the German government.

A telegram from Friesland, a Dutch province, says that a Zeppelin which passed over that district during the night between January 19 and 20 evidently lost its way. The despatch states that it cruised for thirty minutes above Sneek and then turned northeast. The dirigible's searchlight played on Wommels and afterward the vessel proceeded over Franeker.

### IMPERIAL DEFENCE CONFERENCE

Understood Negotiations are in Progress Between the Colonial Office and Governments of Overseas Dominions.

London, Jan. 22.—Negotiations are said to be proceeding between the Colonial Office and the governments of Overseas Dominions regarding the holding of an Imperial Defence Conference, since an Imperial conference is considered impossible under the existing circumstances. Australia and New Zealand are most keen on the matter, as they wish to consult Canada, Newfoundland and South Africa with reference to a general defence policy, and more especially regarding the joint defence of the Pacific. Recent events have made this a live question. It is also suggested that India, hitherto not represented in such conferences, should participate.

GLACE BAY TRIMS SYDNEY.

Sydney, N. S., Jan. 22.—The Sydney Millionaires drew the small end of a 5 to 3 score at the Arena here tonight in their game with Glace Bay. The ice was rather heavy and very little combination was played by either team. The Millionaires had the better of the first two periods but the Miners came back strong in the third, and with the score 3 to 1 against them at the close of the second period, pulled out a well earned victory.

### STUBBORN BATTLE IN PROGRESS IN ALSACE; QUIET ALONG REST OF FRONT

Present System of Siege Warfare Must Go On Until Ground Hardens—Armies in Eastern Theatre, from Lower Vistula to Galicia, Have Not Changed Positions—Russians Drawing Closer to German Frontier—Czar's Warships in Black Sea Playing Havoc With Turkish Shipping.

London, Jan. 22.—Except in Alsace, where a stubborn battle has been in progress for several days, but which receives only the briefest mention in the official reports, the fighting has been comparatively slight on both eastern and western fronts. There have been heavy gun bombardments and fighting for a trench here and there, but a battle such as in this war is considered of a proportion worthy of extended mention, has not taken place.

The siege continues, and, according to the opinion of the military experts, it will go on until the ground grows sufficiently hard to enable one of the commanders to move a large body of men with a quickness that will bring surprise to his opponent, and enable him to find a weak spot in the line of operation.

In the east, along the old front from the lower Vistula to Galicia and in the Carpathians, the two armies remain in about the same positions as they were two months ago, all efforts by the Germans to break down the Russian resistance seemingly have failed—the Russian attempt to drive the Austro-German forces back to Craeov having met a similar fate.

In the north, however, the new Russian offensive apparently has carried them well toward the German frontier without meeting with any serious resistance.

The developments in this northern region are considered by military observers as likely to be faster than elsewhere, for the Russian advance into Transylvania is reported to have been checked by the appearance of a large Austrian force in the mountains, while the snow prevents the Muscovites going any further through the Carpathians, although they hold all the passes in readiness for the day when the weather will permit of a resumption of the forward movement.

No mention has been made during the last few days concerning the fate of the remnants of the Turkish armies which the Russian reports previously said had been defeated in the Caucasus, but it is considered by military men here that the Russians, having used for their men elsewhere, have decided not to push on to Erzerum.

The Russian fleet, according to reports, is still busy in the Black Sea, sinking Turkish sailing ships. This is taken here as evidence that the reports that the Turkish cruiser Goeben had been put out of action were not exaggerated.

Probably the heaviest of the fighting in the numerous war zones is on the western line, in the Argonne and the Vosges. In both these districts Paris reports that after all day battling, the fighting still continues.

These fights at arms are being carried out in the vicinity of a field work called Marie Therese, near Fontaine Madame, in the Argonne, and in the region of the Marzmann-Walkerkopf hills in the Vosges. In the latter the Germans were on the offensive, according to Paris. Elsewhere in Belgium and in the Vosges, the German forces are at widely separated points, in none of them was a victory claimed.

In the east, in Poland and Galicia, only secondary collisions between the opposing forces have taken place, according to Petrograd. The Russians report the concentration of considerable forces of Austrians in Bukowina, Amsterdam, via London, Jan. 23 (2.10 a.m.)—A despatch received here from Vienna says that Baron Von Burian, the new Austrian Foreign Minister, left Friday for a trip to the German headquarters.

London, Jan. 23 (1.55 a.m.)—A despatch to the Central News from Berlin says that Major General Wild Von Hohenborn, the new German Minister of War, will remain at headquarters, Lt. General Von Wendel being the commander-in-chief in the field.

London, Jan. 22.—The high prices demanded for coal is causing anxiety to the gas companies, many of which find increasing difficulty in obtaining coal. The fear is expressed that they will have to raise the price of gas, which is much more generally used as a household illuminant, as well as for street lighting, than is electricity.

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### RESIDENTS OF CROMER FEAR ANOTHER AIR RAID

Unconfirmed Reports that a Number of German Airships Flew Over the Town Last Night—No Bombs Were Dropped and London Inclined to Doubt the Story—Airships Flashed Searchlights as they Passed Over Town, Reports Say—Noise of Enemy Was Heard by Coast Guards and Lights in Town Extinguished.

Cromer, England, via London, Jan. 22.—Zeppelin airships of a number unknown passed over Cromer at 10.30 o'clock tonight from the sea and proceeded inland in a southeasterly direction. The noise of engines of airships was first heard by the coast guards men, and then by military on patrol duty.

The electric light circuits were immediately cut and troops proceeded through the town extinguishing all other lights.

All the evidence tends to show that more than one aircraft passed over the town. As they proceeded they flashed searchlights.

Dropped No Bombs.

London, Jan. 22.—The Zeppelins dropped no bombs on Cromer.

London, Jan. 23—Various sensational rumors are current but no further authentic news has been received regarding the Zeppelin dirigible balloons. A telephone inquiry to Lowestoft brought the information that they had visited Kings Lynn.

London, Jan. 23 (1.45 a.m.)—Inquiry in official quarters here has failed to elicit any further news concerning the reported passing over of Cromer of Zeppelin airships last night.

The belief is beginning to prevail here that the noise heard at Cromer might have come from aeroplanes or seaplanes, and not airships.

London, Jan. 23 (3.12 a.m.)—A despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Dover, timed midnight said a Zeppelin was reported over the middle of the English Channel.

London, Jan. 23—A telephone message from Kings Lynn, Norfolk, says no aircraft was seen there last night, but that there was much excitement when the report was received from Cromer that Zeppelins had flown over that town. Telephone inquiries in other towns in Norfolk confirm the equally unproductive of information verifying the Cromer report.

The London police received no warning to call out special constables, or to take any other emergency measures as a result of the report.

London, Jan. 23—A telephone message from Norwich, about twenty-five miles south of Cromer, said that midnight nothing had been seen of any Zeppelins from there.

Dacia Will Sail Today for Rotterdam

Crew of Thirty-two All Americans—Captain Will Make no Special Efforts to Avoid Seizure.

Galveston, Texas, Jan. 22.—The steamship Dacia will depart for Rotterdam at daylight tomorrow. She was cleared this afternoon, her announced destination being Rotterdam, via Norfolk. It is noted on the ship's manifest that the cargo would be re-shipped to Bremen. The Dacia's hatch covers have been sealed by the collector of the port.

The Dacia carries 11,000 square bales of cotton, a cargo valued by the shippers at \$388,000. Sixteen cents per pound, or \$80 per bale, is to be paid for the cotton laid down in Bremen. The government bureau took a part of the insurance of that valuation at four per cent. The freight rate chartered is \$3.50 per bale, the highest ever paid for cotton transportation.

Captain George McDonald, who will command the vessel on her trip, has a crew of thirty-one men, declared to be all Americans. He said he did not expect to deviate from the usual course of steamships, and would make no particular efforts to avoid capture.

### LONDONERS MAY HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR GAS

High Prices of Coal May Force Gas Companies to Boost Their Prices.

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### RAIDERS WERE DAMAGED ON TRIP TO ENGLAND

German Minister of Navy Admits It—German Paper Says Aerial Warfare is Outside the International Code.

Berlin, Jan. 22, via London, Jan. 23.—The North German Gazette today prints an amplification of yesterday's German official answer to the British contention that bombardments by Zeppelin airships are contrary to international law.

It is stated that the recent raid was directed against Great Yarmouth, which, according to the official British note, belongs to the coast defences, and is permanently occupied by military and therefore is liable to some bombardment. The other places where bombs were dropped, and the airships were going and returning, themselves were to blame because shots were fired from them against the airships, making them ipso facto defended places.

The North German Gazette asserts that all warfare stands entirely outside the international code, the earlier prohibition against dropping explosives having expired, and a new proviso not having been ratified by Germany, France or Russia. The general principles of warfare, and the agreements made at the Hague justify a bombardment of all defended places, a bombardment of military appliances in undefended places, and a counter attack to every attack.

Answering similar criticism of the earlier naval raid by German warships on Scarborough, Admiral Von Tirpitz, German Minister of the Navy, said to an Associated Press correspondent: "The best answer to the charge is the fact that we lost men and that our ships were damaged by shots from the shore. This proves conclusively that the places were defended."

LASTED ONLY 1 3/4 MINUTES.

Montreal, Jan. 22.—Cleve Hawkins, the shifty colored fighter, who is now making his home in Montreal, knocked out Jim Driscoll, of New York, in a scheduled ten round bout between these two heavyweights at the Canadian A. C. tonight. The bout lasted only a minute and forty-five seconds. A straight left to the solar plexus, with a right to the jaw, decided the issue.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 22.—The following are amongst the seventy nurses who have been selected to go with the second contingent to Europe. The list was approved today by Hon. J. D. Hazen, acting minister of militia and defence:

Misses E. Hegan, St. John; A. A.

Thompson, Chance Harbor; F. Armstrong, St. John; A. L. MacKay, Halifax; Joyce Wishart, St. John; M. G. Drow, Liverpool, N. S.; Alice M. Hill, Truro; M. L. Elles, Halifax; Marie MacLeod, Summerside; Marion J. Sharp, Summerside.

### Attitude of U.S. Gov't Keen Disappointment, London Spectator Says

Officially Playing the German Game, Try to Prevent England Bringing Germany to Her Knees—Reckoning by Cold Dollars and Cents Rather Than in Terms of Flesh and Blood.

### Patricia's Accounted For 500 of The Enemy

Killed or Wounded that Many During 48 Hours in Trenches, Pte. Oliver of Toronto Writes—Fifty Yards Gained in this Weather Equivalent to Five Miles in Summer.

London, Jan. 22.—Private J. E. Oliver, Toronto, a member of the Princess Patricia's, now lying wounded at Sheffield, says the "Pats" were up to their breasts in mud and water during the forty-eight hours they were in the trenches.

He reckons they accounted for over five hundred Germans—killed or wounded.

The British artillery did some magnificent work. Two Germans who surrendered, said their men were without ammunition. "This," says Private Oliver, "seems true, because when we searched the dead Germans, we never found any ammunition on them."

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